



PLANNING AHEAD

One week before this lesson, consider planning a western night. Encourage your students to dress in western attire. Think through some fun western-themed games and snacks different age groups of children will enjoy. Encourage older students to help you prepare and run the activities and snacks.

STARTUP PREP

Each lesson in this Texas Missions for Kids curriculum volume tells the story of how one church is being the salt of the earth and the light of the world in response to Christ's Sermon on the Mount as found in Matthew 5. Each week prepare your heart for ministry by reading the Beatitudes and following verses as recorded in Mathew 5:1-20. The Bible verse for this unit is Matthew 5:16.

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Each couple of lessons will also have a separate focal Bible verse to help the boys and girls in your church learn ways to minister as they focus on ministry throughout Texas and respond to the Word of God in their own lives.



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.

STARTUP 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 and in your own neighborhood
- Your students and their families - pray for the children to have open ears to listen and develop a love for missions work in their home state
- Missionaries, their families and their mission work

As you prepare for the following lesson, 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.

A family challenge is provided at the end of the lesson. This can be printed and sent home with each child or emailed to parents to explain the day's lesson and to give parents missional ideas to do together as a family at home.

What's Included + Needed

INCLUDED

- Intro activity
- Missions video (download at sbtexas.com/missions4kids)
- Missions story
- Missions activities and activity pages
- Family mission challenge (optional). Print a copy to send home with each child or email to parents

PRINTED SIGNS

- Unit theme verse
- Pastor Steve Gross
- KCCC logo
- Allergy alert poster

NEEDED

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (seven colors, one for each city or area throughout the curriculum)
- Video download and device to play video
- Horseshoes (three per team)
 - Outdoors - use real horseshoe set
 - Indoors - plastic/foam horseshoes, or bean bags
- Masking or painter's tape
- Bandanas (five per team for at least two teams)
 - Plush farm animals, balls or other small western items if you do not have bandanas (five per team)
- Two cowboy hats or buckets
- Pool noodle or stick horse (one per team)
- Dry erase board or posterboard
- Markers
- Bibles (at least two)
- Paper cups (one per child)
- Paper towels, spoons and bowls
- Trail mix ingredients: mini pretzels, mini marshmallows, dried cranberries, small chocolate coated candies, toasted oats cereal



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

INTRO ACTIVITY

Should last between five to six minutes

BEFORE CLASS—FIND OUT

- 1 How many miles it is from your town to Boerne, Texas
- 2 How long (hours and minutes) it takes to travel from your town to Boerne
- 3 Locate the towns on the map so you can guide the children to the correct location
- 4 Define and locate the area of Texas called the Texas Hill Country

LOCATE TODAY'S TEXAS CITY

OBJECTIVE Locate your present city and the cities being discussed.

As children arrive, ask them to gather or sit near the Texas map. Help ensure that each child can see the map.

ASK THE CHILDREN

- 1 What is this a map of? (Texas)
- 2 Can someone show us where our town is located on the map?

Today we are going to learn about a church that is located in the Texas Hill Country.

- 3 Does anyone know where the Texas Hill Country is located on the map?
- 4 Does anyone know where Boerne is located on the map? (Help the children locate and pinpoint with pins or sticky note arrows Boerne, Texas)
- 5 Can anyone guess how long it would take us to drive to Boerne? (Be prepared with the answer)

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
yarn or string

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

If you choose to do this activity in small groups, please provide one set of supplies for each group.

Be prepared with how far and how long it takes to drive to these different cities.

Teachers, you can attach the yarn or string from your town to the different cities. For older children, allow a child to attach the yarn length to the map.

SAY "Today we are going to learn about an interesting young church in the Texas Hill Country. Let's begin learning about the ministry in Boerne by watching a short video."



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

MISSIONS STORY

(Play the lesson video: The video introduces the Texas Missions story for the day. It is not intended to tell the full story)

Not too far outside of San Antonio there is a small town named Boerne that has a unique ministry related to cowboys. What do you think of when you think of cowboys? (Allow time for responses.) At the county fairgrounds in Boerne, pastor Steve Gross started a church specifically designed to reach people who enjoy western culture. So many of the things you think about when you think of cowboys can be seen at the cowboy church every Sunday. Pastor Steve and other church members have a special ministry to cowboys and people who attend rodeos or work in rodeos and other western related jobs. The name of the church is Kendall County Cowboy Church and you can see they use horseshoes turned on their side to help spell out the name of their church. (Show printed sign of the church logo.) Sometimes the church meets inside and sometimes they meet outside – it just depends on what is available at the fairgrounds. Right now they are working to raise money to build a more permanent building for their church.

