



Lesson 7

RIO GRANDE VALLEY



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 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, Mark 16:15
- David Ortega
- Rio Grande Bible Institute students
- Allergy alert

NEEDED

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string (seven colors, one for each city or area)
- Bibles
- Push match game cards (two copies per group)
- Paper plates
- Popsicle sticks
- Balloons
- Duct tape
- Washable markers
- Masking tape
- Various colors of yarn & fabric pieces



Focal Bible Verse

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." **Mark 16:15**

INTRO ACTIVITY

Should last between five to six minutes

BEFORE CLASS—FIND OUT

- 1 How many miles it is from your town to the Rio Grande Valley
- 2 How long (hours and minutes) it takes to travel from your town to the valley
- 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 the Rio Grande Valley is located on the map? (If no one knows, give them hints as to where it is located)
- 3 Ask someone to come pin up or tack up a string between your town and the Rio Grande Valley
- 4 Ask if anyone has ever been to the Rio Grande Valley. 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 "Let's learn about a special ministry in the Rio Grande Valley and the event they had that made an impact in spreading the gospel."



Focal Bible Verse

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." **Mark 16:15**

MISSIONS STORY

The mission story today takes us to the southernmost tip of Texas called El Valle, "the valley," or what is otherwise known as the Rio Grande Valley. David Ortega is a missionary for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention who plants (starts) churches in areas throughout the valley to help reach different groups of people with the gospel. David has learned to be ready to share the gospel with people God has already prepared to hear it.

One way David shares the gospel in the valley is by working with seminary students at the Rio Grande Bible Institute. He recently participated in a PUSH event. The purpose of PUSH is to push back the darkness at the Rio Grande Bible Institute. This event included three days of evangelism and outreach with the goal of starting Bible studies in the local community. David and his team found seven areas of the valley to concentrate on outreach. Their ultimate goal was to plant churches in these seven locations.

David and his team used a variety of methods during the PUSH event to reach the people living in the Valley. They used a program called Creation to Christ to share short stories from the Bible about God and his creation and the Ten Commandments - all the way to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. They also shared

Christ through puppet shows and face painting in various parks for children and their parents. Their efforts didn't stop here. They continued to share the gospel by distributing tracts, door-to-door outreach and sports evangelism (playing soccer with youth). These events and activities allowed people to hear the gospel one on one and had one purpose: to share the gospel. Through PUSH, more than 600 people heard the gospel, over 200 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, 41 Bible studies were started and a new church was planted.

David and his team allowed God to use them and their hard work in order to reach people for Christ in El Valle. Let's pray together for the continued efforts of David and the seminary students to share the gospel in the Rio Grande Valley. Let's also ask God to show us how we can share the gospel with others in our community as well.



Focal Bible Verse

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." **Mark 16:15**

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE TO PRAY FOR...

- 1 David and the seminary students at the Rio Grande Bible Institute
- 2 The people who live in the Rio Grande Valley
- 3 David and his team as they continue to share with people in the Rio Grande Valley
- 4 Ourselves as we think of different ways to share Jesus in our own neighborhoods and schools
- 5 To learn our focal Bible verse, Mark 16:15

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

ACTIVITY 1 PUSH MATCH

ACTIVITY 2 BALLOON TENNIS

ACTIVITY 1 PUSH MATCH

Our verse for today is Mark 16:15. Encourage children to find the verse in their Bibles and take turns reading aloud. You can do this in small groups of five or six if you have a large group of students.

Give each group two sets of PUSH match game cards. Place each of the cards face down and let the children try to find a match. For each match a student gets, ask them to tell you one thing they can remember about the match from today's story.

Close by reading the verse again together and encouraging the students to share the good news of Jesus with their friends.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

PRINTED SIGNS

- Unit theme verse, Matthew 5:16
- Focal Bible verse, Mark 16:15
- David Ortega
- Rio Grande Bible Institute students
- Allergy alert

NEEDED

- Bibles
- Push match game cards (two per group)
- Paper plates
- Popsicle sticks
- Balloons
- Duct tape
- Washable markers
- Masking tape
- Various colors of yarn and fabric pieces



Focal Bible Verse

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." **Mark 16:15**

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY 2 BALLOON TENNIS

The missionaries from our story today used puppet shows and face painting in various parks to show Jesus' love to their neighbors. Give each child a paper plate. Let the children decorate a plate like a face and use markers to show what kind of face painting they would like to use for an outreach activity. Alternately they can decorate the face with markers, fabric and yarn (for hair) to make a puppet. When they have finished their designs, have the children affix a popsicle stick to the back of the paper plate, with almost half the craft stick on the plate to make a sturdy handle. Have the students or a leader write today's verse on the back of the plate. Older students can also write down the names of specific people or groups with whom they can share the good news of Jesus.

