



“CONSIDER *Your* CALL” Preschoolers Bible Studies

1
SESSION

PURPOSE: God wants me to help others.
SCRIPTURE: *Acts 9:36-39*
SCOPE: Others
MISSION AREA: Virginia
BIBLE THOUGHTS: *2 Corinthians 1:24* “We are helpers.”
Galatians 5:13 “Help one another.”

2
SESSION

PURPOSE: God wants me to work with my hands to help others.
SCRIPTURE: *2 Kings 4:8-11*
SCOPE: Others
MISSION AREA: Virginia
BIBLE THOUGHTS: *1 Thessalonians 4:11* “Work with your own hands.”
Galatians 5:13 “Help one another.”

3
SESSION

PURPOSE: God helps us know how to help others.
SCRIPTURE: *Acts 9:36-39*
SCOPE: Others
MISSION AREA: Virginia
BIBLE THOUGHTS: *Ephesians 4:32* “Be kind to one another.”
Acts 10:38 “Jesus went about doing good.”
1 Corinthians 1:24 “We are helpers.”

4
SESSION

PURPOSE: God wants us to help people have food and clothing.
SCRIPTURE: *Acts 18:1-3, 18*
SCOPE: Others
MISSION AREA: Virginia & Liberia
BIBLE THOUGHTS: *2 Corinthians 1:24* “We are helpers.”
James 5:16 “Pray for others.”
1 Corinthians 3:9 “We work together”

CONSIDER *Your* CALL in Missions through the Alma Hunt Initiatives

UNIT Preparation

All of these items will be used throughout the unit.

1. Pray for preschoolers who will be involved in this study.
2. Pray for those who will teach with you.
3. Read all 4 sessions of the study. If you are one of the teachers, choose 1 or 2 activities (learning centers) that you'd like to lead. Knowing the activities that you'd like to lead will expedite the team planning session.
4. Lead teacher, look in cabinets in preschool rooms for needed supplies (markers, paint, paper, puzzles, books, music CDs or cassette tapes, etc.) before purchasing items.
5. Consider purchasing these puzzles from Kaplan in Winston Salem, NC (800-334-2014; FAX 800-452-7526; www.kaplanco.com): Multi-cultural family is a set of 4 wooden puzzles at cost of \$40.95; Diversity puzzle set is a set of 6 wooden puzzles & costs \$49.95. These puzzles are appropriate for use by other preschool groups-Mission Friends, Bible Study, Discipleship.
6. Consider purchasing these puzzles from Lifeway (800-458-2772): Breakfast with Jesus (0633014273) and Jesus Fed the People (0633013943); both puzzles cost \$9.95 each.
7. Look in picture files in preschool rooms for Bible pictures of Dorcas; Elisha and the Shumanite woman; Priscilla and Aquilla; the boy sharing his lunch with Jesus (the loaves and fishes); and Jesus having breakfast with his helpers/disciples. Pictures will be used after telling the Bible story. Pictures may be used also in various learning centers. Having duplicates is great!
8. Visit the local library for books about people helping other people.
9. Print each Bible verse on a separate strip of colored paper (make 2 sets) and place the strips of paper at the corresponding verses in your personal Bible and the department Bible.
10. Select appropriate music to use as preschoolers enter the classroom.
11. Encourage leaders/teachers to use Bible and mission stories as preschoolers "work" in the various learning centers. Preschoolers may (and do) listen to the stories as they work puzzles, draw, build with blocks, or experiment with resources in the classroom.

1 SESSION

PURPOSE: God wants me to help others.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:36-39

SCOPE: Others

MISSION AREA: Virginia

BIBLE THOUGHTS: 2 Corinthians 1:24 "We are helpers."
Galatians 5:13 "Help one another."

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Preschoolers will learn that Dorcas showed God's love to others by helping people and telling them about God.
- Preschoolers will learn that they may tell others about God by helping people in need.
- Preschoolers will learn how people in Virginia help people who are in need.

Learning Centers

(30-45 minutes)



ART

Provide art materials for preschoolers to draw, color, or paint their favorite outfits. Let older 2's experiment with plastic needles, yarn, and plastic craft mesh.

Consider adding small pieces (1" x 1") of fabric (various colors & textures) for older preschoolers to use to design "favorite" outfits.

