

Preparing Future Missionaries, Pastors, and Other Church Leaders

Leader Preparation

Today's Word

Responsibility (demonstrating that you consider yourself to be accountable for your actions and that you follow through on your commitments)



Study focus

To help boys and girls learn the purpose of our seminaries and how they are useful to people who are preparing themselves for ministry.



Bible Passages

> 2 Timothy 2:15 (HCSB)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

> 1 Timothy 1:12 (HCSB)

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry.

Things to have ready for Session 5:

Warm Up

- Building materials (i.e., lumber of various lengths, nails, paint, shingles, etc.)
- NO TOOLS, please!**

Take the Challenge

- Enlist your pastor or another seminary graduate to share.
- Borrow several seminary textbooks from your pastor or other staff member.
- Secure a large map of the United States.
- Provide map pins or "push pins."

Huddle

- Borrow several Bible study tools from your church library or your pastor (concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible atlas, various translations of the Bible)

We're a Team

- String
- 2 balloons for each child
- 6 slips of paper with the name of one Southern Baptist Seminary written on each
- 6 slips of paper with the location of one of our seminaries written on each

Home Team

- Make copies of letter to parents (Resources for Session 5, Item 1)



Warm Up

(Activities for early arrivers)



Scatter a variety of different building materials (no tools, please) on the floor of the gathering area for Warm Up.

These could include lumber of various sizes and lengths, shingles, nails, etc. As the kids arrive, ask them to use the materials to build a doghouse (or similar structure) with the materials they find on the floor.

Since no tools are available to connect the building materials to build the doghouse, the kids will become frustrated quickly. Continue to encourage them to complete their assignment by just leaning the various materials against each other to form something that may vaguely resemble a doghouse.

After a few more minutes, ask the boys and girls to move to the large group learning area.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS' SIX SEMINARIES

Our seminaries exist to train Southern Baptists to reach the world for Christ. Located across the country, Southern Baptist seminaries work to educate students in a biblically-based environment. Our seminaries are totally committed to teaching the Bible as the Word of God and to being servants of Southern Baptist churches by training, educating, and preparing pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders for faithful service.

Supported in part through your church's participation in the Cooperative Program, our seminaries are able to provide an excellent theological education for our future ministers and leaders. Students receive extensive hands-on training during their seminary experience with studies in preaching, discipleship, evangelism, Christian education, music, worship, and numerous other ministries. More than twenty-two percent (22.16%) of all CP gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention is designated for theological education.

Seminary students vary in age and come from a wide variety of cultural, economic, and geographical backgrounds. Some come to seminary with an undergraduate degree from a Baptist or other church-sponsored college or university, while others received their education from a state college or university.

OUR SIX SEMINARIES AND THEIR MAIN CAMPUS LOCATIONS ARE:

- > **Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary,**
Mill Valley, California (San Francisco area)
- > **Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,**
Kansas City, Missouri
- > **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,**
New Orleans, Louisiana
- > **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary,**
Wake Forest, North Carolina
- > **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,**
Louisville, Kentucky
- > **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,**
Fort Worth, Texas

In addition to these campuses, each of the seminaries has one or more "satellite" locations where individuals may enroll in seminary classes, taught by seminary professors, without attending the main campus. Also, each year thousands of pastors, Christian lay people, and all kinds of church workers continue their education for ministry by studying in Seminary Extension centers. Almost 500 centers are located throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.



Take the Challenge

(Large group learning)

Ask the group to share how they felt as they tried to build the doghouse. After several responses, ask what was missing for them to be able to complete the assignment. (Their responses may include: building plans, a blueprint, tools, etc.)

Share with the group that God calls people to do special work for Him. It is their responsibility to prepare themselves to do what God calls them to do. Many times that calling requires them to receive special training. Just as you needed plans and tools to be able to build the doghouse, these people who have been called to serve God in a special way need to develop the skills and have the knowledge to be able to do a good job. That training may include learning more about the Bible, Bible doctrines, and special skills that will help them do a good job at the work to which God has called them.

As our church participates with other Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program, we help support seminaries (schools) that help pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders prepare for faithful service to God.

Through the CP, Southern Baptists provide seminaries (schools) to help pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders prepare for faithful service to God. After completing college, seminary students study many different courses to help them learn more. Some of those courses include preaching, discipleship, evangelism, Christian education, music, worship, and many other ministry subjects.

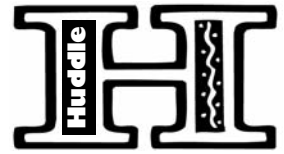
Ask the kids if they know anyone who has been to a seminary for training. (Be prepared to help them respond with names of persons you know who have attended a Southern Baptist Seminary. This could be your pastor, staff member, Director of Associational Missions, or another person the children know.)

If you were able to secure a special guest who has attended a Southern Baptist seminary, introduce him to the group at this time. After he briefly shares about how attending seminary enriched his ministry, encourage the kids to ask questions.

If you were not able to secure a special guest, continue by asking the kids to name some of the ministry-related jobs for which training is available at our seminaries. Answers could include: pastor, worship leader, minister of music, youth minister, children's minister, missionaries, teachers in Baptist colleges and seminaries, Directors of Associational Missions, etc.