The puppet or face is now the student's handle for a fun game of balloon tennis or volleyball, depending on how many players you have. Blow up a medium-size balloon and tie it off. Using their rackets, the goal is for the children to pass the balloon back and forth, not allowing it to touch the floor. Each time someone hits the balloon, they can say one word of the verse (i.e. Hit_"Go"_Hit_"into"_Hit_"all"_etc.) until the verse is completed. Play several rounds or matches as time allows.



Focal Bible Verse

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." **Mark 16:15**

A FAMILY CHALLENGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today our Texas Missions for Kids story took us to the southernmost tip of Texas called El Valle, "the valley," or what is otherwise known as the Rio Grande Valley. The children learned about David Ortega, a missionary for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention who plants (starts) churches in areas throughout the valley to reach different groups of people with the gospel.

One way David shares the gospel in the valley is by working with seminary students at the Rio Grande Bible Institute. He recently participated in a PUSH event. The purpose of PUSH is to push back the darkness. David and his team used a variety of methods during the PUSH event to reach the people living in the Valley. (Ask your child to name some things David and his team did to tell others about Jesus). The PUSH events and activities had one purpose: to share the gospel. Through PUSH, more than 600 people heard the gospel, over 200 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, 41 Bible studies were started and a new church was planted. To see the full story visit www.sbtexas.com/missions4kids and click on "Rio Grande Valley" 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 Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." Ask your child if they can think of a way to share the gospel in your community (neighborhood, school, etc.). Ask your child for suggestions about how your family can pray for the efforts taking place in the Rio Grande Valley. Pray together specifically for those who are ministering in El Valle.

As a family, think of a creative way (i.e. face painting or puppet show) in which you could share Jesus with your friends and neighbors. Create it together and ask God to provide an opportunity for you to share your creative idea in your community.

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

Focal Bible Verse

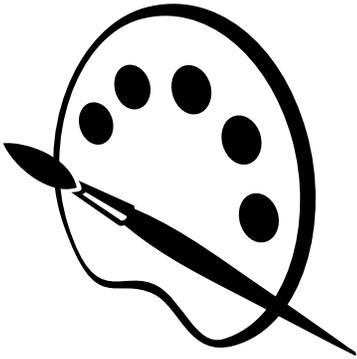
Then He said to them,
“Go into all the world and
preach the gospel to the
whole creation.” **Mark 16:15**

Unit Bible Verse

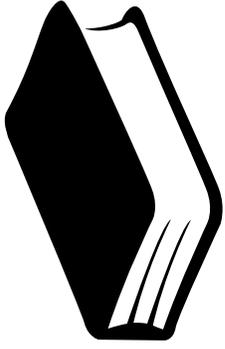
In the same way,
let your light shine before men,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in
heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