Talk with preschoolers about Dorcas making clothing for people. She made clothing to help people.

Engage preschoolers in conversation by asking such questions as:

- Does your mom or dad sew?
- Does your Grandmother sew?
- Do you think sewing is hard work?



CONSTRUCTION/BLOCKS

Dorcas used her house to help people learn that God loved them. Dorcas liked helping people. She sewed clothes for people who were poor. Show preschoolers a picture of a Bible time home. Younger preschoolers may use blockbusters to build a house for Dorcas. Tell the children that Dorcas used her house to help others.

Encourage children to build a house for Dorcas. Use standup figures (mother, father, children, grandparents) for the children to place in the home.



DRAMATIC PLAY/HOMELIVING

Let 2's sort and fold clothes and place them in a box. Tell them that helpers in our church wash, sew, and fold clothes to take to Helping Hand Clothes Closet. Parents who need clothes come and get the clothes for their family.

Provide burlap, yarn, and tapestry or plastic needles for older preschoolers. Preschoolers will enjoy pushing the needles in and out. Use sewing cards, plastic needles, and yarn if you prefer.

Bring a pajama pattern and cotton cloth for Kindergartners. Using Fiskar or quality preschool scissors, let the preschoolers lay out the pattern pieces on the fabric and cut out the pajamas. Show them how the fabric will be sewn together to make pajamas for a child. A teacher may bring a portable sewing machine and begin stitching the pajamas. **CAUTION: ONLY ADULTS USE THE SEWING MACHINE.**



SCIENCE/NATURE

Collect samples of fabric for preschoolers to touch. Let them sort them by color, pattern, or texture. Provide several swatches of several fabrics. Preschooler may match the fabrics. Encourage them to describe the fabrics. How do the fabrics feel? What colors are these fabrics? Do the fabrics have a pattern or a design?



BOOKS

Collect a variety of books about ways preschoolers can help.



PUZZLES

Place an assortment of sewing and mending accessories on a tray. Let the preschoolers tell how each would be used to make clothing. Ask them to match the knitting needles with the knitting yarn. Have a sewing needle with thread and a crochet needle with crochet thread; let the preschoolers match the needles with the thread.

Provide puzzles of community helpers (doctors, teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers) as well as puzzles of Bible characters helping.

As preschoolers manipulate the puzzles, talk with them about people who help others. Use portions of the mission story/emphasis.



CLEAN-UP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Encourage children as they return learning materials to appropriate locations. Thank children for helping to clean up. Sing a “clean up” song; preschoolers will know song from weekday or childcare setting.

Group Time

(15-20 minutes)

BIBLE STORY: Dorcas: Acts 9:36-43

1. As children gather, show them all sizes of children's clothing. Show small sizes. Ask if they could wear this small baby shirt. Say: *You are growing. What happens when your clothes get too small? Your parents may buy you bigger clothes or make you new ones. There are some children whose parents want them to have the clothes they need, but they don't have enough money to buy what they need.*
2. Open your Bible to Acts 9:36-43. Say: *Our Bible story today tells about Dorcas and how she helped.*

Dorcas loved God. She was always doing good and helping the poor. She wanted people to know that God loved them. She may have made a cloak for a little boy. She may have made a dress for a mother. Dorcas may have given a baby a gift of a new blanket. Dorcas knew that she could help people by making clothes for them.
3. Show the Bible picture of Dorcas. Ask: *How did Dorcas help people?, Why do you think Dorcas helped people?, Do you ever help someone?, How do you help someone? (pick up toys, share a cookie, let friend play with my toys)."*
4. Invite one preschooler to stand by you and choose a Bible verse card from your Bible. Whisper the Bible verse in child's ear; ask child to tell the Bible verse to the other boys and girls. Ask the preschoolers to repeat the Bible verse.

Repeat this process for all Bible verses.
5. Play a game to relax the preschoolers who tire from sitting too much--if you can count to 5, stand up; if you can sew, stand up; if you like purple, stand up; if you can help someone, stand up.
6. Tell the Mission story.

Dorcas Project:
Mrs. Keirs loved to help people. She loved to teach preschoolers at her church, too. She knew that many of the boys and girls at her church were growing as God planned. There were boys and girls in their city who did not have enough money to buy clothes as they grew bigger. These boys and girls needed clothes. Mrs. Keirs talked to the preschoolers at her church. She told them about a special group of people at their church who worked together with other people in their city to collected good used clothes that people out grew or could no longer use. She told the children that their clothes that were too small for them would help boys and girls who needed clothes. She asked the children if they would like to help.

