

2026 MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING® FOR TEXAS MISSIONS

# Children's Study Guide

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## Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions (MHDO) provides support and resources for over 70 ministries across Texas. When you give, you are helping people across the state share the love of Jesus with those who need to know Him as Savior. This lesson will focus on the Women's Build.

## Bible Verse

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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## Preparation

Since 2010, WMU of Texas volunteers have worked together with Buckner Children and Family Services to build homes for families in the Rio Grande Valley. Each fall, two teams of volunteers travel to South Texas and, over the course of two weeks, build a brand new home for a family. While they build, they build relationships with the family who will receive the home and others in the community, share their faith, and offer hope.

To date, Women's Build has constructed more than 15 homes for families in the Rio Grande Valley. The families who receive the homes have participated in the transformative ministries offered through Buckner's Family Hope Center. The Family Hope Center provides training in finding a job, preparing and managing a budget, enrolling children in school, meeting basic needs, and spiritual development.

Gifts to the MHDO provide the funding to cover the cost of the home that volunteers will build. Each home costs around \$50,000. This cost covers building materials and appliances, as well

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as the costs for tradespeople to complete the framing, electrical, plumbing, and roofing for the home.

## What You Will Need

- ☐ Map of Texas (Resources)
- ☐ Blocks (you can use Lego, unit blocks, or whatever blocks you have available)
- ☐ Building materials such as:
  - Pipe cleaners
  - Cardstock
  - Index cards
  - Masking tape
  - Popsicle sticks
  - Straws
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Scrapbook paper
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Graham crackers
- ☐ Icing
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Popsicle sticks

## Schedule Options

This mission study can be completed in small or large groups. Activities can be set up as stations in one classroom, or groups can rotate through them in several classrooms.

As it is written, groups start with a large group overview activity, then break into smaller groups for a Bible verse activity, craft, mission project, and snack.

Finally, groups join back together to review.

# Mission Study

## Large Group Overview

### Say:

*What is the best thing about your home? (Give time for children to respond.) Is it your room? Is it that your family lives there? Homes are a special place. They are where we make memories with our families. They are where we feel safe and loved.*

*Imagine that you lived in a home that did not feel safe or where you felt like you didn't have enough space. Now imagine that someone built your family a brand new home that was safe and where you had plenty of room. How would you feel? (Give children time to respond.)*

*Each year, volunteers from WMU of Texas travel to the Rio Grande Valley to build a home for a family there. (Show the Rio Grande Valley on a map of Texas.) Two teams of women work for two weeks to build a home alongside the family who will live there.*

Show the Women's Build video, found here: [vimeo.com/443157898](https://vimeo.com/443157898).

Give instructions for how groups will break up and rotate through the activities, then dismiss, one group at a time.

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## Bible Verse Activity

### Build a Verse—John 14:6

Before the activity, write each word of the verse on a block. Make one set for every 3-4 children.

### Say:

*Today, we are going to do some building, but instead of a house, we're going to build a Bible verse. John 14:6 says "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" We're going to work together to build this verse. When the women who serve at Women's Build are building the house, they write Bible verses inside the walls. These verses remind the family how important it is for the Bible to be in every part of their lives.*

Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4. Challenge them to work together to build the verse. As they finish, encourage them to build again, seeing if they can build it in another way. Challenge children to see how many different ways they can build the verse while saying it.

### Say:

*The verse we just built is like the foundation of a home. Knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life is the foundation of following and trusting him. Just like an entire house is built on a foundation that keeps it strong*

*and steady, our lives are built on the foundation of Jesus.*

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## Build a House

Before children arrive, spread out materials on the tables. Provide a variety of materials, such as pipe cleaners, index cards, cardstock, masking tape, straws, and popsicle sticks.

### Say:

*What do you need to build a house? (Give children time to respond. If they get stuck, suggest things like wood, nails, shingles, pipes, wires, insulation, etc.) It takes a lot of things to build a house! The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions provides the money to buy everything that is needed to build a house during Women's Build. Today, we're going to work together to build a house, but we're not going to use wood or nails or sheetrock. We're going to use the materials that you see in front of you.*

Invite children to work together to use the materials on the tables to build a house. When they have finished, give each table an opportunity to share about their house. Display houses in a common area in your ministry with a sign that reads, "Pray for Women's Build," so that others can see the children's work and join them in praying.