David Ortega

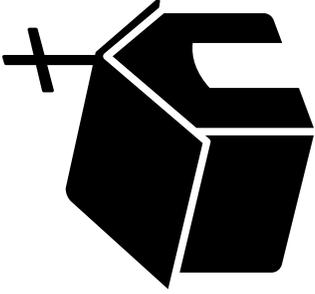
Rio Grande Bible Institute Students



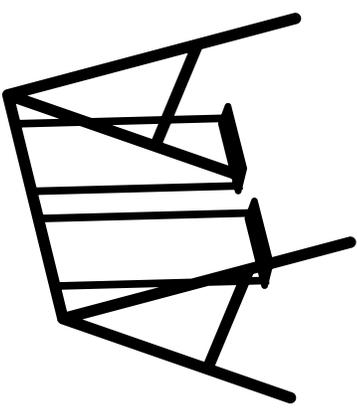
**Face
Painting**



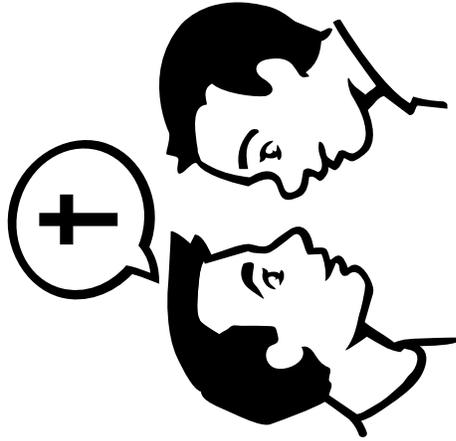
**Bible
Study**



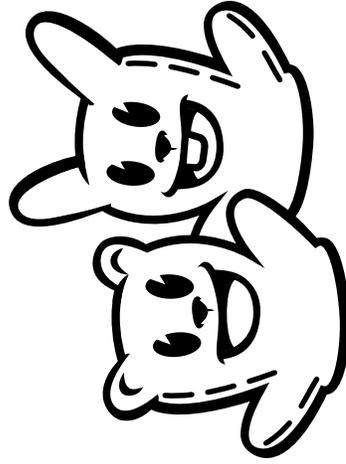
**Church
Plant**



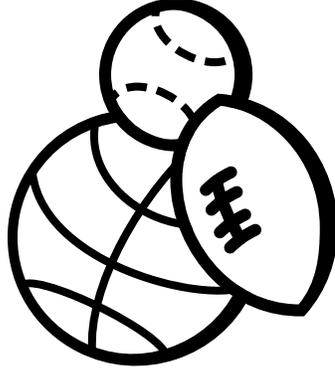
**Park
Evangelism**



**One
to One**



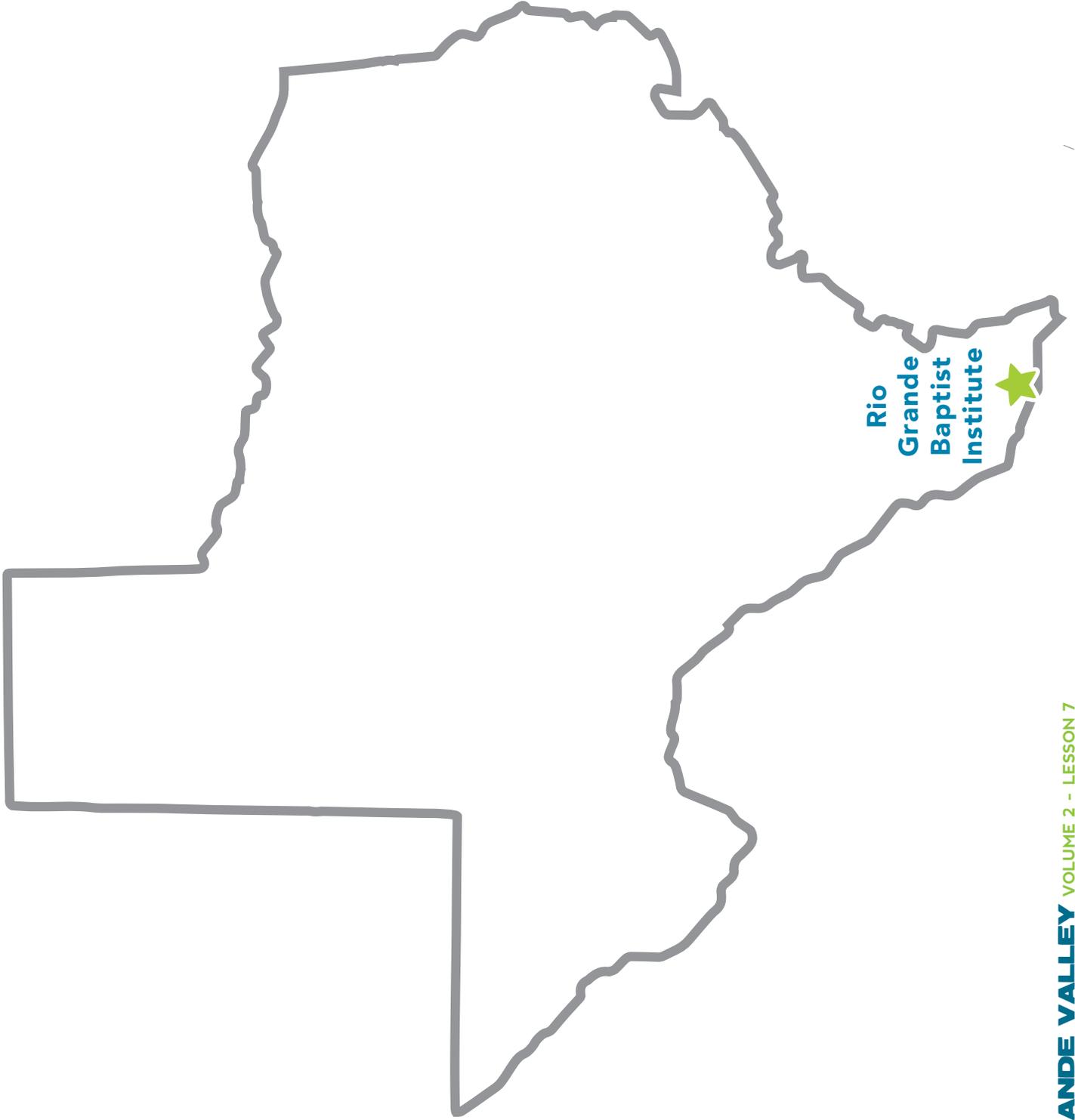
**Puppet
Shows**



**Sports
Evangelism**



**Door
to Door**



Rio
Grande
Baptist
Institute

ALLERGY ALERT!

Today's Snack