The children went home. They talked to their parents about what they had learned. They asked their parents if they could bring their clothes to church so that Mrs. Keirs could take them to the Helping Hand Clothing Center. This was a place where mothers and daddies could come and choose the clothes their children needed.

The children and their parents collected clothes. They put them in boxes and brought them to church. They were happy that they could do what Dorcas had done. They helped children to get the clothes they needed. They had showed God's love to others.

(Editor's note: shorten the story as needed, depending on ages of preschoolers.)
7. Say to the preschoolers, *In Virginia, we have a special offering called the Alma Hunt Offering to help people like Mrs. Keirs. If possible, show a picture of Alma Hunt from the Virginia Missions magazine or from the Alma Hunt publicity materials. Because of the money given to this offering, many people can be like Dorcas as they help others who need clothing.*
8. Pray. Say a simple prayer, such as *Thank you, God, that we may help other people.*

SESSION

2

PURPOSE: God wants me to work with my hands to help others.

SCRIPTURE: *2 Kings 4:8-11*

SCOPE: Others

MISSION AREA: Virginia

BIBLE THOUGHTS: *1 Thessalonians 4:11* "Work with your own hands."
Galatians 5:13 "Help one another."

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Preschoolers will learn that the Shumanite woman helped Elisha.
- Preschoolers will learn that they and their families may help people who have no homes.

Learning Centers

(30-45 minutes)



ART

Place paints and large newsprint at the easel. Encourage preschoolers to paint a picture of their bedroom and name the things that are in his/her room. Talk about how God helps us to have a safe place. He wants us to help others to have safe places to live, too.

Challenge preschoolers to draw pictures of their homes. Provide 12" X 18" white construction paper, washable markers, or crayons.

Talk with them about the color of the walls, floor coverings, furniture, etc.

Talk with them about the people who live in their homes. Of course, the family pet is part of the family!



CONSTRUCTION/BLOCKS

Provide building supplies such as soft pine scraps, roofing nails, 2 hammers, and eye goggles/safety goggles. As preschoolers choose the construction area, let them hammer the nails into the boards. Tell them about the people who want to help families whose houses need repairs and are not able to do the work (See the mission story/emphasis in "Group time" portion of the session).

Provide plastic tools and a pounding bench for younger preschoolers.



DRAMATIC PLAY/HOMELIVING

Place a large box in the homeliving area. Cut a door in one side. Cut windows on all the sides. Let the children place carpet squares, pillows, and books in the box. Tell preschoolers *Everyone needs a home. Some times people need others to help them build a house or to fix their houses when something is broken. Some of the people in our church help people repair their house. They show people that God loves them. God wants us to go and help people and to tell them that God loves them.*

Preschoolers may wish to paint the house (outside of box). If so, provide paint smocks (men's shirts with collars, sleeves, and shirt tails removed) and paints for the preschoolers to use.



SCIENCE/NATURE

Provide bedding plants, potting soil, pots, trowels, and gardening gloves. Encourage the preschoolers to plant flowers for the helpers who repair houses to take to give to the families who live in the houses. Pray for the families that live in those houses.



BOOKS

Collect a variety of books about ways preschoolers can help.



PUZZLES

If you have duplicate Bible pictures of Elisha, cut pictures into 8 or 10 pieces. Tell the Bible story as children work the puzzle.

Write each Bible thought on a different color of 9" X 12" construction paper. Cut each piece of paper into 4 to 6 pieces. Kindergartners will accept the challenge of putting the Bible thoughts together.

Secure a variety of tools that are safe for preschoolers to handle. Ask the preschoolers about use of each tool.



CLEAN-UP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Begin singing a clean up song to let preschoolers know that they should put puzzles back into puzzle rack, art supplies on shelf, etc. Assist preschoolers as needed. Thank them for helping, *you're doing what the Bible tells us to do; you are using your hands to help others.*

Group Time

(15-20 minutes)

BIBLE STORY: Dorcas: Acts 9:36-43

1. As children come to group time, show various tools and discuss their use. Ask children if they have ever used any of these tools.

