



# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



*God at Work in Alabama; God at Work in America; God at Work Around the World*

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program

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## PURPOSE

During this 4-week Bible study we will see how God works through the Cooperative Program to reach people:



IN ALABAMA



IN AMERICA



AROUND THE WORLD

## WHAT IS THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

The Cooperative Program (CP) is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of the missions and ministries of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the State Board of Missions (SBOM) of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. In other words, your church gives money to state missionaries so they can give thoughtful prayer to decide where that money can help missions and missionaries around the world.

## BIBLE VERSES

“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 observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (CSB)

*These lessons are made possible by gifts of Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program.  
Written by: Belinda Stroud and Julie Donovan*

## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



### PURPOSE

During this lesson children will see how God is at work through the Cooperative Program and how Southern Baptist churches work together to tell the entire world about Jesus.

### BIBLE VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (CSB)

### BIBLE STORY

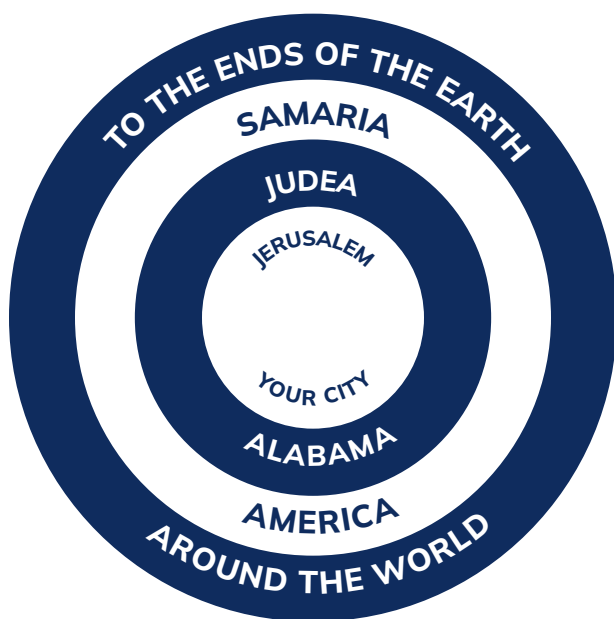
Saul Meets Jesus

### BEFORE THE SESSION

Draw four circles and label like in the diagram below:

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- God at Work through the Cooperative Program Map (CP Resource Item #1)
- Wooden or Lego® Blocks
- Bible
- Verse Posters – Acts 1:8 (CP Resource Item #2) and Matthew 28:19-20 (CP Resource Item #3)
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Damascus Road Review Questions (CP Resource Item #4)



## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Wooden or LEGO Blocks
1. As the children arrive, give each one of them 3-5 wooden blocks or Lego® blocks.
  2. Ask the children to stack the blocks they were given as high as they can be stacked. They can only use the 3-5 blocks they were given.
  3. As children finish, have them show how high their blocks could be stacked.
  4. Now instruct children to combine all their blocks and see how high they can be stacked. Leaders may need to help them so the stack will be as high as possible.
  5. After the children have stacked the blocks as high as they can discuss the activity: Was the stack of blocks higher when you used only the blocks each of you were given or when you combined your blocks together? How did you work together to make the highest stack?

*Say: When we work together, it is called cooperation. The Cooperative Program is how people, churches, and states work together to provide money to support ministries and missionaries all over the world. It all starts with churches like yours. Offerings and tithes that are given to your church are used to help educate missionaries and pay for them to have a place to sleep, food for them to eat, and money to use during their ministry and for their work. (Show the God at Work Through CP Map as you are telling about the Cooperative Program.)*



## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



### BIBLE STORY

*Paul's Conversion, Acts 9:1-22*

Open your Bible to Acts 9:1-22. Hold it open while you tell the Bible story of a man who learned to follow Jesus and tell others about Him.

***Say: Did you know that Paul, also known as Saul, used to be a bad guy in the Bible? A man named Saul was hurting those who were following Jesus and putting people in jail for believing in Jesus. Isn't that terrible?***

Now tell the following Bible story:

One day Saul was traveling on the road to Damascus (a city that was about 175 miles from Jerusalem). It was about a six day walk. As he was on the road to the city of Damascus a bright, blinding light came upon him.

