

Proclaim the Name of Jesus | Philippians 2:9-10 (Preschoolers)

Prepare to Teach:

As you prepare to teach “Proclaim the Name of Jesus,” read through Philippians 2: 1-18. If you have a study Bible, check out the notes and references associated with those verses. Also, read through one or two of the gospel accounts of the story of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. (Mt 27:27, 28:1-10; Mark 15-16:12; Luke 23-24:12; John 19:16- 20:18) Be ready to share your personal testimony with children.

Think of ways throughout the lesson to mention the Reach Texas State Missions Offering and encourage your boys and girls to participate.

The purpose of this teaching session is to help boys and girls see how the name of Jesus should and can be proclaimed to their fellow Texans and to discover ways they can participate. Pray as you prepare and gather materials. Feel free to adapt the learning activities to suit your particular group of preschoolers.

This lesson contains small group activities that can occur simultaneously depending on how many adults are available to supervise your classroom as well as one large-group activity. You can adapt the order or selection of activities to most closely resemble the routine to which your preschoolers are accustomed.

As preschoolers enter the room you may enjoy having *Deep in the Heart of Texas* playing softly in the background. Tell preschoolers that today we are learning about telling people in Texas about Jesus. Older preschoolers will enjoy clapping along between verses.

Group Time

Supplies Needed:

Children’s Bibles

Two Texas themed bookmarks

Print J E S U S on a large piece of construction paper or print it on a whiteboard.

Place a bluebonnet or Texas themed book mark in Philippians 2

Map of Texas

(Optional: children’s musical instruments)

Gather Together to Learn about Jesus: Sing the following song to the tune of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* as you call preschoolers to your group time. Encourage preschoolers to join you in singing J E S U S.

Jesus is God’s only Son: J- E- S -U- S

And Jesus came to earth for us: J- E- S -U- S

Jesus loves us very much— wants all to know about His love!

Jesus is Alive today!: J -E -S -U -S

As everyone is gathered, direct preschoolers’ attention to the JESUS poster and ask someone to guess what special name is printed. Mention that it was fun to clap along to the Texas song as they arrived and now they can clap along to a song about Jesus. Invite preschoolers to sing along as you go through the song again. Older preschoolers can clap during J E S U S.

Display a Texas themed bookmark and remark that bluebonnets are the state flower of Texas or mention something special about the item depicted on your bookmark.

Invite a preschooler to remove a similar bookmark to help you find Philippians 2. Open your Bible to Philippians 2 and tell the story. You may want to say something like the following:

Hear a Bible Story: Our story today is from the book of Philippians from the New Testament. Listen for the name that God says is the most important name.

Earlier this year we celebrated Easter. Does anyone remember who we celebrate at Easter? Yes, we celebrate that God sent his Son Jesus to earth and on Easter we celebrate that Jesus is God's Son and that he is alive! Let me read to you what the Bible says about that, (Philippians 2:9-10) "For this reason God highly exalted him," that means God wanted us to pay attention to how important Jesus is in our lives, "and gave him (Jesus) the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – in heaven and on earth and under the earth." That means that everyone you could ever think about will one day understand how important it is to know and obey Jesus.

Ask who can tell us whose name is the most important in all the world? (Jesus)

The Bible says that every knee will bow . . . that means that everyone will know what Jesus did for us and how much he loves us. Let's practice bowing on our knees. Allow boys and girls to take turns demonstrating what they think that is like. Remark that bowing is a sign of respect and honor to someone and Jesus deserves our respect and honor and praise.

Learn a Bible Verse: Say that you need the boys and girls' help to finish our Bible verses for today. Instruct the boys and girls to stand and sit when you say the word "name" then to bow when you say the word "bow." Have the boys and girls start from the seated position and slowly read Philippians 2:9-10 from your Bible. Give emphasis to the word "name" so that boys and girls will be cued to stand up, sit down, stand up again, then bow when you say "bow." You can repeat the activity by speeding it up and slowing it down. Say it soft and say it loud and encourage boys and girls to join in on other words in the verse as they are able.

Sing Together: Mention that one way we can honor Jesus is by singing praises to him. Ask preschooler to suggest their favorite songs about Jesus. Select one of the songs to sing together as a group. [If you have instruments then distribute them and let boys and girls take turns playing the different instruments. Collect the instruments before you move to the next activity.]

(Make a short list of the songs and if you have time at the end of your teaching session you can come back as a group and sing some of the suggested songs together.)

Pray Together: Remark that another way to show honor and respect to Jesus is to let others know how special he is.

Show the map of Texas and ask if any preschoolers have seen the shape of Texas on anything . . . hats, signs, etc. Mention that we live in the state of Texas. Point to your city on the map and mention that we live in our city and there are LOTS of other cities on the map that show where people live who need to hear about Jesus.

Allow interested preschoolers to take turns giving you suggestions about who to tell about Jesus.

Let's pray and ask God to help us know who we should tell about Jesus.

If preschoolers are interested they can take turns praying out loud and/or bowing on their knees to pray.

Close in prayer asking God to help us tell other people about Jesus.

Learning and Application Activities:

Work Puzzles and Talk about Jesus and Missions

Gather: Puzzles of Jesus or you can cut old teaching pictures of Jesus into 5 to 7 pieces for children to work, children's Bible. (Print attachment of "Jesus Loves You" in different languages.)

As preschoolers work the puzzles, ask them about what is happening in the different puzzle scenes.

Remark that Jesus is God's Son and that we can help others know how special Jesus is.