2. Open your Bible to *2 Kings 4:8-13* and begin telling the story.

Elisha traveled all through his home country of Israel. He taught the people about God and how God wanted the people to live. He helped the people every where he went.

One day Elisha traveled to Shuman. There was a woman who lived in Shuman who had money. She invited Elisha to stay in her home. She fixed food for him.

The woman talked to her husband. She said, "Elisha comes to our town often to tell people about God. Let's make a small room for him so he will have a place to stay and rest whenever he comes to Shuman."

The man and woman worked. The man sawed and hammered. They put a bed, a table and a lamp in the room. "Now Elisha will have a place to stay when he comes to our town to tell about God and to help people."

When Elisha came to Shuman, he stayed in the room. He slept on the bed. He said, "You have worked hard to make a comfortable place for me. Thank you. I will ask God to make the woman and her husband's life full of joy."

3. Show the Bible picture of Elisha and his room. Depending on ages of children, ask questions such as "Does this room look like your room at home?", "How is your room different?", "Why did the woman and her husband make a room for Elisha?", "Do you ever make a room for someone?", "How did the woman and man feel when they helped Elisha?" Accept all responses that preschoolers offer.

4. Play a game to allow preschoolers to move-if you live in a house, stand up; if you live in an apartment, wave your hand; if you live with your family, snap your fingers; if you sleep in a bed, clap your hands.

5. Tell the mission story, shortening the telling as needed to meet needs of preschoolers.
REMEMBER: TEACHERS MAY TELL THE MISSION STORY AS PRESCHOOLERS WORK IN THE VARIOUS LEARNING CENTERS.

Mission Story

Marcia pushed the switch to turn on her bedroom light. The light did not come on. Her dad was sitting in his chair. He had not been able to earn enough money to fix the wiring. "I'm sorry Marcia. Something is wrong with the switch or the electric wiring. I am not able to fix it and it would cost too much to pay someone to do the work."

Mr. Quel heard about a family whose house had some broken wiring that might start a fire if it were not fixed. The family knew that they would have to fix the wiring or move out of the house. The family did not have money to pay someone to fix the wiring. This family was Marcia's family. They had no other place to live. Mr. Quel told his church about Marcia's family.

The men and women at church did not want the family to be homeless. Mr. Quel's family wanted to help. His daughters, Miranda and Faith, and Mrs. Quel fixed lunch for all the helpers. The men at church

wanted to help fix their house. They got their tools and new wire. They went to the house. They hammered and placed the new wire in the walls to make it safe. They told the family that they wanted to help because they love God and wanted to show God's love to them.

Marcia went to her bedroom. She pushed the switch. The light came on she smiled and went and gave her dad a hug. "I'm glad there are people who love God and want to work to help others."

"We can thank God for them," said Dad. That's what they did.

- 6.** Ask the preschoolers if they remember the name of the special offering in Virginia (Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions). Tell them that the Alma Hunt Offering also provides money to help when people want to repair homes like Marcia's.
- 7.** Pray a simple prayer, *God, thank you for our homes where we live. Thank you for people who help other people to have safe home in which to live.*
- 8.** Thank the preschoolers for listening and learning so well; tell them you look forward to seeing them again soon.

3 SESSION

PURPOSE: God helps us know how to help others.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:36-39

SCOPE: Others

MISSION AREA: Virginia

BIBLE THOUGHTS: *Ephesians 4:32* "Be kind to one another."

Acts 10:38 "Jesus went about doing good."

1 Corinthians 1:24 "We are helpers."

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Preschoolers will learn that people are pleasing God when they help others.
- Preschoolers will learn how people work together to help others.
- Preschoolers will learn that Jesus helped people.

INTRODUCTION:

The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions provides money to help many ministries in Virginia. Virginia Baptists strive to find ways to help people and thereby have opportunities to share God's love with hurting people. Disaster Relief is one way that Virginia Baptists help. The volunteers are equipped to perform all the jobs needed to carry out disaster relief ministries.

Learning Centers

(30-45 minutes)



ART

God plans for us to have good foods to eat. Pour tempera paints on felt pad in shallow containers and place art paper nearby. Select food shaped cookie cutters, food shaped sponges, or playdoh cutters for children to use for making prints. Lead children to make prints of good foods they could share with people who need food. (Editor's note: preschoolers should use paint smocks (men's shirts) to protect their clothing. Use 12" X 18" white construction. Lessen cleanup time by covering the art table with newspaper or an inexpensive shower curtain.)