Besides dressing in jeans, boots, cowboy hats and singing country worship songs on Sundays, the cowboy church members have a lot of different ways they reach out to their community. Once a month they have a play day, which is like a mini rodeo. They have barrel racing, mutton busting and other fun western-related activities (mutton busting is when children ride sheep inside a pen and try to hold on for as long as they can).

Pastor Steve's wife Terry leads the women's ministry at the cowboy church. The ladies of the church have a special ministry to the nursing homes in Boerne. The

women take flowers to residents in the nursing homes on their birthdays. This makes the people who live in the nursing homes feel loved and appreciated; their family members appreciate it too. People have visited or joined the cowboy church because of this special ministry. There is also a special house in Boerne for women who need extra help recovering from different kinds of trouble in their lives. The cowboy church sends a van every Sunday to this women's house to provide transportation to anyone who wants to attend church.

The cowboy church advertises with and attends the local FFA (Future Farmers of America) and 4-H events to meet people and to invite them to church, pray with them and share the gospel with them. The cowboy church uses lots of different events and ministries as ways to meet new people so they can share the good news of Jesus with as many people as possible.

Let's pray together for the staff and members of the Kendall County Cowboy Church as they continue to share Jesus with everyone they can.



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE TO PRAY FOR...

- 1 The people who live in Boerne who need to hear about Jesus
- 2 The staff and members of the cowboy church to share Jesus boldly with their community
- 3 Ourselves to think of ways we can share Jesus with people in our neighborhood and pray for our Texas missions workers all over the state
- 4 To learn our theme verse, Matthew 5:16

You can choose between the activities below or do them both depending on your time and group size.

ACTIVITY 1 BIBLE VERSE HORSESHOES

ACTIVITY 2 BANDANA RACES

Activity details start on the next page...

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Printed Signs
 - Pastor Steve Gross
 - Unit theme verse, Matthew 5:16
 - KCCC logo
 - Allergy alert
- Horseshoes (three per team):
 - Outdoors - real horseshoe game set
 - Indoors - plastic/foam horseshoes or bean bags
- Masking or painter's tape
- Bandanas (five per team)
 - Plush farm animals, balls or other small western items if you do not have bandanas (five per team)
- Two cowboy hats or buckets
- Pool noodle or stick horse (one per team)
- Dry erase board or posterboard
- Markers
- Bibles (at least two)
- Paper cups (one per child)
- Paper towels, spoons and bowls
- Trail mix ingredients: mini pretzels, mini marshmallows, dried cranberries, small chocolate coated candies, toasted oats cereal



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY 1 BIBLE VERSE HORSESHOES

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

ALTERNATE You can use the verse for the next week—1 John 3:18 "Let us love not with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" in addition to the unit verse for this game.

The goal of this game is to review the memory verse for this Texas Missions for Kids unit and have fun learning the verse western style. Explain the rules of the game to the students and let both teams huddle around a Bible opened to Matthew 5:16 to practice saying the verse together. You may also print the verse on posterboard or download the unit verse printed sign, but a Bible search and reading of the scripture is preferable for this activity.

GAME RULES Divide the groups into two teams per set of horseshoes. Each person at the front of the line for a team gets two horseshoes to toss. If the student can say the first part of the verse ("In the same way, let your light shine before men") and the rest of the team can complete the rest of the verse ("so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven") the person taking a turn gets a third horseshoe to toss. Set up the stake as far or as close to the group as you like depending on the space you have and the age of the students. *See adaptations if playing indoors.

If a student gets a "ringer" (the horseshoe lands with the stake inside of it) the team gets three points. After both teams have alternated their throws, count up points. The closest horseshoe to the stake counts as one point. The "ringers" count as three points each. Play until a team scores 12 points for younger children or 21 points for older children and adjust the game as needed for your time allotment.

