

Preschool Study Guide

Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions (MHDO) provides support and resources to 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 Texas volunteers who participate in Hispanic Soccer Outreach, also known as “La Mano de Dios”, the Hand of God.

Bible Verse

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

Background Information

The Hispanic Soccer Outreach “La Mano de Dios” is a ministry that began at Texas Baptists En Español around 2016 and occurs every year, primarily during the summer and fall throughout the state of Texas. Volunteers engage with the community through soccer clinics, tournaments, and outreach events.

These can be held in churches, parks, community centers, and men’s retreats, where ministry organizers travel to churches or to individuals interested in hosting a 2-day camp for kids of different ages.



During the camp, they teach kids the fundamentals of soccer while relating the sport to the Word of God. The ministry also has opportunities to fulfill its mission at men’s retreats and community outreach events by using what they call an “E-ball”.

This is a soccer ball with the colors of the salvation plan. When someone asks about the colors, volunteers have a conversation starter. Using the E-ball, they can guide individuals to Jesus.

“La Mano de Dios” is slowly incorporating other sports, such as volleyball and basketball, into the ministry as well. Giving to

the Mary Hill Davis Offering (MHDO) for Texas Missions provides funds for evangelism balls used at events, “La Mano de Dios” books with devotionals, a soccer focus, and soccer clinics across Texas.

Preparation

Learning Objective

To provide preschoolers with an opportunity to learn how Hispanic Soccer Outreach “La Mano de Dios” shares about Jesus with communities in Texas.

Schedule

- 10 minutes - whole group learning
- 30 minutes - small group learning
 - » 3 rotations: 10 minutes each or 2 rotations of 15 minutes each
- 10 minutes - whole group application
- 5 minutes - lesson conclusion

Mission Study

Whole Group Learning

Before The Session

See the appendix section for printable resources.

- Provide a map of Texas (optional to highlight the DFW area as the focus area of ministry)
- Print out soccer name tags for preschoolers to make, or bring soccer-themed sticky tags (optional)

- Print or show photos on a computer or iPad of Hispanic Soccer Outreach “La Mano de Dios.”



Scan QR Code to
view Photo Library,
or visit:
bit.ly/lmdd-photos

- Print a picture of an E-Ball: evangelism ball (if possible) or a regular soccer ball
- Print out small outlines of trophies

with verse written on it (Psalms 139:14) (optional)

- Bring party favor trophies with a verse written on it (Psalms 139:14) (optional)
- Bring a soccer ball with evangelism colors. You can attach different colors of paper to the ball, or purchase an E-ball online.

During the Session

Welcome preschoolers to the room and share that we are learning about how God uses soccer to tell others about His love.

Ask:

- *Do you like to play soccer?*
- *Do you play at home? Church? School? The Park?*
- *Have you scored a goal before? How did you feel?*
- *Did you know that soccer is the most popular sport in the world?*

On Sunday mornings, there are many young athletes who do not know about Jesus, and instead of attending church, they are participating in various sports events.

A ministry called “La Mano de Dios” / “The Hand of God,” which the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions helps, tells athletes around Texas about Jesus.

Churches in Texas organize soccer clinics to teach kids and teenagers in their communities the fundamentals of the sport. The organizers and volunteers use an E-Ball (evangelism ball) to start

conversations about Jesus during the clinics. The evangelism ball features the colors of the plan of salvation. When students ask about the colors, the volunteers have an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

Leader Resource: There’s a short informational video in English and Spanish about La Mano de Dios and the Mary Hill Davis Offering at vimeo.com/wmuoftexas.



Watch La Mano de Dios Video

Wrap Up

God wants everyone to know about Him. “La Mano de Dios” is doing its part to share about Jesus.

Small Group Learning (Rotation)

Activities

- Color soccer balls with evangelism colors; explain the salvation plan as the preschoolers color.
- Soccer warm-up, drills
- Describe the soccer ball and relate its

design to the children's lives.



*Watch E-Ball
Instructional Video*

Leader Resource: To learn how to use the E-ball for evangelism, watch this instructional video at bit.ly/eball-video.

Instructions

- Divide preschoolers into two or three groups if possible.
- Color the soccer ball worksheet with the correct colors of the salvation plan.
- The other group will practice warm-up and basic soccer skills.

Soccer Ball Coloring

Make copies of the soccer ball outlines (see resources) and have preschoolers color worksheets with the specific plan of salvation colors. Explain to the children the meaning of each color.



Read E-Ball Script

Leader Resource: This EvangeBall script on using the E-ball for evangelism is a great resource.