As preschoolers "work" in this center, talk about different kinds of healthy foods. Use the Bible thoughts with the preschoolers.



CONSTRUCTION/BLOCKS

Place trucks and vans in the block area. Tell preschoolers that people drive special trucks to places where storms have damaged homes. The vans have food, freezers, stoves for cooking, and everything the helpers need to fix meals for the people. They park in church parking lots. Encourage preschoolers to build a church house with the blocks and park the trucks near the church house so that the people may come and get the food they need.

Use the Bible thought, "We are helpers."

Tell preschoolers portions of the mission story (see "Group Time").



DRAMATIC PLAY/HOMELIVING

Provide clean food containers, play food or pictures of food cut from magazines or grocery ads, and sleeping bags. Add empty food cans by removing the bottoms of the cans rather than the lids when opening the cans. Removing the bottoms makes the cans safer for preschoolers to use. Leave labels on cans.

As preschoolers show interest, tell them that volunteers go to places where storms or floods damage peoples' homes. They cook food and put it in containers. They give the food to people who need it. Encourage one child to cook foods as another child puts the food in the clean box containers. Tell them that when the volunteers finish serving all the meals for the day, they go back in the church house to the Sunday School rooms. They sleep in their sleeping bags on cots. The next day they start cooking meals for the people again.

Tell the Bible story of the boy who shared his bread and fishes with Jesus.



SCIENCE/NATURE

Place a food pyramid and food from the four food groups in the Science/Nature area. When preschoolers comes to the area, tell them that our bodies need good foods to keep us healthy. Help them sort the goods into the four groups. Say, *God wants us to take care of our bodies by eating good foods. We help others to have good foods when we bring canned foods to church to give to people who need food.*

Tell the mission story as preschoolers handle the food items.

Say, *Thank you, God, for good foods to eat.*



BOOKS

Cut pictures of healthy food from magazines. Place each picture in a ziplock bag. Punch 2 holes in side of each bag. Use notebook rings to secure the bags together, thus making a book of good foods.

Secure copies of "Virginia Missions" magazine (from Virginia Baptist Resource Center, 800-255-2428; 804-915-5000) for pictures of peoples who have participated in various mission projects. Cut photos from the magazine and make a book of people helping people. Consider putting the photos in a small photo album.



PUZZLES

Use "Jesus Cooks Breakfast" and "Jesus Fed the People" puzzles.

If you have duplicate Bible picture of Jesus cooking breakfast, cut the picture into 8 to 10 pieces for the 4's and kindergartners to complete. Encourage children to look at the "uncut" Bible picture to complete the puzzle.

Cut pictures of healthy foods from magazines; glue pictures to different colors of construction paper. Cut each picture into 3 or 4 pieces (fewer for 2's). Encourage preschoolers to match the pieces to determine the foods.

Tell the Bible story as preschoolers work the puzzles.



CLEAN-UP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Thank the preschoolers for helping to clean up the room.

3 SESSION

Group Time

(15-20 minutes)

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Cooks Breakfast John 21:1-17

1. As children come to Group Time, talk with them about what they did in the learning centers. Involving preschoolers in conversation (rather than waiting until all are in the circle or sitting in their chairs) encourages the other preschoolers to complete "clean up" and come to group time.
2. Open your Bible to *John 21: 1-17* and begin telling the Bible story.

Jesus' helpers were gathered together. "I'm going out to fish," said Peter. The other disciples decided to go fishing with Peter. They got in the boat. They fished all night. They were tired and hungry.

In the morning they saw Jesus walking on the shore. He saw the disciples. He asked, "Have you any fish?"

"No," they answered. Jesus said, "Throw the nets down on the right side of the boat and you will catch some fish."

The disciples did as Jesus told them. Their net filled with many, many fish. The net was so heavy when they pulled it into the boat.

