



## Lesson 1

### CHURCH IN THE CENTER



**Blessings on each of you** who teach children about the missions work of God in Texas through the ministry of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. We hope you will learn about our state missions efforts as you teach the children in your church and/or community.

### START-UP PREP:

Please begin your preparation in prayer.

#### Pray for:

- Guidance from the Holy Spirit as you prepare to share about missions work in the state of Texas
- The children to have open ears to listen and develop a love for missions work in their home state
- The missionaries, their families and their mission work

As you prepare for the following lesson, please notice that you will want to print the available downloadable material. Also, you need to acquire a Texas road map. Adhesive putty, yarn or string and a DVD player are also needed.

An email is provided at the end of the lesson. This is an email to send parents to explain the day's lesson and gives parents missional ideas for their families.

\*\*Use the following lesson as needed in your ministry - as a complete lesson or to supplement another lesson\*\*

### What's Included & Needed

#### INCLUDED:

- Intro activity
- Missions DVD (downloadable at [sbtexas.com/missions4kids](http://sbtexas.com/missions4kids))
- Missions Story
- Missions Activity & Activity Pages
- Family Mission Challenge (optional). Print a copy to send home with each child

#### NEEDED:

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (5 colors, one for each Texas City or area throughout the week/curriculum)
- DVD download & device to play DVD.

#### Printed Signs

- The Church in the Center
- Landon Hays and his family
- The doctors, nurses and workers who work in the Houston Hospital District
- Children and families in our local hospitals



## Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

## INTRO ACTIVITY:

(This activity should last between five to six minutes)

### BEFORE CLASS—FIND OUT:

1. How many miles it is from your town to the Texas city or area to be discussed.
2. How many hours it takes to travel from your town to the Texas city or area.
3. Locate the town on the map so you can guide the children to the correct location.

### LOCATE TODAY'S TEXAS CITY

**OBJECTIVE:** Pinpoint your present location and the city being discussed.

As children arrive at the Missions Track, ask them to sit in a circle. Ask teachers to be sure each child can see the Texas map.

### ASK THE CHILDREN:

1. What is this a map of? (Texas)
2. Please raise your hand. Can someone show us where our town is located?

Today we are going to learn about a hospital ministry in Houston.

3. Who would like to show me where Houston is located on the map? (If you live in the Houston area, locate Texas Children's Hospital and use the mileage and time from your area to the hospital).

Teachers, attach the yarn or string from your city to Houston.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (5 colors, one for each Texas city or area throughout the week/curriculum)

Depending on the size of the group, this activity may be completed as a class activity or a small group activity.

If you choose to complete the activity within small groups, you will need one map, push pins/tape/adhesive putty and yarn for each group.

4. Who can tell me how many miles it is from our town to Houston? (You should be prepared with the answer.)
5. Who would like to guess how long it would take to travel from our town to Houston in a car? (Be prepared with the answer.)

Tell the boys and girls that today's story is about a little boy named Landon and his family.

Say to the class, "Let's begin learning about the ministry in Houston with Landon and his family by watching a short DVD."



### Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." -Matthew 28:19

## MISSIONS STORY

*(Play DVD: The DVD introduces the Texas missions story for the day. It is not intended to tell the story.)*

Boys and girls, if you have your Bibles, please turn to Matthew 28:19. (Teachers please read from the Bible, not from your notes or your phone/iPad, etc. Children need to understand that these words come from God's Word.)

Follow along in your Bibles as I read. Matthew 28:19 says, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

Would anyone like to tell me what this verse means? It is Jesus speaking and he is telling us to tell others about his love and salvation. We should tell our friends at school and tell our family members. We can be missionaries right where we live. Jesus wants us to tell everyone about him.

I would like to tell you about a family who decided to start a church in a hospital called Texas Medical Center in Houston (Refer to the map). Let's look at the map. Where is Houston? Where are we?

Landon Hays was born with a rare liver disease. At that time his family lived in East Texas. (Refer to the map, pointing out the East Texas region) However, because Landon had such a rare disease, his parents took him to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. He had surgery when he was only 7 weeks old. Landon and his family spent a lot of time at the children's hospital during his first year of life. They grew to love the doctors, nurses, patients and other people they met.

A year after Landon was born, God began to move in the hearts of Landon's parents. They believed God was leading them to start a church in the Texas Medical Center. After much preparation and prayer, they moved to Houston when Landon was 3 and his little sister, Allie, was 1.

When they got to Houston and their new neighborhood, Landon's parents, Ben and Kelli, took their family on walks. Landon was very friendly. He would begin conversations with many of their neighbors. Through these conversations, the Hays family was able to talk about God and their new church.

Landon's father, Ben, is the pastor of the church the Hays family started. The church is called The Church in the Center. It is located in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. There is no church building. The congregation meets in a big room in the Marriott Hotel which is in the middle of the medical center. They also gather in members' homes for various activities.

