

# Preschool Study Guide

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## Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions provides funding for over 80 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 Apartment Church Ministries.

## Bible Verse

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

## Background Information

Have you noticed that no matter where you drive, whether in urban or rural communities, new apartment buildings are being built? Every time we see construction on a new complex the question arises, “Are there people to fill these complexes?” The answer is yes!

The population of Texas is growing, and housing is needed to meet the growth demands. You might also notice that there are many different types of apartments as well. Currently, there is a trend to build luxury apartments with high tech amenities. One builder has worked closely with Paul Atkinson, who oversees Apartment Church Ministries across Texas. The builder designs complexes with meeting spaces to include projector screens and speaker systems that could be used for church meeting spaces. Last year, Apartment Churches were responsible for about 400 baptisms.

Over the years, many kinds of ministries occurred under the umbrella of Apartment Ministries. However, there has been a shift to start and maintain a church within apartments much like the house church model. Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi are targeted metropolitan areas for Apartment Churches. From the beginning, the intent of pastors and volunteers is to establish a long-lasting church.

The population of Texas is a little more than 30 million (July 2022 census report). About 5 million Texans live in apartments. The entire population of the country of Norway is about 5 million! Texas Baptists have a unique opportunity to reach apartment dwellers.

Taking church to where residents live provides a foundation for building relationships and meeting needs to share the gospel of Jesus. Informal gatherings such as social events, discussion groups, and Bible studies give leaders a chance to share Jesus with residents. The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions (MHDO) provides funds to train Apartment Church Ministry pastors and volunteer leadership.

# Lesson

**Learning Objective:** To provide preschoolers with an opportunity to learn about how churches are started in apartment buildings through providing social events, discussion groups, and Bible studies.

## Prior to the Session:

Providing social opportunities for building relationships is a key component of Apartment Church Ministries. Think Pizza Party! Connect the Pizza Party to giving to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions in that \$15 will buy one pizza. Establish a missions giving goal in relationship to \$15. Use pizza slices to measure and keep track of giving to the MHDO.

## Instructions:

### Gather the following items:

- Prepare strips of paper with these Bible thoughts written on each strip and place them in a Bible:
  - Love your neighbor
  - Pray all the time
  - Jesus loves me
  - Jesus loves others
  - A friend loves at all times
- Poster or chart paper and markers for taking a Pizza Poll.
- Pizza Party Supplies: half an English muffin for each preschooler, tomato sauce, grated cheese, pepperoni slices, paper plates, forks, plastic gloves, and a portable toaster oven.
- Download and make copies of pizza slices for preschools to cut out, color, and add toppings.

- Orange and brown construction paper for Bible thoughts
- Hole-punch, scissors, glue
- Red, yellow, and orange crayons
- Red, yellow, green, and blue strips of construction paper for coffee sleeves
- Paper cups

### Schedule:

10 minutes-whole-group learning

30 minutes-small-group learning  
(2 rotations, 15 minutes each)

15 minutes-engagement game

5 minutes-lesson wrap-up

### Learning Environment:

As preschoolers come to the meeting room, take the Pizza Poll of preschoolers favorite kind of pizza. On the vertical side of the chart, write the names of different kinds of pizza such as cheese, pepperoni, hamburger. Guide preschoolers to use markers to draw a face next to their favorite kind of pizza.

## Whole-Group Learning: Mission Study

Bring the Pizza Poll to the meeting area and discuss the poll, noting what pizza has the most and least votes.

**Say:** Friends, why are we talking about pizza today? It is because Apartment Church Ministries use Pizza Parties to make new friends who live in apartments. Do you live in an apartment? Have you ever lived in an apartment or visited someone who lived in one? Apartments are places where many people in Texas live. Apartments are houses that are connected to each other. Some apartment buildings are very big, and some are small. Some even have elevators to get to apartments that are on higher floors. Many have swimming pools, playgrounds, and a gathering space sometimes called a Clubhouse.

Did you know that there are pastors for churches in apartments? Just like volunteers at our church, people volunteer at the Apartment Church. Some volunteers plan activities like Pizza Parties or activities for kids. Other volunteers teach Bible studies while others may lead music.

Even though many people live in apartments, people are often very lonely and need friends. Leaders work very hard to provide opportunities to get to know people through these parties. The volunteers have different activities for friends living in apartments. There are Bible studies for grown-ups and Bible Clubs for kids. There are classes for friends to learn how to speak and read in English because they may speak a different language. They take church to the apartments through these activities. The MHDO for Texas Missions helps train pastors and volunteers serving in Apartment Church Ministries.

