



## Lesson 4

SIMPLE CHURCH



### 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 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](http://sbtexas.com/missions4kids))
- Missions story
- Missions activities
- Family mission challenge (optional). Print to send home with children or email to parents

### PRINTED SIGNS

- Unit theme verse, Matthew 5:16
- Focal Bible verse, 1 Peter 3:15
- Chris Rowley
- River City Hope Street
- Allergy alert

### NEEDED

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (seven colors, one for each city or area)
- Video download & device to play video
- 12 pieces of paper
- Sharpie or marker
- Butcher paper
- Pretend microphone
- Optional: cell phone to record video
- A suit jacket & baseball hat or other type of hat (for interviewee)
- Card stock
- Colored pencils or washable markers
- Colored lanyard (for older students) or yarn
- Press pass



## Focal Bible Verse

...Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. **1 Peter 3:15**

## INTRO ACTIVITY

Should last between five to six minutes

### BEFORE CLASS—FIND OUT

- 1 How many miles it is from your town to Austin
- 2 How long (hours and minutes) it takes to travel from your town to Austin
- 3 Locate the towns on the map so you can guide the children to the correct location

### 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 Can someone locate our city on the Texas map?
- 2 Does anyone know where Austin is located on the map? (If no one knows, give them hints as to where it is located)
- 3 Ask students to put pushpins or use painter's tape to affix a star on your city and Austin
- 4 Ask if anyone has ever been to Austin. Ask them the best way to get there from where you are... car, train, plane?

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

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (seven colors, one for each city or area)

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.

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** Say, "Let's learn about a special ministry in Austin which shares the gospel with people who live in apartment communities."



### Focal Bible Verse

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## 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)

Open your Bibles and turn to 1 Peter 3:15. Follow along as I read. (Read the Scripture reference aloud for younger children. If there are older children, ask one of them to read the verse).

Today, we are going to meet someone by the name of Chris Rowley who works in Austin through a ministry called River City Hope Street. This ministry works with other Baptist churches to help spread the word about Jesus. This is all made possible with the help of churches just like yours and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention giving money through the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program supports missions and ministries both locally and nationally.

One of the ways Chris is able to reach out and show Jesus' love to the people of Austin is through Simple Church. Simple Church takes place in apartment communities where they have Bible studies for adults, fun activities and games for kids and even provide a yummy meal for families. Did you know that 50% of people in urban areas live in apartment communities and 96% have never heard the gospel? Also, more than half of them say they are lonely. By taking

church directly to them, we can be their friends, help end their loneliness and best of all, show them how to have a relationship with Jesus! God has used Chris and the Simple Church ministry to change so many lives.

One of the lives changed by this ministry is Jose. Jose is a child just like you. He and his family live in one of the apartment communities in Austin and they attend Simple Church every Tuesday night. Jose accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior after Charles, a volunteer for Simple church, shared with him just how much Jesus loves him and wants to have a relationship with him. Jose is just one example of the great things happening in Austin through Simple Church.

This story is just one example of how Chris is serving God in the mission field in her own city. Wouldn't it be cool if you could make a difference in your own city, just like Chris? Guess what, you can!

First of all, you can pray that God would bring more volunteers to work in apartment communities through simple churches. You can also look around your own neighborhood for apartment ministries where you and your church group can start to share Jesus with others.



## Focal Bible Verse

...Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. **1 Peter 3:15**

## MISSIONS ACTIVITY

### OBJECTIVE TO PRAY FOR...

- 1 Chris Rowley and the volunteers of Simple Church as they share Jesus with people in their neighborhood
- 2 The people in Austin who live in apartment communities to hear about Jesus' love for them
- 3 Ourselves as we think of different ways to share Jesus in our own neighborhoods and schools
- 4 To learn our focal verse for this unit, 1 Peter 3:15

You can choose between the activities below depending on your time and group size.

### ACTIVITY 1 WORD SCRAMBLE

### ACTIVITY 2 SIMPLE INTERVIEW

### ACTIVITY 1 WORD SCRAMBLE

On each piece of paper, place one letter of "Simple Church," or use the sheet included in the lesson. For example, one piece of paper should have an "S", the next piece of paper should have the letter "I", the next piece of paper 'M' and so on. Before the children arrive in the classroom, hide the 12 pieces of paper around the room. When it's time for the mission's activity, ask the children to go around the room and find a letter. Ask the children to place the sheets in the center of the room and unscramble them to reveal what it spells.