The church members minister to the doctors, nurses, workers and patients from the surrounding hospitals. They also reach out to the homeless people in the area. Landon, who is now 8 years old, is involved in the ministries of his church. He enjoys working with the homeless by serving meals and delivering care packages with his dad.

The members of The Church in the Center are excited about their ministry. Boys and girls, I would like for us to pray for Ben, Kelli, Landon and Allie Hays they minister to the people in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Also, let's pray for The Church in the Center.



## Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

## MISSIONS ACTIVITY

### OBJECTIVE: To pray for...

1. The ministry of the Church in the Center
2. The Hays family as they minister
3. The health care professionals in Houston (and all hospitals)
4. Patients and their families in the local hospitals

This exercise will help children think of others.

Please suggest to the children that every time they drive past a hospital, they should take time to say a prayer for the doctors, nurses and patients.

### OPTION #1

Before class, hang the posters throughout the room.

Depending on the number of children, either divide the children into small groups with a leader in each group or complete the activity as one group.

Explain to the children that groups (or one large group) will go to each poster in the room. The leader will read the poster. The group will stop and pray for the people listed on the poster. The group may pray silently, the leader may pray, or a volunteer may pray. Please make sure the group(s) stop(s) at each poster.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Printed Signs
  1. The Church in the Center
  2. Landon Hays and his family
  3. The hospital in Houston the church meets in and where Landon went to get treatment
  4. Children and families in our local hospitals
- DVD Player

### OPTION #2

If time or space does not allow a prayer walk, you may print the same signs listed above. Ask for four volunteers to hold the signs in front of the group. Then ask four volunteers to pray aloud for each prayer request. Or ask an adult to lead a corporate prayer as the children pray silently.

### A FAMILY CHALLENGE

The following page is an optional activity to engage families. The VBS director or children's minister can send this activity to families through email, Facebook or the church's website.



### **Focal Bible Verse for the Week:**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

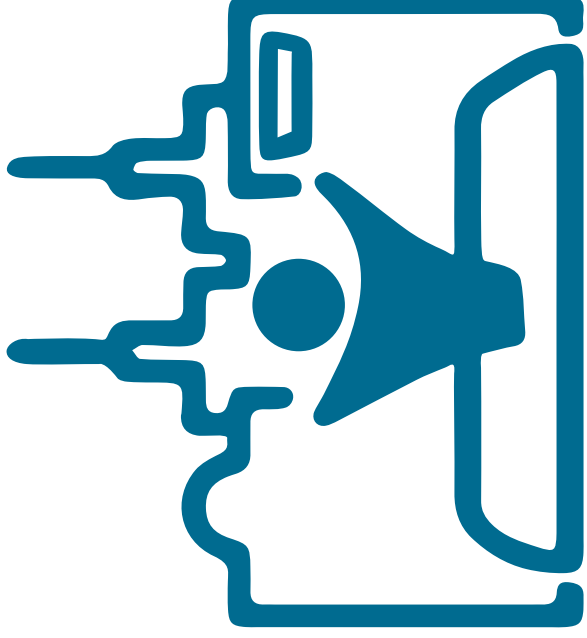
## **TEXAS MISSIONS FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Dear Parents,

Today during our mission time, we learned about a little boy named Landon who was born with a rare liver disease. Landon was admitted into Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, causing the family to spend a lot of time in the Houston hospital district where the hospital is located. After their good experience during Landon's stay, his parents felt a calling from God to begin a church in this same Houston hospital district. The vision was to reach out to the medical professionals, patients, and their families. Today the church is known as The Church in the Center. Ask your children to tell you about the hospital.

If your family would like to further the ministry to children and their families in your local hospitals, see the following suggestions:

- 1.** Call the local hospital and talk to the chaplain. Ask if they take donations of any kind. For example, Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth gives prayer bears to all children admitted into the hospital. These are brand-new stuffed bears donated by families, churches, schools and other organizations. The chaplains pray over the bears and give these to the children for something tangible of comfort. Your local hospital may have a similar ministry for children. Take your child to the store, purchase the item to be donated, then as a family, deliver it to the hospital chaplain.
- 2.** It is always important to call the hospital chaplain to see what the hospital will permit. If the hospital allows cards to be donated, make cards with your children. As a family, deliver them to the hospital chaplain.
- 3.** Ask your children for their ideas of ministering to sick or hospitalized children. We love your children and enjoy our time with them.



# The Church in the Center

# Landon Hays & His Family

# **The Doctors, Nurses & Workers**

## **Who Work in the Houston Hospital District**



# Children & Families in Our Local Hospitals

# **Focal Bible Verse for the Week:**

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of all the nations, baptizing them in the  
name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Matthew 28:19**