Then a voice from above spoke to Saul:

4 Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"  
5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul said. "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:4-7 (CSB)

Saul got up but he was blind and could not see anything. God then sent a disciple named Ananias to heal Saul. Ananias placed his hands on Saul, and immediately something like scales fell off of his eyes and Saul could see again.

Paul immediately got up, was baptized, and began going all over the world telling people about Jesus.

Saul (Paul) had done bad things, but God still wanted to use Paul for His glory.

***Say: After Paul's eyes were spiritually and physically opened, he had a relationship with the Lord. Paul went to tell everyone in the city, "Jesus is the Son of God" Acts 9:20***

### PRAY

Lead children in prayer, thanking God for changing not only Paul's name but also his message. Ask God to help us be brave and tell others about Jesus.

## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Damascus Road Review Questions (CP Resource Item #4) *These can be printed on brown or tan paper if desired to resemble a road.*

Make a road with the Damascus Road Review Questions (CP Resource Item #4). You can make the road straight or curvy. Place the questions face down where they cannot be seen.

Allow the children to take turns answering the review questions starting at the beginning of the road and continue until all the questions are answered.

### DAMASCUS ROAD REVIEW QUESTIONS

What was the name of the man who was hurting followers of Jesus? *Saul*

What town was Saul traveling to? *Damascus*

What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?  
*He was blinded by a light and could not see anything*

What was the name of the disciple that helped Saul?  
*Ananias*

How did Ananias help Saul?  
*He placed his hands on his eyes and Saul could see again*

What name did Saul go by after he was healed? *Paul*

What did Paul do after his eyes were opened and he was no longer blind? *He told everyone about Jesus!*

## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



### BIBLE VERSE

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Outdoor sidewalk
- Sidewalk Chalk
- God at Work Through the Cooperative Program Map (CP Resource Item #1)
- Acts 1:8 poster (CP Resource Item #2)

*Say: What is the Cooperative Program?*

*The Cooperative Program allows missionaries to serve in your city, in the state of Alabama, in America, and all over the world through tithes and offerings from the local church. In other words, missions start by you giving money to your church. Through those gifts, missionaries can tell people about Jesus.*

#### **Read Acts 1:8:**

8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (CSB)

***Say: The Cooperative Program aims to accomplish Acts 1:8. Let’s watch a video that explains how the Cooperative Program works.***

Video Link: [vimeo.com/61915229](https://vimeo.com/61915229)

Our Cooperative Program reaches the goal of Acts 1:8.

Ask the kids these questions and instruct them to answer by standing in the appropriate circle:

Where is Jerusalem?  
Where is Judea?  
Where is Samaria?  
Where is “to the ends of the world”?  
Where is (insert your city here)?  
Where is Alabama?

Where is America?

Where is “to the ends of the world”?

Read Acts 1:8

*Say: When Jesus was speaking to His disciples, He was instructing them to share the good news of Jesus from their own cities and then go share the Gospel with the rest of the world. This command does not stop with the disciples. It continues through you and me. Now, I want you to stand somewhere on the circle and pray for God to show you where you will/can be a missionary.*

*By giving our tithes and offerings through the Cooperative Program, we can share the good news of Jesus not only in the city where we live, but all over Alabama, America, and around the world.*

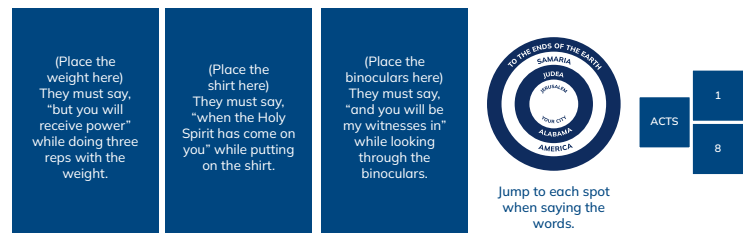
### MEMORIZE ACTS 1:8

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Weight or heavy object
- Oversized shirt
- Binoculars

Set up an obstacle course to help the children memorize this verse. (See diagram below.) Write Acts 1:8 at the end. You can time the kids to see who completes the course first, or you can cheer because each child accomplished the obstacle course. You might have to help younger kids along the way.