ADAPTATIONS There are heavy plastic horseshoe sets if you cannot find metal sets or if you play indoors. For younger children, adapt the game by making a large horseshoe outline with masking tape on the floor. Follow the same directions for the game but let the students toss beanbags into the horseshoe shapes. Landing in the outline of the horseshoe shape counts as a "ringer." For younger children, just require them to say the first part of the verse and have a teacher complete the verse each time.



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY 2 BANDANA RACES

For a more active game, make reference to barrel racing and have two sets of five bandanas. Place a cowboy hat (or bucket) at one end of the room and put five bandanas in the hat. The first five students on each team will, while riding their horse (pool noodle or stick horse), run to the hat one by one. Taking turns, they will grab a bandana, say the phrase "let your light shine before men," run around the hat twice and run back to their lines. When one student gets back to the line, he or she tags the next player, hands off the "horse" and the next student can run to retrieve the next bandana, say the first part of the Bible verse, run around the hat twice and run back to the line. After all five bandanas have been retrieved, the next five people will have to run down to the hat, run around the hat twice, say the phrase "give glory to your Father in heaven," and replace a bandana in the hat before running back to the line. For younger children, place a leader close to the hat "barrel" so he or she can help the child with the phrase. If you do have younger children, have the whole team say the phrase each time a teammate makes it to the hat. The first team to complete this sequence is the winner.

Vary the distance to run to the hat as needed for your age group and vary the number of bandanas and number of teams as needed. If you do not have bandanas, substitute five plastic or plush farm animals or any other item that fits in a hat. For younger children, ask the child waiting to play the game to pretend to be the rodeo crowd and cheer the other cowboys and cowgirls on. Also for added drama, play western style music in the background like they do at the real rodeos.

Either in between game rounds or at the conclusion of the game, ask each team to think of a group of people in your community who might need to hear about Jesus. Allow time for answers and let the older children write their replies on a dry erase board or poster board.

Ask the different teams to pick two or three people from the following list to pray for.

- 1 The people who live in Boerne who need to hear about Jesus
- 2 The staff and members of the cowboy church to share Jesus boldly with their community
- 3 Ourselves to think of ways we can share Jesus with people in our neighborhood and remember to pray for our Texas missions workers all over the state

Encourage students to think of ways to share Jesus with people from their school or neighborhood. Write down some of their suggestions on the poster board or dry erase board. Let the groups conclude the mission activity time by praying together as a team and asking God to help them pay attention to all the different kinds of people they meet this coming week.

SNACK SUGGESTION Trail Mix (mini pretzels, mini marshmallows, dried cranberries, small chocolate coated candies, toasted oats cereal). Vary the ingredients and use the quantity you need based on your class size. Prepare ahead of time or make this an activity for the children to make. If the children prepare this, provide large bowls for each ingredient and plastic spoons for each item. Let the children mix up their own trail mix in a small paper bowl and enjoy their treat with a small cup of sugar free lemonade or water.

*Remember to post the filled in allergy alert sign before children arrive so parents can inform you of any food allergies.



Unit Theme Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

A FAMILY CHALLENGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today in our Texas Missions for Kids story, we learned about a small church located in the Texas Hill Country right outside of San Antonio. The Kendall County Cowboy Church meets on the fairgrounds near Boerne. Sometimes the church meets inside and sometimes they meet outside – depending on what is available at the fairgrounds. (Notice the church logo at the bottom of this page that incorporates horseshoes.) Pastor Steve Gross and his wife and staff work together specifically to reach out to people who enjoy western culture.

Besides dressing in jeans, boots, cowboy hats and singing country worship songs on Sundays, the cowboy church members use a lot of different ways to reach people in their community. Once a month they have a play day, which is like a mini rodeo. They have barrel racing, mutton busting and other fun western related activities (ask your child if he or she can explain what mutton busting is).

To see the full story as well as the suggested games and memory verse activities, please visit www.sbtexas.com/missions4kids and click on lesson one under volume two.