Soccer Warm-Up and Drills

Have preschoolers practice light warm-up movements (slow jogging, toe touching,

and high knees). Have preschoolers practice simple soccer drills (kicking to one another, dribbling, and shooting into the goal).

Look at the Soccer Ball

Use the physical soccer ball that you brought to the session for preschoolers to observe closely. Tell preschoolers that soccer is fun, and that just as we have fun with soccer, God wants us to enjoy life!

(Read John 10:10)

Ask students to pay attention to the threads on the ball. ***(Read Psalms 139:13-16)*** Just as the soccer ball has a specific design and serves its own purpose in the sport, God has a unique purpose for each of us.

Explain to preschoolers that in soccer, there are teams. God has selected each child and wants each one of them to be part of His team. ***(Read Deuteronomy 7:6)***

Whole-Group Application

When the rotations are complete, invite preschoolers to make a standing circle. With the soccer ball, tell the preschoolers they will practice soccer kicks by taking turns kicking the ball to one another.

Before the ball is kicked, the child with the ball will say the person's name they are kicking it to by saying, "You are fearfully and wonderfully made, _____" and then kick the ball to that preschooler.

Lesson Conclusion

Give each preschooler a cutout of a trophy with the scripture (Psalm 139:14) written on it and tell them to share the trophy with someone this week.

Prior to the lesson, collect the following items:

- Prints of trophies with or without Psalm 139:14 (*Resources*)
- Party favor trophies
- Prints of name tags (*Resources*)
- Prints of a soccer ball (*Resources*)

- Small soccer goals (*optional*)
- Soccer Ball or E-ball
- Crayons or markers

**Note: These words may be unfamiliar to preschoolers. Take time to explain them.*

- Soccer Clinic
- Evangelism

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Jacqueline stays busy as a Children in Action teacher and loves to work on mission projects. She is a member of Iglesia Bautista Alta Vista in San Antonio, Texas.

Resources

For more information about the Hispanic Soccer Outreach, watch this short informational video in English and Spanish about La Mano de Dios and the Mary Hill Davis Offering at vimeo.com/wmuoftexas.

For additional information about E-Balls, watch this tutorial video:

<https://youtu.be/xjuvP6MOz0o?si=vbnWH5FR8a1mpUlh>

For information about the e-ball and its colors, read this script:

https://account-media.s3.amazonaws.com/30507/uploaded/e/0e17687303_1729027327_evangeball-script.pdf



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.

What is the Mary Hill Davis Offering?

Together, WMU of Texas and Texas Baptists are able to send missionaries and provide opportunities for people to hear the Gospel and find hope in Christ.

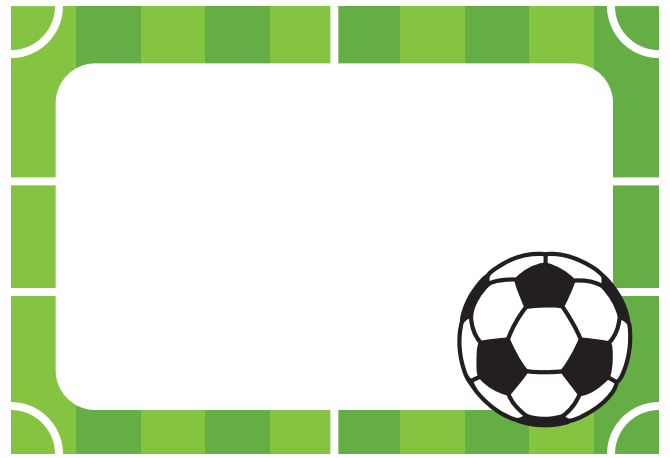
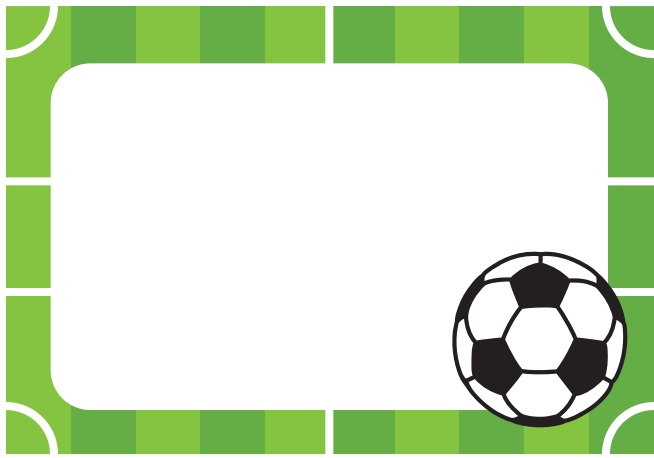
The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions is a vital part of this work - 100 percent - of the money collected goes to sending missionaries, supporting missions in Texas, and sustaining WMU of Texas' ministry efforts. Learn more at iamtexasmissions.org.