STARTING LINE



## LESSON ONE

# God at Work Through the Cooperative Program



## TOOL BOX CRAFT

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Toolbox Pattern (CP Resource #5 - print one per child)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tool - MISSIONARY (CP Resource Item #5)
- ABC Poster (CP Resource Item #6)

**Say:** *To tell people about who God is, you must first have a relationship with God. This is your first tool!*

Hand each child a toolbox pattern (CP Resource Item #5), and have other supplies on the table for them to use.

Have all the children color and assemble the boxes.

Tell the children that each week we will add a tool to our toolbox.

**Say:** *The first tool we will talk about in our toolbox is "MISSIONARY". What is a missionary? A missionary is someone who lives or travels somewhere to tell people about Jesus. Sometimes missionaries work in Alabama, sometimes they work in other parts of America, and sometimes they go across the world to tell people about Jesus. Sometimes missionaries can't tell people that they are missionaries, and they have to secretly tell people about Jesus.*

God uses people just like you to tell others about Jesus. God wants each one of us to have a relationship with Him and become a missionary.

**Say:** *If you do not have a relationship with Jesus, let's learn about how you can with the ABC's.*  
(CP Resource Item #6)

**A - Admit that you are a sinner.** Read Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23 (CSB)

**B - Believe that Jesus is God's Son.** Read John 14:6: Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**C - Confess your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior daily.** Read Romans 10:9-11:

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame."

Pray for the children you are teaching that if they do not have a relationship with the Lord, they will one day.

**Say:** *These tools will help us understand how God is at work in the Cooperative Program and how God can use you to further His kingdom.*

**Say:** *Was Saul a person we would pick to be a missionary, a person who tells others about Jesus? No, he was being evil and hurting people. God can use anyone to tell people about Jesus. He can use each one of you to tell others the Gospel and be a missionary.*

## PRAYER TIME/CLOSING

**Say:** *Over the next three weeks we will learn more ways that the Cooperative Program helps us be like Paul and tell others all over the world about Jesus — in Alabama, in America, and all over the world.*

Pray, thanking God for sending His son Jesus for us to know personally and that we can tell the entire world about Him.

## LESSON TWO

# God at Work in Alabama



### PURPOSE

During this lesson, children will see how God is at work in and through the Cooperative Program and how Southern Baptist churches work together to tell people all across Alabama about Jesus.

### BIBLE VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (CSB)

### BIBLE STORY

The Widow’s Offering (Luke 21:1-4)

### BEFORE THE SESSION

Cut the Church Giving Statements (CP Resource Item #8) into strips and place them in a bag.

Hide the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions pictures around the room.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- God at Work in Alabama Map (CP Resource Item #7)
- Acts 1:8 Poster (CP Resource Item #2)
- Bible
- Bag
- Pennies (2 per child)
- Church Giving Statements (CP Resource Item #8)
- What It Takes Posters (CP Resource Item #9)
- My Money Helps Poster (CP Resource Item #10)
- 2 Balls (inflatable will work best)
- Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Ministry Pictures (CP Resource Item #11)
- Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Cards (CP Resource Item #12)
- Toolbox and Tools (CP Resource Item #5)
- Bookmark (CP Resource Item #13)

## LESSON TWO

# God at Work in Alabama



### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Pennies (2 per child)
- 1. Have children get in pairs.
- 2. Give two pennies to each child.
- 3. Direct the kids to sit on the floor in pairs and toss their coins.
- 4. The first pair to get all heads or all tails wins.
- 5. Switch partners, then repeat.
- 6. After they have played a few rounds, talk to them about how playing with 2 pennies has been fun but it would not buy much.
- 7. But, when people give their tithe (money) at church in any amount, it adds up and can be used to do incredible things.

### BIBLE STORY

*The Widow's Offering, Luke 21:1-4*

Open your Bible and read the Bible passage, Luke 21:1-4, aloud.

Now talk about and tell the following Bible story:

In this story we see Jesus watching as people came to give their offerings. He saw very rich people giving large amounts of money but that was not what got his attention. He noticed a very poor widow give two copper coins.

Jesus said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all the others." Luke 21:3

The others gave more money, but the widow gave everything she had, all that she had to live on.