Ask a preschooler to select a Bible thought strip from the Bible. Read the Bible thought and discuss how Apartment Church volunteers share about Jesus through reading the Bible together.

## Small-Group Learning

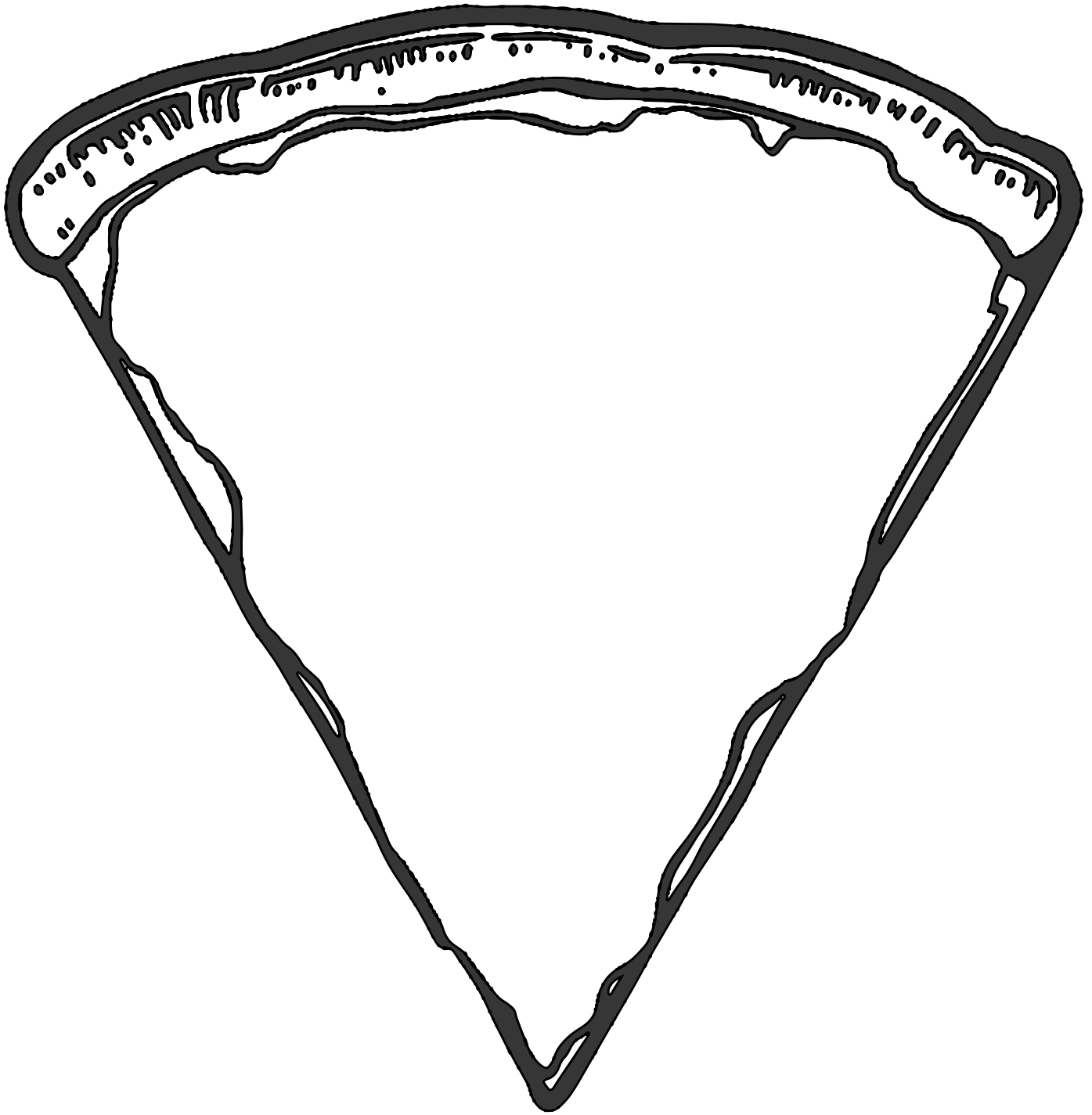
Divide your group of preschoolers into two groups. One group will make individual pizzas while the other group decorates and colors their pizza slices. Rotate your groups so everyone can make a pizza and color.