In advance, ask your pastor (or other church staff member) to let you borrow several of the textbooks he studied while in seminary. Display them for the boys and girls and call attention to the title and the subject matter of each book.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Huddle

(Small group learning)

Call attention to the various Bible study tools (helps) you brought. These should include, but not be limited to, a Bible concordance, a Bible dictionary, a Bible atlas, and various translations of the Bible. Many Bible study helps are published for adults and children. If possible, display both types for the kids to see.

Ask the kids to look at the titles of the books and tell how each book could be used to help in studying the Bible. Some responses could include:

- > **Concordance**—finding the location of a verse in the Bible when you can remember only a few words in the verse.
- > **Bible dictionary**—discovering the meaning of certain words, terms, or phrases used in the Bible.
- > **Bible atlas**—locating on a map important cities, towns, and places mentioned in the Bible
- > **Bible translations**—helps to explain the meaning of a certain Bible verse or passage because it uses modern-day language

As time permits, let the kids browse through the books, taking turns so that every child has an opportunity to look through at least one example of all of each Bible study help.



Take the Challenge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)



Display a map of the United States.

Ask for volunteers to locate our six Southern Baptist seminaries on the map.

- > **GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Mill Valley, California (San Francisco area)
- > **MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Kansas City, Missouri
- > **NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
New Orleans, Louisiana
- > **SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Wake Forest, North Carolina (Raleigh/Durham area)
- > **SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Louisville, Kentucky
- > **SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Fort Worth, Texas

Remind the group that these schools called seminaries are made possible because our church works with other Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program.

SAY: *As we bring our offerings to church each week to give to God, part of our gifts help reach, teach, and equip people through the Cooperative Program. Over twenty-two percent of CP gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention is used to support these six seminaries.*

Pray for those who are currently enrolled in our seminaries.

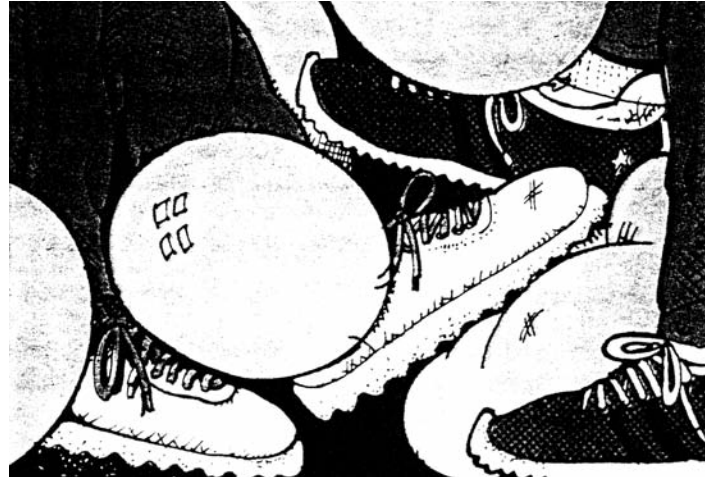
Thank God for the opportunity future church leaders have to study in a seminary.

Dismiss the kids to go to their huddle for small group learning.



We're a Team

(Recreational activities)

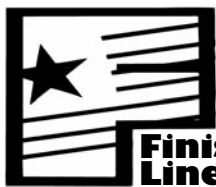


Stomp 'em (adapted from *Missions Games and Activities for Children Grades 1-6*, published by the North American Mission Board, SBC, p. 11)

Needed to Play:

- > String
- > 2 balloons for each child
- > 6 slips of paper with the name of one Southern Baptist seminary written on each
- > 6 slips of paper with the location of one of our seminaries written on each

1. Place a slip of paper with a seminary name or location in 12 balloons.
2. Let each child blow up 2 balloons (the 12 balloons with the slips of paper may be distributed randomly).
3. Tie a knot in the end of each inflated balloon, then tie a balloon to both feet of each child.
4. Clear a space in the room to play.
5. On a signal from you, children will start trying to burst each other's balloons by stepping on them. They also try, however, to keep their own balloons from being burst.
6. Children will try to see who can survive the longest with their balloons intact.
7. Collect the 12 slips of paper, making sure no child has more than one slip.
8. Let the kids match the name of the seminary with its location.



Finish Line

(Closing)

Assemble the kids and ask them to recall the Warm Up activity, building a doghouse. Remind them how important it is to have the proper materials, tools, and training to build anything. Recap today's emphasis on our seminaries by recalling what was learned during Take the Challenge and Huddle.

Lead in prayer before dismissing the group. Don't forget to send each child home with a letter to the parents. (Resources for Session 5, Item 1)



Home Team

(From learning to action)

This activity is suggested to be done at home to reinforce what was learned in this session about working together. Make copies of Resources for Session 5, Item 1, to send home with each child.

Resources for Session 5, Item 1. Duplicate one per child. Send home with child at end of Session 5.

Dear Parent,

In this session, our emphasis was on the six Southern Baptist seminaries located across America. The seminaries provide training for future pastors, missionaries, and other church and ministry leaders. Our church helps support these seminaries that provide valuable spiritual training as we participate in the Cooperative Program.

We helped the kids to understand the importance of having the proper training, materials, and tools to do any job. We explored several Bible study tools: concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible atlas, and Bible translations.

To reinforce today's learning, lead your child in a scavenger hunt in your home to discover if you have any of the study helps. Hint: Many Bibles have maps, an abbreviated concordance, and other study helps.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Love In Action

www.sbc.net/cp