***Say: The poor widow gave all she had to obey and worship God.***

### PRAY

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for using what we give back to Him to do great things! Ask God to help us give to him happily.

## LESSON TWO

# God at Work in Alabama



### APPLY THE BIBLE STORY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Bag
  - Church Giving Statements (CP Resource Item #8)
  - What It Takes Posters (CP Resource Item #9)
  - My Money Helps Poster (CP Resource Item # 10) from coloring book
1. Show the My Money Helps poster. Read: When you bring an offering to church, your money helps people learn about Jesus through the Cooperative Program. Let's travel the road to find out where your money goes when you give offerings to your church.
  2. Trace the road and talk about numbers 1, 2 and 3 on the poster.
  3. Remind the children of what the Cooperative Program is while showing them the poster.
  4. Tell them that today we are talking about how the Cooperative Program helps people all over Alabama.
  5. Show them the bag with the Church Giving Statements (CP Resource Item #8) in it and allow each child to take a statement that describes a church.
  6. Take out the What it Takes posters (CP Resource Item #9) and place them where all the children can see them.
  7. Ask each child to read their statement one at a time.
  8. Ask each child to show what ministry they could pay for with the money that was given through the Cooperative Program from their church.
  9. Allow each child to have a turn and after they have all finished ask them to each bring their statements and put them in a pile.

***Say: This is how the Cooperative Program works. Churches combine their gifts and through the Cooperative Program can share about Jesus all over Alabama, across America and around the world.***

***Say: Each of you can have a part in sharing about Jesus by bringing your tithe/money to church, just like the widow did in our story. Each of us can give as we are able and great things can be accomplished for God.***

Share the following video about Alabama's Disaster Relief at work: [vimeo.com/1061292220](https://vimeo.com/1061292220)

## LESSON TWO

# God at Work in Alabama



### BIBLE VERSE

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 2 balls (beach ball would work best)
  - Acts 1:8 verse poster (CP Resource Item #2)
1. Show the children the Acts 1:8 poster and briefly review it. Ask them what word in the verse stands for Alabama? (Judea)
  2. **Say:** *We want to make sure we know this verse so now we are going to play a game to help us review and learn it well.*
  3. Divide the group into two teams and have each team make a circle.
  4. Give one child on each team a ball and explain that when you say, “GO,” they can start passing the ball around the circle as fast as they can. When the ball is passed to you, say the next word of the verse ending with the reference. Each group needs to say the verse 4 times.
  5. The team that finishes first wins.
  6. Play several times until everyone can say Acts 1:8.

### HIDE AND SEEK

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Ministry Pictures (CP Resource Item #11)
  - Alabama Baptist State Board of Mission Ministry Cards (CP Resource Item #12)
1. Lay out the Names of Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Cards on a table.
  2. **Say:** *We have talked about how we give our money through the Cooperative Program, and you may be wondering what exactly this money does and is used for.*
  3. Tell them to look around the room to find some pictures of people serving in many ways, of buildings, etc.
  4. Tell them to go and find as many pictures as you can and bring them back to the table and see if you can match the right picture with the ministry it represents.
  5. When the matches have been successful talk about each one of these ministries.
  6. Conclude this activity by sharing that these are only some of the many ministries the State Board of Missions provides. As you can see, none of us by ourselves could pay for these things alone. But together, by giving through the Cooperative Program, we can share the Gospel all over Alabama.
  7. Pray for Alabama Baptist state missionaries and the ministries they represent.



## LESSON TWO

# God at Work in Alabama



### CRAFT

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Toolbox (CP Resource Item #5)
- 2nd tool – TITHE/OFFERING (CP Resource Item #5)
- Bookmark (CP Resource Item #13)
- Markers or Crayons
- Scissors

1. Have all the children who are new this week color and assemble their toolboxes.
2. *Say Each week we will add a tool to our toolbox.*
3. *Say: Can you guess what tool we might add to our toolbox this week? Think about our story and what the widow gave to Jesus. (tithe/offering)*
4. *Say: A tithe or offering is the tool we are adding this week. To tell others about Jesus we need a lot of support through people who are willing to give back to Jesus with their tithes and offerings.*
5. Hand each child the “TITHE/OFFERING” tool and allow them to cut it out and add it to their toolbox.
6. Hand each child a bookmark.
7. *Say: As you color this bookmark; Pray for the state missionaries in Alabama.*