Inquire if preschoolers can name people who need to hear about Jesus.

Mention that there are lots of people in your city and all of Texas who need to hear about Jesus.

Suggest that children look through the Bible for pictures of Jesus while they are waiting their turn to work puzzles.

Ask boys and girls what different languages they think are spoken in Texas. (Top three languages after English are Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.) Older preschoolers can recognize letters and simple words. Show them the Jesus Loves You print out and help interested preschoolers to say Jesus Loves You in one or more different languages. Remark that many people in Texas who help tell others about Jesus speak different languages.

Decorate a Texas Themed Jumbo Bookmark or Doorhanger

Gather: Card stock, scissors, glue sticks, blue and green tissue paper, washable markers, picture of Texas flag, bluebonnets, mockingbird, and/or star stickers, construction or typing paper.

Do: Cut out door hangers (Door Hanger in attachment) or 4"x11" pieces of cardstock. Print the following phrases individually on strips of construction or typing paper that will fit across the bottom or back of the door hanger or book mark: Jesus is God's Son! Jesus is Alive! Jesus loves me! (Make enough of each item for each child to have two copies.)

Allow preschoolers to select a phrase to add to their bookmark or door hanger. Demonstrate how a doorhanger is used and ask for suggestions about what sort of Texas themed items to add/Demonstrate how to use a jumbo bookmark using a Bible. Take suggestions for what story or picture to mark with the bookmark.

Mention that boys and girls can make one to keep and one to share. Say that they can share one with someone who they want to tell about Jesus and they can keep the other one to remind them to pray for people who travel all over Texas to tell others about Jesus.

As boys and girls work, guide them to tear tissue paper to use to make bluebonnet designs. You can add stems or grass with markers. Talk about the different symbols of Texas they are using in their designs and ask about different cities in Texas they know about. Mention that in each city there are people who need to hear about Jesus. Pause to pray for the different people groups or cities that are mentioned.

Throw a Block Party

Gather: City scene floor mat (alternate use masking tape to outline roads and buildings on the floor or on a large piece of cardboard), toy cars, blocks, people figures

Mention that Texas has over 1200 cities! Say, sometimes when people go to a city to tell people about Jesus, they invite them to a party so they can meet lots of people and invite them to church or tell them about Jesus. Let's pretend to have a block party! Ask preschoolers what phrase they can say or verse they can share to tell others about Jesus and encourage them to say that while they are moving about their city and block party. If the city scene you are using does not have a church, encourage the boys and girls to pick a building to serve as a church or to build one with blocks.

Discover Pictures of Jesus

Gather: Large pillows and/or bath sheets or blankets, books about Jesus, children's Bibles.

Display books and Bibles on a blanket or bath sheet or near large pillows.

Encourage preschoolers to recall stories they know about Jesus.

Invite preschoolers to find pictures of Jesus and tell you about what is depicted in the pictures.

Mention that we can tell other people about how Jesus loves us and is God's son.

Sing About Jesus

Provide musical instruments and lead boys and girls in singing My Best Friend is Jesus.

Remark that the Bible says that God gave Jesus a very special name and we can honor him by singing about Jesus.

Sing *My best friend is Jesus*. (You can find this song by Mildred A. Stagg on Song Select on the internet and listen to the tune.) Use different phrases such as Love Him, Thank Him, Serve Him for different verses. Older preschoolers may suggest additional verses to include.

Alternately, you can sing the following words to the tune of "Bingo":

God sent His only son to earth and Jesus is his name, oh....

J -E-S-U-S, J -E-S-U-S, J -E-S-U-S, and Jesus is his name.

God sent His only son to earth and Jesus is his name, oh....

(clap) -E-S-U-S, (clap) -E-S-U-S, (clap) -E-S-U-S, and Jesus is his name.

[Continue adding in a clap for each letter until you are clapping each letter of Jesus' name then repeat the first stanza.

Jesus is God's only son, we praise and worship Him!

J -E-S-U-S, J -E-S-U-S, J -E-S-U-S, and Jesus is his name.

Dress for Disaster

Gather: Community helper dress up clothes and props.

Say that our churches send money (offerings) to our state office so that they can help people share Jesus with Texans. Mention that one way that our missions offering is used in Texas is to help people after different disasters like tornados and floods. Guide boys and girls to pretend to get ready then go out on a rescue mission to help show God's love to people who need help after disasters have damaged their homes and towns.

Bonus Activity:

Decorate a Megaphone

Gather: Card stock, washable markers, religious themed or nature stickers, scissors, tape, megaphone template (attached). Megaphone template is made for an 11x17 size paper.

Ask boys and girls to think of as many people as possible who they can tell about Jesus. Remark that they can make megaphones to help people hear them better when they tell about Jesus. Demonstrate how to use a megaphone then guide boys and girls to decorate then tape together their megaphones.

Lead the boys and girls in saying simple verses or phrases through their megaphones. Pray together asking God to help them think of people this week who they can tell about Jesus.

Language Number of Speakers chart taken from article referenced above.

Spanish	6,983,380 - Cristo (Creestoh) te ama
Vietnamese	193,408
Chinese*	140,971 - Yēsū ài nǐ
Tagalog	72,248
German	69,140 - Jesus liebt dich
French	60,730 - Jésus t'aime
Hindi	59,602 - yeeshu tumhen pyaar karata hai
Urdu	57,662
Korean	55,794

Language**Number of Speakers chart taken from article referenced above.**

Arabic

55,304 - Al-Masih yuhib