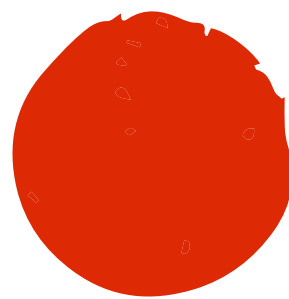
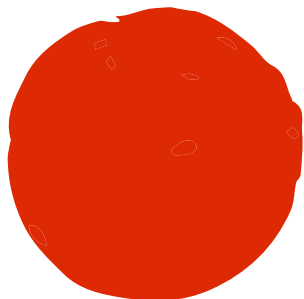
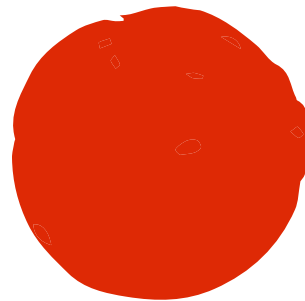
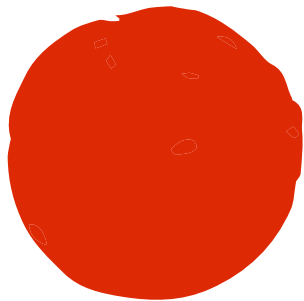
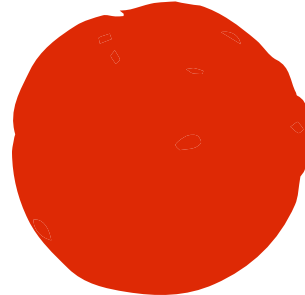
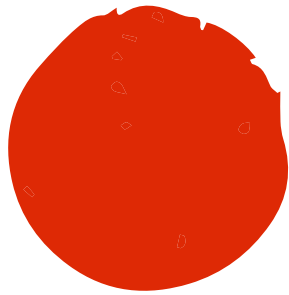
### Pizza Party

Give each preschooler one half of an English muffin on a paper plate. Smear tomato sauce on top of the English muffin. Place different pizza toppings in bowls. Allow each preschooler to choose their toppings. Be sure to provide gloves for the person who is distributing the toppings. Place several pizzas in the toaster oven for about 5 minutes.

Provide copies of paper pizza slices along with paper toppings to glue on to the pizzas. Make copies of pepperoni. Shred or cut strips of orange paper to represent cheese. Use a hole punch and brown paper to make hamburger topping. Provide crayons to color the pizza slices prior to gluing on toppings.

**Say:** When volunteers have Pizza Parties at Apartment Churches, it costs \$16 to buy one pizza. We can bring money for the MHDO to provide pizzas so boys and girls can hear about Jesus. Every time we give \$2 to the offering, we will put up a pizza slice. Let's see how many pizzas our offering can buy.





## Coffee Conversation Engagement Activity

**Game:** Tape a coffee sleeve on each paper cup with a red, green, yellow, or blue strip of construction paper. In a paper cup, place squares of construction paper of the same colors. Have preschoolers sit in a circle. The teacher will pull a colored square out of the cup and preschoolers with that color sleeve will come to the center of the circle where they will share an “I like” statement with each friend having the same color. I like statements might be “I like your shirt;” “I like your smile.” Repeat the activity with a different color so that all preschoolers have a turn to give and receive compliments.

**Say:** We are going to play a Coffee Conversation Game. Pastors and volunteers meet with their new friends living in apartments. Meeting for coffee is a great way to make new friends. Conversations are when people talk to one another. Today, we are going to have Coffee Conversations giving each other compliments. Explain the game to preschoolers.

## Lesson Wrap-Up

As preschoolers enjoy eating their pizza, remind them that they can bring money for the MHDO for Texas Missions. Pray for pastors and volunteers as they find creative ways to meet people living in apartments and that the activities planned will start friendships so they can talk about Jesus. Pray that many will decide to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### Supplies Needed

Go to [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org) to download the following:

- Prayer Guides
- Offering Envelopes
- Posters
- Videos
- Pizza slices to copy
- Pepperoni page to copy



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# About the Writer

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## Jackie Evans Faughn

*Jackie Evans Faughn is a member of First McKinney. She serves as President of WMU of Texas. She is a reader, writer, and life-long learner. A passion is advocating for orphans and vulnerable children.*



## Mary Hill Davis

*Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.*