

# Week of Prayer and Ola Cox State Missions Offering 2009

## Preschoolers' Mission Study

### T h e m e : L o v e W e s t V i r g i n i a

Theme: Love West Virginia

Scripture: 1 John 4:19-21 HCSB

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

#### Sensory Areas:

Pick and choose activities based on the developmental level of your preschoolers.

Outcome: Preschoolers will learn that God loves the people of West Virginia.

**Books:** In a designated area of the room, place books (age appropriate books about West Virginia, the Bible, "I Can Give," "I Can Pray" or other Bible stories). As you read these stories, talk about how God loves all people and that He loves the people in West Virginia.

**Music:** Read the Scripture Verse and then sing some of the following songs:

Jesus loves Me

Jesus Loves the Little Children (substitute the following words):

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

He loves children everywhere, those in West Virginia too.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.



**Nature:** Show pictures of the state bird: Cardinal

Show Pictures of the state flower: rhododendron

Show pictures of the state tree: sugar maple

(If you have any of these flowers/trees near your church, take the children to see them.)

Explain that these flowers/trees are special to West Virginia. God made them to grow in West Virginia and He loves West Virginia. He wants people in West Virginia to know Him.

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**Puzzles:** Draw an outline of West Virginia. Laminate. Cut into pieces and have preschoolers try to put it together. Discuss that God loves the people of West Virginia and wants them to know about Him. Discuss ways that preschoolers can tell people about Jesus.

**Craft:** Make a bank to collect money for the Ola Cox offering.

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**Items Needed:**

- Potato chip cans ( hole cut in lid—done by teacher prior to class)
- Paper
- Crayons
- Stickers
- Stencil of West Virginia (could be made by cutting the shape of WV out of a piece of cardboard)

Have preschoolers decorate a piece of paper. Older preschoolers could trace the shape of WV. Wrap the paper around the chip can. Tape to secure. Discuss how the money collected for Ola Cox will go to help tell the people in WV about Jesus. Encourage families to put the bank in a prominent place and collect money for the upcoming week/month. Have children bring their banks back to class and turn them in.

**Outreach:** Make baggies of "goodies" for preschoolers to take and share with their friends and neighbors. Include information about your church and service times. Be sure to include the plan of salvation. Have preschoolers make multiple baggies and give to their friends and neighbors and tell them that Jesus loves them.

**Ideas for goodies:**

- Cookies (could make ahead of time and have preschoolers decorate them)
- Trail Mix (crackers, chocolate candies, pretzels)
- Assorted Candy

**BE SURE TO WASH HAND BEFORE THIS ACTIVITY. BE SURE AND POST AN ALLERGY ALERT FOR FOOD ITEMS USED FOR GOODIE BAGS.**

If you have time you could go and deliver the items as a group to a local neighborhood or nursing home. Be sure you have enough supervision for this activity.

**Group Time/ Story Time:**

Begin by singing the Jesus Loves the Little Children Song with revised words:

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
He loves children everywhere, those in West Virginia too.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.



Ask the children to sing it in varying voices—loud, soft, high, low, etc. Open the Bible and read the Bible Verses: 1 John 4:19-21 (HCSB)

*We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

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Emphasize the Bible Phrase: *We love because he first loved us.* You could have this verse printed on a poster to show the preschoolers. Practice saying the phrase as a group. Play "telephone" and have the preschoolers whisper the phrase to their neighbor until it passes around the whole circle.

Discuss Ola Cox and Missions in WV: You may use the following teaching points:

God loves people everywhere.

God loves the people of West Virginia. Discuss that WV is where we live. Have preschoolers identify people who live in WV (self, parents, friends, teachers, etc).

Discuss that we have missionaries in West Virginia.

Discuss that one way to help tell people about Jesus is by giving money to help the missionaries do their jobs.

The name of the offering for WV is the Ola Cox State Mission Offering.

Discuss uses of the money in WV: start new churches, train missionaries, mission camp, disaster relief, etc.

Discuss that each preschooler can be a missionary too. They can give money to the Ola Cox State Mission Offering. They can pray for the people of WV and for the missionaries in WV. They can also tell their friends and neighbors about Jesus.



Close with prayer. Name specific areas of ministry that your church is involved in and specific people that the children would recognize (pastor, teachers, etc).

**Additional Ideas for extra time/lessons:**

Make crafts about rhododendron or sugar maple. Have children draw or glue tissue paper to make these trees/flowers.

Draw pictures or write letters to missionaries in WV: church planters, associational missionaries, student missionaries (college campuses).

Make small prayer reminders for preschoolers to take home. Could cut out the shape of the state and put a magnet on the back.

Provide a US map. Identify WV. Have preschoolers drive toy cars over the map.

Make a large map of WV to hang in your classroom. Have children identify their town. Children could help decorate the map.

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# My Notes



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