The disciples rowed their boat to shore. They saw the fire that Jesus had built on the sand. They smelled the fish that he had cooked for them. Jesus knew the disciples would be hungry after fishing all night. Jesus called, "Come and have breakfast." The disciples thanked Jesus. They ate the breakfast Jesus had cooked for them.
3. Show the Bible picture of Jesus and his helpers. Ask the preschoolers such questions as ---Which person in the picture is Jesus? Who are these other people? What had the helpers been doing? How do you think they felt when they saw Jesus?
4. Play a game to allow preschoolers to move---if you've ever been fishing, stand up; if you've ever eaten fish, snap your fingers; if you've ever been in a boat, clap your hands; if you've ever shared your toys with a friend, touch your toes.
5. Tell the mission story, shortening it as needed and depending on ages of preschoolers.

Mission Story

The weather man told about the storms that were causing a lot of rain in the mountains of Virginia. So much rain had fallen that the rivers and streams were overflowing. People had to leave their homes. They could not bring their clothes or food. They had to leave everything. Moms and Dads picked up their children and went to schools to sleep where they would be safe.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason in Forest, Virginia had been watching the weather report. They were part of a Disaster Relief Team. Soon their telephone rang. They were asked to go to Grundy, in the mountains of Virginia.

They packed their sleeping bags, their Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief shirts, and their identification badges that showed they were trained to help. They drove to the Baptist Church in Grundy. They put their bag and clothes on cots in a Sunday School Room. They went to work to set up the big van with the kitchen for cooking food for people who had to leave their homes. They cleaned all the pans and the cooking spoons and forks. They worked to get food ready for the moms, dads, and children.

The Red Cross told them how many people needed food to eat. The Rescue Team went to work. They cooked enough food for the people. They put the food in special containers called cambros. The cambros keep the food hot so that it would be good to eat.

A mother came with her two small children for food. They were wet from the rain. They had lost their clothes when the water came into their home. The mother needed raincoats for her children. The team wanted to help. They found raincoats for the children. They also gave the mother a raincoat. The mother thanked them for the coats. She came back each day for food.

Say, *What a wonderful story! What wonderful people Mr. and Mrs. Mason were!*

6. Remind preschoolers about the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions. Discuss how giving money to this offering helps with Disaster Relief (equipment, food, supplies, training for workers). Remember to thank God during the prayer time that people give their money to help others.
7. Say a simple prayer, such as “God, we are so glad that people help other people. Thank you for people who cook foods so that others won’t be hungry.”

Thank the preschoolers for listening so well and learning so much. Tell them that you look forward to seeing them soon.

4

SESSION

PURPOSE: God wants us to help people to have food and clothing.

SCRIPTURE: *Acts 18:1-3, 18*

SCOPE: Others

MISSION AREA: Virginia & Liberia

BIBLE THOUGHTS: *2 Corinthians 1:24* "We are helpers."

James 5:16 "Pray for others."

1 Corinthians 3:9 "We work together"

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Preschoolers will learn that the Bible tells us what God wants us to do.
- Preschoolers will learn that we can do what the Bible says.
- Preschoolers will learn that when we do what the Bible says, we are obeying God.
- Preschoolers will learn that God uses people to help us know how to serve God.

INTRODUCTION:

Virginia Baptists and Emile Sam-Peale work together to help people in Liberia. Liberia has had years of war, famine, and drought. These events have left the people in poverty. Virginia Baptists heard Emil speak about the people and their needs. The Virginia Baptist Mission Board responded. They planned, prayed, and let others people know about the people in Liberia. God heard the prayers, people worked and told others. Virginia Baptist sent 5,872 pounds of rice and 75 pairs of shoes to Liberia.

Learning Centers

(30-45 minutes)



ART

Encourage the children to trace around their feet on construction paper. Fill in the footprints with school glue. Place in a shallow box (canned drink boxes are great) or baking sheet. Sprinkle sand over the construction paper.

Bible thought: We are helpers. God wants us to help other people. We can send shoes to people who need them. Pray for the children who will get the shoes.

A second art activity: Using washable tempera paints and sponge brushes (available at discount stores), allow one preschooler to paint the bottom of the foot of another preschooler. The preschooler with painted foot (or feet) will step on 12" X 18" construction paper; then, he should step immediately into a pan of water (with a mild detergent) to wash his foot (or feet). Have paper towels ready for drying the child's foot.

