

STATE MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

Share the Good News Everywhere



Leader Preparation

Today's Word

Evangelism (sharing the gospel of Jesus, the “good news,” with people everywhere)



Study focus

To help boys and girls learn about the missions and ministries of their state Baptist convention and how others in their state work together in telling people about Jesus.

Bible Passages



> Acts 1:8 (HCSB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

> Proverbs 17:17 (HCSB)

A friend loves at all times.

Things to have ready for Session 2:

Warm Up

- 2 or 3 recordings of Christian music and a player
- Be prepared to lead the game “Chain Relay”

Take the Challenge

- Posters of giving statements
- Masking tape to hang the giving statements
- Copies of Scrambled Words (Resources for Session 2, Item 1)
- Contact your church treasurer or a member of the finance committee to attend the session and share with the children the “How My Church Spends Money” worksheet (Resources for Session 2, Item 2).

Huddle

- Six 18-inch strands of embroidery floss or yarn per child
- Scissors
- Masking tape

We're a Team

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Balloons
- 2 chairs

Home Team

- Duplicate copies of Item 3, Resources for Session 2—enough to send home with each child who attends.



Warm Up

(Activities for early arrivers)

Arrive early and begin preparing the meeting room for this session. As kids arrive, involve them in assisting you. Ask the first child who arrives to choose a recording, place it in the player, and begin playing it as the others arrive.



When at least four children have arrived, begin playing the game “Chain Relay”
(from *Missions Games and Activities for Children Grades 1-6*, published by the North American Mission Board, SBC, p. 54).

As other kids arrive, assign them to a team so there is an equal number on each team.

Divide the group into two teams.

The kids stand in a line behind each other.

Each child bends at the waist, places his right arm between his legs, and grasps the left hand of the child behind him.

Each team races to a designated spot and back. The first team to return without breaking the “chain” wins.

Repeat the game as time allows.



WHAT IS STATE MISSIONS?

Through your state Baptist convention, churches in your state work together to reach people and support a wide array of ministries and missions. In most states they include, but are not limited to: evangelism efforts, children’s homes, volunteer missions, missions education, planting churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries, camps, and much more.

During the annual meeting of your state convention, messengers from your church and other churches across your state decide what percentage of Cooperative Program (CP) gifts contributed by local congregations stays in your state to reach people and support local missions and ministries. The percentage to be forwarded to the SBC for North American and international missions and ministries is also determined at this time.

To obtain specific information about your state convention, visit www.sbc.net, click on state conventions, and then click on your state. That will take you to a page with a link to your state convention’s Web site.



Take the Challenge

(Large group learning)

Encourage the kids to assemble in the large group learning area. Ask who remembers what was learned in the last session. Review how the Cooperative Program (CP) allows Southern Baptists to work together through our offerings to reach people around the world.

SAY: *The game we just played, "Chain Relay," is a good example of how important it is to work together to accomplish a goal. In the game, the goal was to return to our starting point without breaking the chain. With CP, our goal is to work together with other Southern Baptist churches to tell the whole world about Jesus.*

CONTINUE: *Today we want to focus on how CP helps us work with other Southern Baptists in our state to reach people for Christ.*

Have the following statements printed on sheets of colored construction paper. Make certain the words are large enough for the entire group to read.

- > **God gives people abilities.**
- > **People use their abilities to work and earn money.**
- > **People set aside their offering for church before paying their bills.**
- > **People give their offering to the Lord at church.**
- > **Our church keeps part of the offerings for the church's expenses.**
- > **Our church keeps part of the offerings to help meet people's needs.**
- > **Our church gives part of the offerings to reach people through our state convention.**
- > **Our state convention keeps part of our gifts for state missions and ministries.**
- > **Our state sends the remaining portion of our offerings to the Southern Baptist Convention.**
- > **Our gifts to the Cooperative Program are used to reach people and support missions and ministries around the world.**

Use masking tape to arrange the statements in random order on a focal wall. Ask children to place them in the correct order. (They are listed in the correct order above.) Remind the children that they are working together with other Southern Baptists to reach people, support missionaries in other countries, support missionaries in the United States, train future and current church leaders, and many other causes.

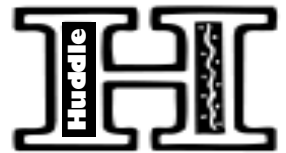
Ask one of the kids to come forward and take down the statement: "Our state convention keeps part of the money for state missions."

SAY: *In this session we want to discover some of the missions and ministries that take place because of the work of our state convention.*

Note to leader: If your state convention provides specific materials to use in this session, use them instead of some of the following suggested activities.

Give each child a sheet of paper with the scrambled words and phrases from Resources for Session 2, Item 1.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Huddle

(Small group learning)



Make a Friendship Bracelet

Give each child six 18-inch strands of embroidery floss or yarn and show how to tie a knot at one end and tape the knot to the table. With your own threads, show how to twist the threads together in the same direction until they feel tight. Guide each child to pull the twisted thread tight and place a finger in the center of it; fold the twisted length in half and carefully remove the finger. The twisted threads will wind around each other.