To reinforce what your child learned about this exciting ministry in Texas, one day this week invite your family to locate and read Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Ask your child if he or she can think of one way to shine the light of Jesus's love in your neighborhood. Ask your child for suggestions about how your family can pray for the Kendall County Cowboy Church. Pray together a few times this week specifically for those who are ministering in Boerne.

As a family, play a game of horseshoes and before or after the game say a special prayer for the cowboy church. During a mealtime this week, think together as a family how your family can pray for your own community (school, work, neighborhood) and how you can share Jesus boldly with your friends and neighbors. Ask God to help you as a family to be attentive to all the different kinds of people you meet this coming week.

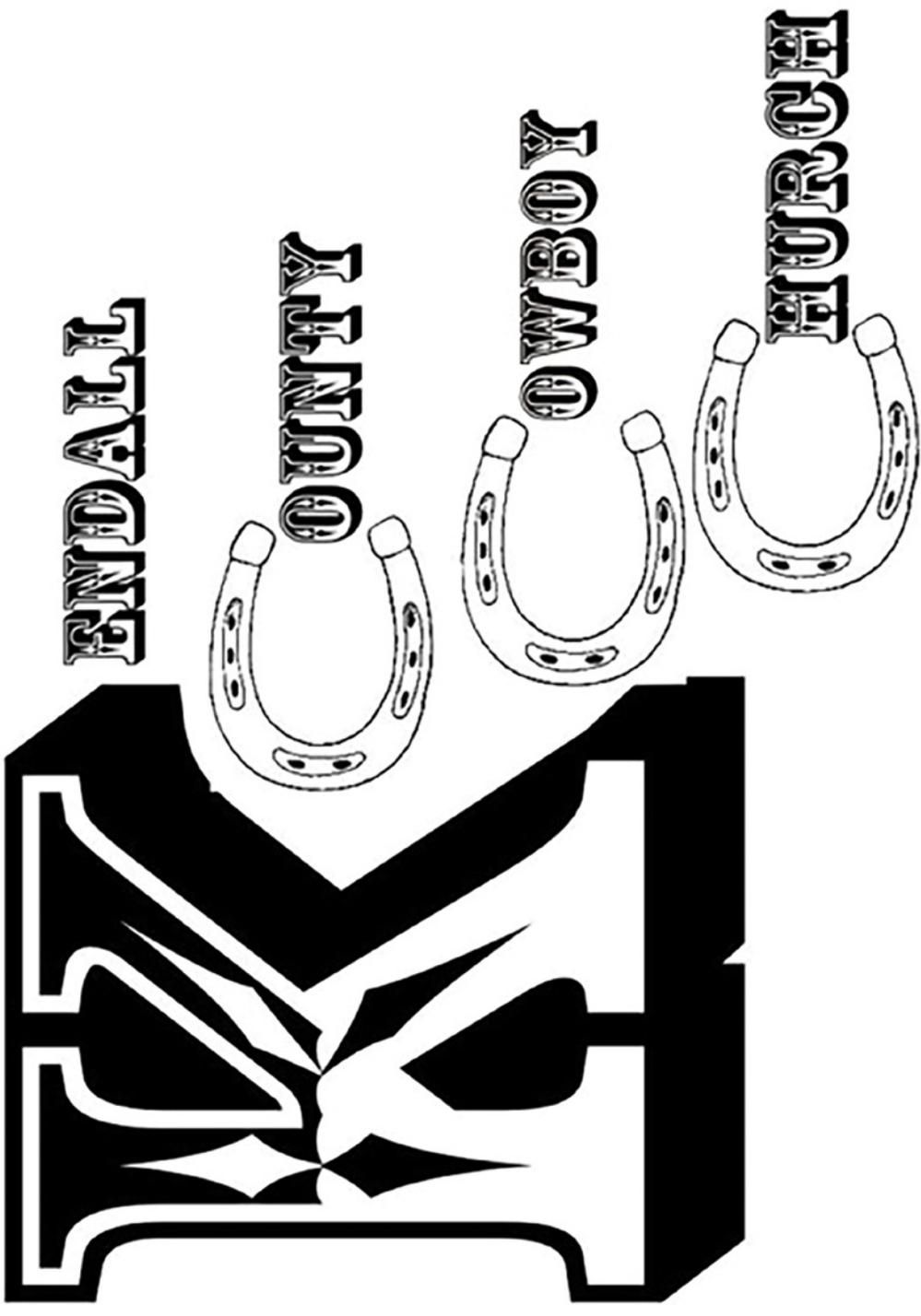
Thank you for encouraging your child to pray for other people in Texas who share Jesus within their communities!

