



# Reach Texas OFFERING



## SBTC Reach Texas Preschool Lesson

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### Overview

As you prepare to teach, read through the entire chapter of Matthew 28. Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. They had just seen Jesus die on the cross, grieved his life for three days and then met with him in Galilee. They had to be pretty excited to see what his next command was going to be.

Throughout this story, preschoolers are going to learn about Jesus' last lesson while on earth. Jesus wants all of us to go and make disciples of all nations. It doesn't just say a pastor or anyone over the age of 18, but everyone must go and make disciples. This includes the preschoolers in your classroom. God commands them to go and tell others about all he has done for them. We all know this might look different for a 4-year-old versus a church planter, but the command is not negotiable.

As you lead the lesson and activities, help the preschoolers think of ways that they can help tell others about Jesus. Make sure to mention the Reach Texas Missions Offering and encourage them to participate. This missions offering helps revitalize churches, plant new churches, do collegiate and student ministry, train churches to minister to Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims, help churches learn to do missions around the world, and respond to disaster relief needs in our state and beyond.

If your preschoolers did not bring money to give today, help them make a plan to do so later on. Help them with some ideas on how to raise some money to be able to give. Maybe they can do extra chores around the house, donate some of their allowance, have a lemonade stand, etc.

Finally, make sure every preschooler walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding them to go into all the world and make disciples. This includes making disciples in their own neighborhoods.

Make sure to look through this entire guide and pick a few of the application activities to complete in your class. You can edit the order and flow of the lesson to fit what your classroom is normally used to. We can't wait to hear all about how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus!



## Introduction Activity Lost and Found

### Supplies Needed

- ▶ Small animal figurine (or something else small to hide)

As preschoolers are arriving, explain that you are playing a game of hide and seek. Ask all the preschoolers to close their eyes and then hide the small animal figurine somewhere in the room. All the preschoolers can then work together to find it. Whoever finds it, gets to be the next person to hide it.

Continue playing until almost all the preschoolers have arrived and you are ready to begin your lesson.

Say: “Today we are going to talk about how God feels about people who are lost. He gives us some very clear instructions on how we are to look at and treat people who do not know Jesus.”

## Bible Lesson

### Supplies Needed

- ▶ Bible
- ▶ Map of Israel at the time of Jesus (Make sure it includes Jerusalem and Galilee)
- ▶ Little pictures or clip art images of people (at least one per preschooler)

Before the lesson starts, put little print outs of people around the classroom. Try to hide at least one per preschooler. When it is time for the Bible lesson, encourage all the preschoolers to clean up their toys, and then find a little picture of a person somewhere around the room. Once they have found their person, they can come join you in the circle for the Bible lesson.

Say: “Today we are going to learn about a very special lesson! Does anybody remember what we celebrate on Easter Sunday? (Let a few preschoolers answer and hopefully one says Jesus’ resurrection.) That is exactly right! We celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. After Jesus died on the cross, his disciples were so very sad that he was dead. They did not know what to do. They were so sad for three days. Then, they heard some very good news. Jesus was alive! And he wanted them to meet him in Galilee. They were so excited. They jumped up and went straight to Galilee to see Jesus. Look at this map to see how far away the two places were. (Show the preschoolers the map and explain that they are about 75 miles apart.)

Jesus had a very important message for them in Galilee and that is what we are going to read today. It can be found in Matthew 28:19-20. Let’s open our Bible and read what it says.



Matthew 28:19-20 “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus commands his disciples to go into all the world and tell others about him. A disciple is someone who has chosen to follow Jesus and wants to try their best to make the right choices every day. He wants us to spread the good news of his love with everyone. Who is someone that you can tell about Jesus? (Allow a few to answer and affirm their answers.) That is so great. We all have people in our lives that we can tell about Jesus. This verse also says that we are to tell all nations about Jesus. That means we should tell anyone and everyone about Jesus. We can go all over the whole world to tell people about Jesus. Also, we can tell the people who live in our neighborhood about Jesus as well.

Let’s play a game with our Bible verse for today.” Divide the room into two halves and assign one half of the room to be the word “disciple.” The other half of the room is to be “nations.” Say Matthew 18:19a and point to the correct side of the room when it is their turn to say their word.

Matthew 28:19a: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

Repeat until it feels like the group has a good understanding of the Bible verse.

Finish out your lesson with a time of prayer. Allow any preschooler who is interested in praying aloud to do so. Encourage them to pray for the Reach Texas offering and that it would help tell people all over Texas about Jesus.

## Application Activities

\*Feel free to choose as many activities as time allows.

### Activity 1 Read a Story

Supplies Needed:

- A children’s book about diversity (See suggestions below)

We recommend purchasing a book for your preschool class that openly discusses diversity and how God views diversity. Pick one of the following books and read it to your class. Explain to preschoolers how God made us all unique and different. He loves each and every one of us the same amount (which is a lot!). God wants us to go and tell all people about him no matter what they look like or where they live.



This is also a great time to remind preschoolers that some of the offering money goes to help train churches to minister to Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims. The Reach Texas Offering is doing its best to help follow this command from Jesus to reach all people!

**Here are some suggestions:**

- ▶ “ColorFull: Celebrating the Colors God Gave Us.” by Dorena Williamson
- ▶ “God’s Very Good Idea.” by Trillia Newbell
- ▶ “When God Made You.” by Matthew Paul Turner

## Activity 2 “Go To All Nations”

**Supplies Needed:**

- ▶ Map of world
- ▶ Do-A-Dot markers

Print out a map of the world and spend time talking with the preschoolers about the different nations and places in the world. Make sure to specifically point out Texas. Talk with the preschoolers about how Jesus commands us to tell all the nations about him. Let the preschoolers take turns making dots all over the world map. Each time they make a dot on the map reiterate that “God wants us to tell all people about him.”

## Activity 3 “Tell People in Texas”

**Supplies Needed:**

- ▶ Outline of the state of Texas on cardstock (one per preschooler)
- ▶ Hole punch (one per room)
- ▶ String or yarn (one piece for preschooler)
- ▶ Markers or crayons (one box per room)

Find an outline of the state of Texas on cardstock. Make sure it is big enough that the preschoolers can draw on it. Print and cut out an outline for every preschooler.

Hole punch the top of the outline and allow preschoolers to pick a string or yarn and tie it through the top, so they can hang their “State of Texas” at home.

Remind preschoolers that Jesus commands us to tell all people about him. Have them draw a person or people that they can tell about Jesus on their “State of Texas.” Encourage them to take it home and hang it somewhere in their room to remind them to tell others about Jesus and pray for others.



## **Activity 4** Puzzles of People

### Supplies Needed:

- ▶ Puzzles that are age-appropriate and contain pictures of people

Encourage preschoolers to put together the puzzles. As they are completing the puzzles, say that God wants us to tell all people about him.

## **Activity 5** Worship

### Supplies Needed:

- ▶ Streaming service or DVD copy of Yancy's Little Praise Party (can be found on almost any streaming service, iTunes, or at [yancyministries.com](http://yancyministries.com))
- ▶ CD player, DVD player, or speaker to play the music

Play "Stop and Go" off of Yancy's Little Praise Party album. Have preschoolers to stand up and move and get some of their wiggles out. A fun way to add simple motions is to put your hands up like a stop sign when the song says "stop" and give two big thumbs up when it says "go".

Say: "Just like song says, God wants us to stop and listen to what he says. This morning, we have stopped and read that God has commanded us to go and tell others about Jesus. Now this week, we need to go and tell others all about what he has done."