If weather permits, you might prefer to offer this fun art experience outdoors! Limit the activity to two preschoolers at a time. Preschoolers should wear paint smocks



DRAMATIC PLAY/HOMELIVING

Collect several pairs of shoe of different sizes. Set up a shoe store. Include pencils, sticky labels (so that children may price the items), note pads, cash register.

Let one preschooler be the salesperson; another may be the cashier. Children may take turns. Tell the children that many parents in Liberia do not have enough money to buy shoes for their children. There are people in Virginia who wanted to help. They collected shoes to send to the children.



SCIENCE/NATURE

Place a large dishpan partially filled with rice. Provide funnels, plastic measuring cups (liquid and stacking cups), sieves, and wooden spoons. Preschoolers may pour, measure, and spoon rice into cups.

As preschoolers measuring the rice, tell portions of the mission story about people in our churches collecting and sending many, many bags of rice to Liberia. Say, *People sent the rice to Liberia so that the families in Liberia would have food to eat. People sent the rice because they love God and wanted to do what God would want them to do.*

Use the Bible thoughts with preschoolers as they work.



BOOKS

Collect a variety of books about ways preschoolers can help.



PUZZLES

Mix pairs of shoes of different sizes and styles. Let the children match them. You can also trace different size shoes on paper and let the children match to shoe to the right outline.



CLEAN-UP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Sing the clean up song, thanking the preschoolers for helping.

4

SESSION

Group Time

(15-20 minutes)

BIBLE STORY: Dorcas: Acts 9:36-43

1. As preschoolers come to group time, talk with them about the activities they enjoyed most:
What did you like best today?
What was the most fun?

Play a game with the children-if you are wearing white shoes, stand up; if you are wearing sandals, clap your hands; if you are wearing black shoes, wave your hands; if you are wearing no shoes, snap your fingers; if you have helped someone today, smile.

2. Open your personal Bible to *Acts 18: 1-3* and begin telling the Bible story.

Paul was a missionary. He went from town to town telling people about Jesus. When he traveled to the city of Corinth, he met Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Paul was a tent maker. Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers, too. They invited Paul to stay at their house. He stayed and worked with them. While he stayed with them, he went every Sabbath to the temple church to teach the people about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla helped Paul to be able to tell others about Jesus.

3. If you have a Bible picture of Priscilla and Aquila, show it now. Ask such questions as *Which person do you think is Paul?, Which person is Priscilla?, What jobs did Priscilla and Aquila have?, How did they help people?*

4. Using your Bible and the Bible thought markers that you made, invite one child to stand beside you and choose one of the markers. Open the Bible to that Bible thought, whisper the Bible thought to the child, and ask him to tell the Bible thought to the other children. Ask the children to say the thought with you.

Follow this same procedure for all three Bible verses for today.

5. Tell the mission story.

Mission Story:

The Bible tells us to help one another. It also tells us to be kind to others.

Emile Sam-Peal had seen children and their families in Liberia who did not have enough food. He saw people without shoes to wear. He knew that people in Virginia loved God and wanted to do what the Bible said. He came to Virginia and said to them, "Wouldn't it be great if everyone who came to a special meeting would bring a bag of rice to help the people in Liberia?"

Five teenagers volunteered to help. They called the people who were coming to the special meeting in Richmond.

When the people came to the special meeting, they brought almost 6,000 pounds of rice! Many people in Liberia will have food to eat! Can you guess how much 6,000 pounds is?

This is a second Mission Story that might be used as preschoolers interact in Learning Centers:

People at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center in Richmond saw pictures of children in Liberia. The children did not have any shoes on their feet. The men and women at the Board wanted to help. They worked in teams to see which team could collect the most shoes for the children. Other people collected shoes also. Together they collected 75 pairs of shoes to send to Liberia.

The people in Virginia were happy that they could show God's love to children in Liberia. They were glad Emile Sam-Peal came and told them about the needs of the people in Liberia.)

6. Pray, thanking God for good food to eat and for shoes to wear. Thank God for people who help other people.

7. Thank the preschoolers for coming today. Thank them for wanting to help others.

Tell older preschoolers that one way that they can help is by giving money to the Alma Hunt Offering. (A good source of pictures and stories about how this offering is used is The Virginia Missions magazine, available from the Virginia Baptist Resource Center at 1-800-255-2428.)



Virginia Baptist Mission Board
DISASTER SERVICES



Board
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VIRGINIA

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