Remove the tape and tie a knot in the free end. Caution the kids to hold tightly to their twisted braids until they have tied the knot in the end. To fasten the bracelet, push the knot through the loop at the other end.

Ask each child to tell the name of the person to whom he will give his friendship bracelet. Lead the children to hold their bracelets as they say sentence prayers completing this sentence: "Thank You, God, for my friend _____." Encourage the children to invite their friends to church on Sunday.



Take the Challenge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

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hclidersn mhoes	(children's homes)	pacms	(camps)
wen uchchrse	(new churches)		

Ask the children to form groups of two. (Encourage an older child to pair with a younger child.) Challenge the kids to unscramble the words to discover some of the ways CP gifts are used by state conventions.

After a few minutes, call on different pairs to share one of the words or phrases they unscrambled. As each term is shared, give a brief description as follows:

- > **Evangelism**—State conventions have a real heart for evangelism (sharing with people how to become a Christian). Some of the ways state conventions give emphasis to evangelism are: **(1)** sponsoring an annual Evangelism Conference where pastors and other church leaders come to be challenged to lead their churches to have a stronger ministry of evangelism, **(2)** providing materials and training to churches to help them train members to lead someone to Christ, and **(3)** encouraging churches to have at least one special time a year to reach out to their community with the gospel message.
- > **Children's Homes**—Some state conventions own and operate homes for children who do not have parents or whose parents are not able to care for them. The state convention trains responsible adults to care for these children until they find a permanent home.
- > **New Churches**—Starting new churches is a top priority for many state conventions. New churches often reach people who larger, more established churches do not reach. Often new churches will target ethnic and/or language groups unreached by other churches.
- > **Colleges**—Some state conventions help support colleges and universities. These Baptist schools provide quality education in a positive spiritual environment. They offer courses that lead to a variety of vocations—both secular and religious.
- > **Camps**—Christian camps are effective in reaching and teaching children and teens. Many states own their own campgrounds. These camps vary in size, facilities, and in the programming they offer. State conventions who do not own their own camps may choose to lease or rent a good camp facility.

Ask your church treasurer or a member of the finance committee to share with the children statistics to help them complete Session 2, Item 2, "How My Church Gives" worksheet. If one of them cannot come, secure the information before the meeting and share it with the children.

Remind the kids that the Bible teaches (in Proverbs 17:17) that a friend loves at all times. This means that we should treat our friends with respect and show that we really care about them. One of the ways we can show we care is to invite friends to come to church with us. We can also tell them how they can know Jesus. In our next activity, everyone will make a special gift to give to a friend.

Lead the kids in praying for your state convention leaders, the many people they are trying to reach, and the missions and ministries the state convention supports through the Cooperative Program. Pray also for friends who do not know Jesus and/or do not attend church.



We're a Team

(Recreational activities)

Balloon Volleyball

(from *Missions Games and Activities for Children Grades 1-6*, published by the North American Mission Board, SBC, p. 57)

Needed to play:

- > Minimum of two players
- > Yarn
- > Balloon (have spares ready)
- > Two chairs

String a piece of yarn between two chairs. Inflate a large round balloon.

Children sit on the floor in teams and play volleyball with the balloon.

The balloon must go over the yarn.

When it touches the floor, the opposite team gets a point.

When a team allows the balloon to touch the floor, the balloon goes to the other team.

Eleven points scored by one team is a game.



Finish Line

(Closing)

Remind the kids of the importance of teamwork. Working together is important in doing our part in helping to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission. Briefly share one or two highlights of missions and ministry supported by your state convention.

HOW MY CHURCH GIVES WORKSHEET

The yearly budget for our church is \$ _____.

Our church gives \$ _____ to reach people through the Cooperative Program.

Our state convention uses _____% of our gifts to reach people in our state and sends the remaining _____% to the Southern Baptist Convention to reach people across the country and around the world.*

Last year, through our church, members gave \$ _____ to God's work.

(*Go to www.sbc.net, click on Cooperative Program, click on the "What Is CP?" button in the left column, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the link that says, "Click here to see Cooperative Program contributions by state conventions since its inception in 1925." Then click on your state to see what percentage of your Cooperative Program gifts stays in your state and what percentage is forwarded to the SBC.)



Home Team

(From learning to action)

To reinforce what was learned in this session about working together, make copies of Resources for Session 2, Item 3, to send home with each child.

Dear Parent,

In this session, we learned about the missions and ministries supported by our state Baptist convention. Help your child explore more about this work by going online to visit your state convention's Web site. If you do not have Internet access at home, take a field trip to your public library and use one of the public access computers. Most libraries do not charge to use the computers.

Our state convention's Web site is:



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Love In Action

www.sbc.net/cp

Word Scramble

gsilemvean _____

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