

GOD'S HARVEST HELPERS:

LOUISIANA MISSIONS FOR KIDS



PURPOSE:

To help children understand how God calls us to share Jesus' love with people in our state.

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 1:38 (CEV) *"Jesus replied, 'We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come.'"*

OPENING ACTIVITY (5 MIN)

LOUISIANA HARVEST

MATERIALS:

Paper cutouts of Louisiana crops (strawberries, rice, sweet potatoes, crawfish) in two colors, two baskets

↓ **DOWNLOAD CUTOUTS:** georgiabarnette.org/study

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide children into two teams (each team gets a different color of crop cutouts).
2. Designate one side of the room as "The Harvest Field."
3. When you say "Go," children try to collect their team's crops and bring them to their basket.
4. After the game, explain: "Just like we collected crops from the field, Jesus tells us there's a special kind of harvest - helping people learn about God's love!"

BIBLE STORY (10 MIN)

JESUS GOES TO NEW TOWNS

INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING:

Tell the story of Mark 1:35-38 using simple props:

1. Use a large blanket on the floor as "Capernaum."
2. Place toy houses around the room as "nearby towns."
3. Have children act out being the disciples looking for Jesus.
4. When you read Jesus' words about going to nearby towns, have children follow you to each "town."

SIMPLE EXPLANATION:

Jesus could have stayed in one place where people already knew him. But Jesus said, "We must go to nearby towns to tell the good news to those people." Jesus wants us to tell others about God's love too!

ACTIVITY (10 MIN)

LOUISIANA MISSION MAP

MATERIALS:

Large outline map of Louisiana, stickers (houses, hearts, churches), marker

↓ **DOWNLOAD MAP:** georgiabarnette.org/study

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Show map of Louisiana.
2. Explain: "Just like Jesus went to nearby towns, we can help share God's love all over Louisiana!"
3. Place a marker for your town.
4. Have children place stickers on map:
 - **House stickers:** "Places where people need to hear about Jesus."
 - **Heart stickers:** "Places where people need help after disasters."
 - **Church stickers:** "Places where new churches need to be started."
5. Explain that no matter where you put your sticker, there are people who need love, help and hope.

STORY (8 MIN)

ESL – MARC'S NEIGHBORHOOD

PREP:

Watch the ESL video in preparation for the lesson. Play the video in class if time permits.

↓ **DOWNLOAD AT:** georgiabarnette.org/esl

INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING:

Recap the story from the video about Shannon Brown and Pastor Marc Daniels.

Pastor Marc Daniels and his congregation tried for 20 years to connect with their Hispanic neighbors with little

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success. They did lots of things.

Show a picture of a block party or a blow-up jumper.

Shannon helped Pastor Marc develop a plan. They launched free English classes for their Spanish-speaking neighbors.

Show a picture of a man and woman talking.

First Avondale had been through so much, including Hurricane Ida.

Show a picture of a hurricane.

Through ESL classes, they have connected with their community.

Show a picture of an adult class.

Remember what Pastor Marc said, "If you genuinely are wanting to see people come to know the Lord, if you're genuinely wanting to be used by the Lord to be a blessing, especially to your neighborhood, just take that first step and see what God will do."

Mention that ESL is a compassion ministry supported through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

SIMPLE MESSAGE:

Marc and Shannon were helpers in God's harvest! They showed Jesus' love to people who came from far away. When we give to the Georgia Barnette Offering, we help people like Marc and Shannon share Jesus' love!

CRAFT (15 MIN)

HARVEST HELPER BAGS

MATERIALS:

Paper lunch bags, crayons, stickers, construction paper

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a paper bag to decorate with Louisiana symbols (state outline, pelican, etc.).
2. Help them write: "I'm a Harvest Helper!" on one side.
3. On the other side, write: "This is why I help..." and have them draw or write one way they can share Jesus' love.
4. Explain that they'll take their bags home to collect coins for the Georgia Barnette Offering.

Note to Teachers: Adjust activities based on class size and ages.

GAME (10 MIN)

GOOD NEWS RELAY

MATERIALS:

Two toy telephones, Bible cutouts with Mark 1:38 written on them

↓ **DOWNLOAD CUTOUTS:** georgiabarnette.org/study

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide into two teams and line up.
2. First player "answers" the toy phone, listens to the leader whisper, "Jesus wants us to share the good news!"
3. Player runs to the other end, grabs a Bible cutout, and runs back to tag the next player.
4. Continue until all children have had a turn.
5. Count how many "Bible messages" each team collected.

CLOSING (7 MIN)

HARVEST HELPER HANDS

MATERIALS:

Paper cutouts of hands, basket

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a paper hand cutout.
2. Have them write their name and draw one way they can be a "Harvest Helper" in Louisiana.
3. Collect the hands in a basket.
4. Say a prayer: "Dear God, help us share your love with people in Louisiana just like Jesus did. Thank you that we can be your Harvest Helpers. Amen."



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITY

HARVEST HELPER BAG

MATERIALS:

Harvest Helper Bag (from earlier activity), parent handout

↓ **DOWNLOAD HANDOUT:** georgiabarnette.org/study

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Encourage them to save coins for the Georgia Barnette Offering.
2. Use the parent handout explaining the missions offering.
3. Challenge them to pray for Louisiana missions when they put coins in their bag.



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VISIT [GEORGIBARNETTE.ORG](http://georgiabarnette.org)**