Three Ways to Support Texas Missions:

- Give Online: iamtexasmissions.org/give
- Give by Mail: WMU of Texas, 10325 Brockwood Rd, Dallas, TX 75238.
Memo: Mary Hill Davis Offering.
- Give to the Mary Hill Davis for Texas Missions offering at your church.

Texas Map

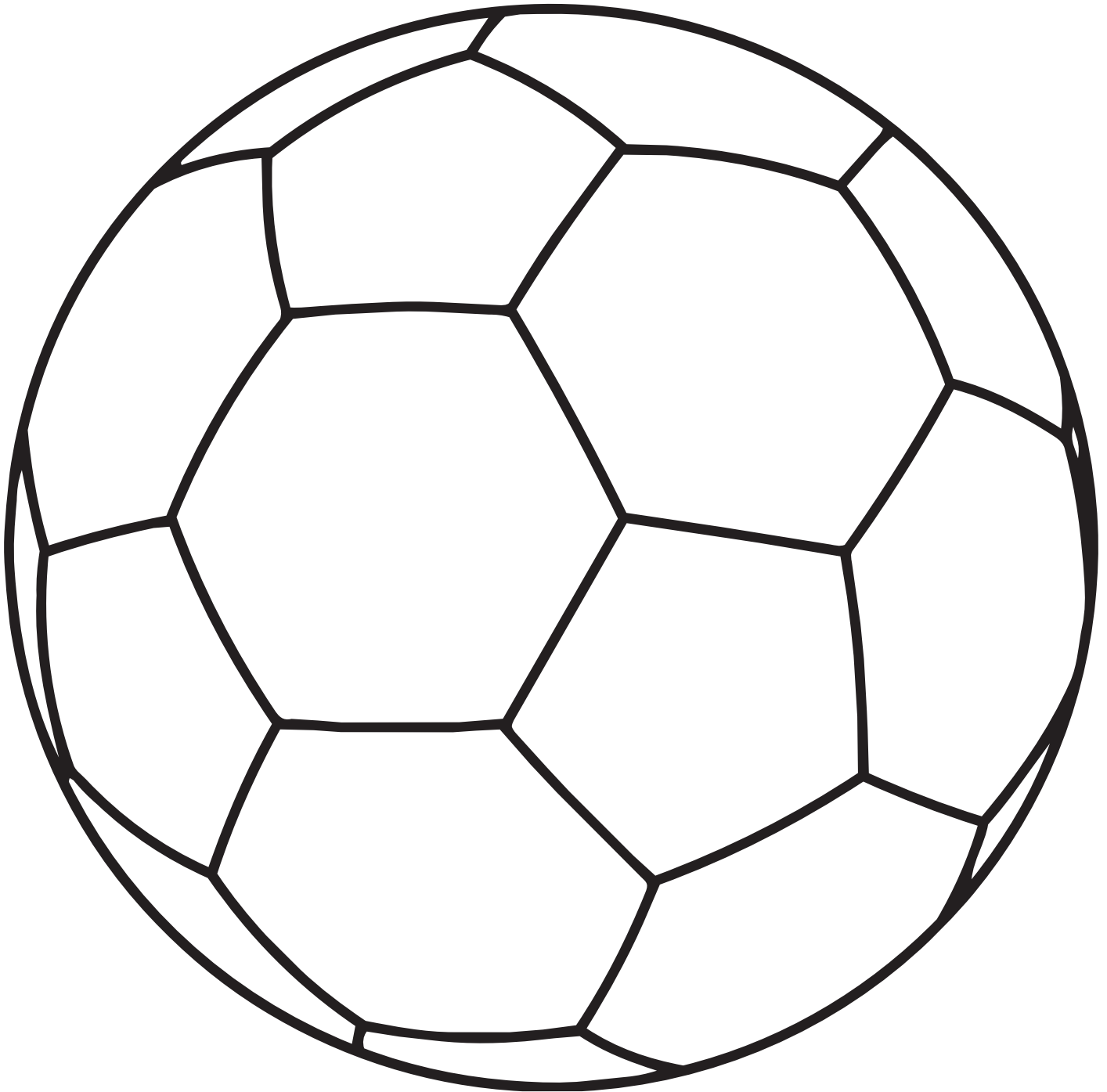




Soccer E-Ball



Soccer E-Ball (Coloring Sheet)



Trophy (with Verse)



Trophy