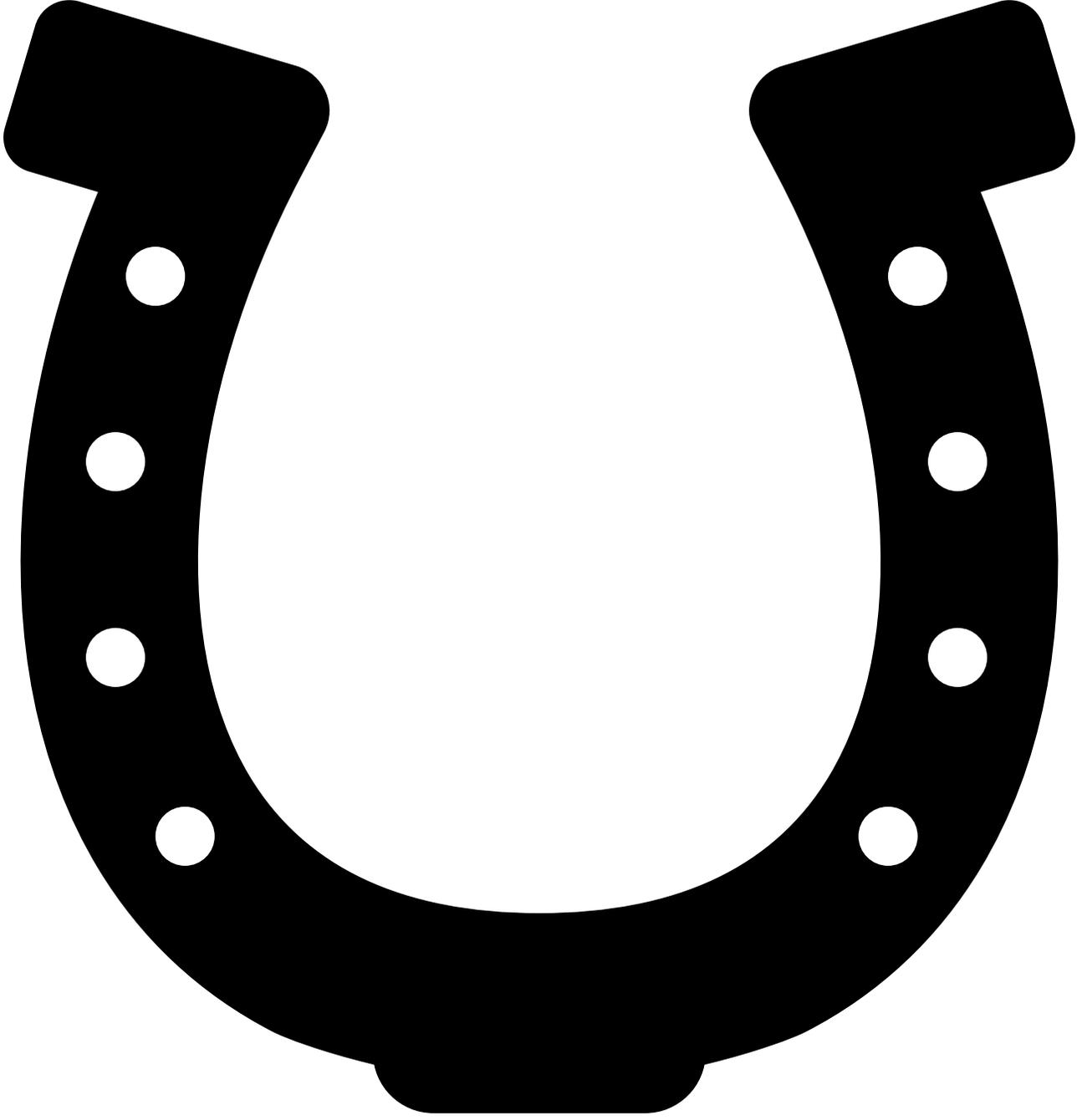


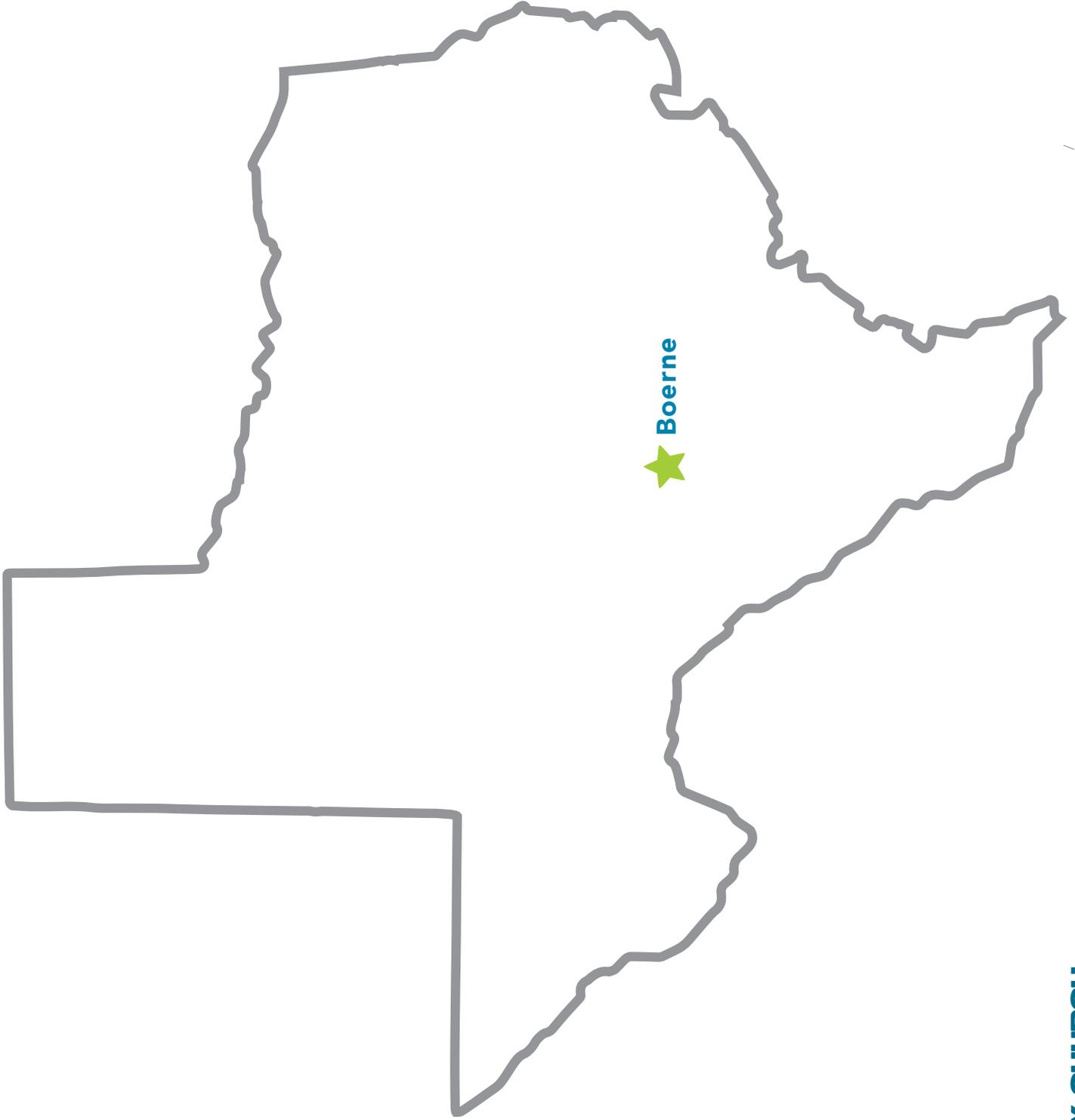
Unit Theme Verse

**“In the same way,
let your light shine before men,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in
heaven.” Matthew 5:16**

Pastor Steve Gross







ALLERGY ALERT!

Today's Snack