### Say:

*Women work together during the Women's Build to build a house for a family in the Rio Grande Valley. Often, the family works together with the volunteers as they build. As they work*

*together, they build relationships and share their stories. Volunteers get to tell the family, neighbors, and other people in the community about how God has worked in their lives.*

*When we give to MHDO, we are helping to buy the supplies that are needed to build the house. For example, \$20 buys a box of nails. \$40 buys a sheet of siding or a ceiling fan. \$155 buys a window. When we work together to give to MHDO, we are able to do more than we could alone.*

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## Make a Prayer Reminder

### Materials:

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scrapbook paper cut into basic shapes 3-4" large (You can use a paper cutter to cut shapes quickly.)
- Markers
- Dry erase board and markers or a large sheet of paper

### Say:

*One of the ways that we can help with Women's Build is by praying for the volunteers and for the family that will receive a house this year. We can pray for volunteers to stay safe while they work. We can pray for the family that will receive the house that is built. We can pray for the volunteers to have opportunities to share Jesus while they*

*build. What are some other ways that you think we can pray for Women's Build? (Give children time to respond with ways they can pray. Write their ideas and the ideas listed on a marker board or a large piece of paper.)*

*Today we're going to make something to help us remember to pray for Women's Build. We're going to make a house that you can take home to remind you to pray.*

Encourage children to choose shapes to create their house. Invite them to write a way that they can pray for Women's Build on each piece, just like volunteers write scripture in the homes they build. After they are finished making their prayer reminders, ask the children to write "Pray for Women's Build October 18-27," on their paper. Encourage them to take their prayer reminder home and place it somewhere so that they can remember to pray. Take a moment to pray for Women's Build and the family that will receive a home.

## Snack

### Graham Cracker Houses

Post an allergy alert sign before parents drop off their children alerting them to the snack.

#### Say:

*The volunteers at Women's Build and the family who will receive the house often share meals together while they work.*

*Today, we're going to work together to build a snack.*

Invite children to work in groups of 3-4 to use the icing and graham crackers to build a house. They can use popsicle sticks to spread the icing. After the children have built their snack, pray together, thanking God for the snack, the volunteers that serve with Women's Build, and the family that will receive a house this year.

## Large Group Closing

Gather groups back together.

#### Say:

*Today, we've learned about Women's Build and the volunteers who work each fall to build a home for a family in the Rio Grande Valley. What is one thing you learned about Women's Build today? (Give time for children to respond.)*

*When volunteers go to Women's Build, they have to work together to build a house. What are some ways that we've worked together today? (Give children time to respond.) Just like the women work together with each other and the family who will receive the house, we can work together to share Jesus with our neighbors. What are some ways that we can work together to share Jesus? (Give children time to respond. Be ready with some ideas of things that your church does to share Jesus with your neighbors.) We can work together to help our neighbors, just like the volunteers at*

*Women's Build work together to help a family and their neighbors.*

Take time to pray for Women's Build and the family who will receive the house. Try popcorn prayers or ask for children to volunteer so that those who would like to pray have an opportunity.

For more information about the Women's Build, visit [wmutx.org/womensbuild](http://wmutx.org/womensbuild).

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## ABOUT THE WRITER

Sarah Johnson, is a kindergarten Bible study teacher at Valley Ridge Church, the First Baptist Church of Lewisville, TX. As the Ministry Program Coordinator for Childhood Discipleship at Texas Baptists, she helps coordinate the Special Friends Retreat (a ministry that receives allocations from the MHDO).



## Who was Mary Hill Davis?

*Mary Hill Davis was born in Greenville, Georgia, and came to Texas as a small child in 1870 when her family moved from Tennessee to Dallas. At age 20, she married F.S. Davis, a physician. They had one son, Raymond, also a physician and surgeon.*

*Mary was president of WMU from 1906 until 1931. Her heart for missions and people was evident in everything she did. Not only did she stir women to give and pray for missions (giving to the cooperative program rose over 1000% during her tenure as president, but to take care for retired pastors (at that time, pastors did not have retirements savings, and many lived in poverty), taking care of orphans, and also giving money to schools all over Texas, as well as China.*

*She believed Texas was a vast mission field, and that immigrants needed to know Jesus just as much as citizens. Each year, she spurred women to service, giving and prayer, leading to the establishment of State Missions Week in September, 1910. Remembering her remarkable leadership, in 1935 the offering for state missions was named the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. Almost 100 years later, her example still inspires Texas Baptists to give, to pray, and to go.*

# Texas Map