Activity 2 follows on the next page.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

### PRINTED SIGNS

- Unit theme verse, Matthew 5:16
- Focal Bible verse, 1 Peter 3:15
- Chris Rowley
- River City Hope Street
- Allergy alert

### NEEDED

- 12 pieces of paper
- Sharpie or marker
- Butcher paper
- Pretend microphone
- Optional: cell phone to record video
- A suit jacket & baseball hat or other type of hat (for interviewee)
- Card stock
- Colored pencils or washable markers
- Colored lanyard (older students) or yarn
- Press pass



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## MISSIONS ACTIVITY

### ACTIVITY 2 SIMPLE INTERVIEW

Use as many groups as you need for this activity. Give each group the assignment to do a "live interview" with someone who just attended a Simple Church event. Depending on the age of your students and the time you have, you can make this as simple or elaborate as you wish.

To begin, talk to the children about what questions should be asked, then help them coordinate and write down their answers. The students can prepare the props and costumes for the interview. For example, you could have a news anchor introduce the story and "throw" to the reporter on the street for a live interview. In addition to interviewing about the event, you could also interview a "new Christian" to ask what just happened in his/her life.

Ask an adult to record the interview and play it back for the class to watch. (Do not post, show or share the interview outside of class without parent/guardian consent for each participant.)

Everyone will need a press pass to participate in this activity. Let each student design his own press pass card. Let students design their own press passes using card stock and colored pencils or markers. To complete their press passes, they will need to include today's verse somewhere on their passes. Students can either wear their press passes around their necks using sturdy yarn or lanyards or have business-type cards to present upon request.

### PRAYER

Pray that God will provide more volunteers to help Chris work in the apartment communities through Simple Church.

Also, pray that God uses you to tell other people in your town about Jesus' love for them.

Encourage the children to say a prayer for Simple Church and the ministry Chris is doing in Austin every time they drive past an apartment complex.



### Focal Bible Verse

...Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. **1 Peter 3:15**

## A FAMILY CHALLENGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today in our missions time we learned about a special ministry to people who live in apartment communities in Austin. The children learned about Chris Rowley who works in Austin through a ministry called River City Hope Street. This ministry works with other Baptist churches to help spread the word about Jesus. This is all made possible with the help of churches just like yours and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention giving money through the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program supports missions and ministries both locally and nationally.

We learned about one of the ways Chris is able to reach out and show Jesus' love to the people of Austin through Simple Church. Simple Church takes place in apartment communities where they have bible studies for adults, fun activities and games for kids and even provide a yummy meal for families.

To see the full lesson about River City Hope Street you can visit [www.sbtexas.com/missions4kids](http://www.sbtexas.com/missions4kids).

Think of ways together, as a family, you could share the gospel with people who live in apartment communities. Encourage your family to say a prayer for Simple Church and the ministry Chris is doing in Austin every time you drive past an apartment complex.

Thank you for encouraging your child to pray for and contribute to Texas missions!

# Focal Bible Verse

...Always be ready to give a  
defense to anyone who asks  
you for a reason for the hope  
that is in you. **1 Peter 3:15**

# Unit Bible 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**

# Chris Rowley

# River City Hope Street

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OFFICIAL **PRESS PASS**

MEMBER OF THE MEDIA

PICTURE 

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NEWS CHANNEL: \_\_\_\_\_

VERSE: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIAL **PRESS PASS**

MEMBER OF THE MEDIA

PICTURE 

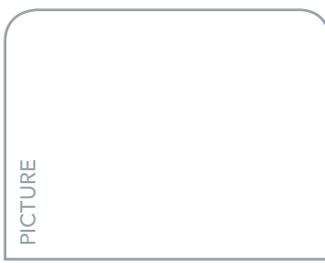
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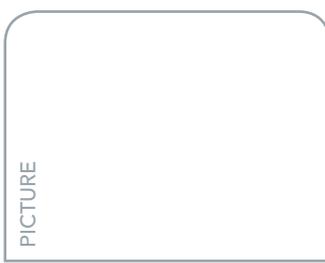
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# ALLERGY ALERT!

## Today's Snack

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