### PRAYER TIME/CLOSING

*Say: How can you be a missionary in your state and in your city? Use this time to pray for missionaries. Also, pray that if God has called you to be a missionary you will accept that call.*

*Say: To complete Acts 1:8 we must all work together. To be a missionary in our state requires a lot of support through tithes, offerings, prayer, training, and so much more. This is why we need the Cooperative Program (CP) to help people come to know Christ. Let's pray that we will work together to accomplish this goal.*

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### PURPOSE

During this lesson children will see how God is at work in and through the Cooperative Program and how Southern Baptist churches work together to tell people all over America about Jesus.

### BIBLE VERSE

“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, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)

### BIBLE STORY

The First Disciples (Matthew 4:18-21)

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- God at Work in America Map (CP Resource Item #14)
- Brown Garbage Bag
- Fish Cutout (CP Resource Item #15)
- Goldfish Snack (optional)
- Toolbox Pattern (CP Resource Item #5)
- Tool - DISCIPLE (CP Resource Item #5)
- Stapler
- Yellow Construction Paper
- Black Construction Paper
- Red Construction Paper
- Green Construction Paper
- White Construction Paper
- Black Cord (6 inches per child)
- Yellow Beads
- Red Beads
- Green Beads
- White Beads
- Black Beads
- Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)
- Poster (CP Resource Item #3)
- Ball

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- God at Work in America Map (CP Resource Item #14)
- Brown Garbage Bag
- Fish Cutout (CP Resource Item #15)
- Goldfish Snack (optional)

***Say: Let's look at the map God at work in America.***

Today we will learn where God is at work both in Alabama and all over America.

***Say: Let's see how God uses missionaries to spread the word of Jesus in America.***

Show the video of an Alabama man, Jae McKee, who has gone all the way to Alaska to tell people about Jesus. Talk about the many ways he ministers to those in Alaska.

***Say: Alaska is a great place to fish! Watch this short video of Jae and those he is ministering to enjoying a day of fishing in Alaska.***

Video: [vimeo.com/1061295220](https://vimeo.com/1061295220)

We are going to play a game about fishing.

Gather a brown paper bag and place the Fish cutout (Resource Item #15) in the bag.

Allow children to draw out one fish at a time and read (assist younger children) about how we can be fishers of men in America.

**Listed below are the statements that are on the fish:**

A church planter builds a church in a community where people need to hear the Gospel.

College students who serve as summer missionaries work all over America during their summer break to tell people about Jesus.

Over 13,000 students are enrolled in Southern Baptist seminaries (schools for ministers). They are preparing themselves to be ministers in churches.

Over 400 missionaries in America and all over the world are from Alabama.

Thousands of backpacks are collected and filled with toys, Bibles, and other gifts each Christmas. They are given to very poor children who live by the Mississippi River.

People who are hungry and do not have a place to sleep are helped by missionaries.

Alabama Baptists have worked together with other states including Hawaii, Alaska, and Montana to help tell people about Jesus.

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### BIBLE STORY

*The First Disciples, Matthew 4:18-22*

Open your Bible to Matthew 4:18-22. Hold it open while you tell the Bible story of how Jesus choose His disciples.

Ask: How many of you like to fish?

***Say: Now we are going to hear a story of Jesus and some special fishermen.***

Now tell the following Bible story:

Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, and He saw two brothers, Andrew and Peter. They were fishing with a big net, not a fishing pole. Jesus saw them and stopped and said:

19 “Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:19-20 (CSB)

Peter and Andrew did not hesitate. They immediately dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus. Jesus kept walking, now with his new helpers, and He saw two other brothers, James, and John. They were out in a boat with their father getting ready to fish. Jesus asked them to come and follow Him and fish for people as well and they left their boat, nets, and their dad.

Jesus wanted helpers to help tell others about Him. They were called disciples. There were twelve disciples in all. The disciples did not literally fish for people — they were Jesus’ helpers to share the Good News and tell others about him!

***Say: Jesus chose special helpers called disciples to help Him spread the Good News.***

***Say: Every single person -including you- is important in telling people about Jesus. We are all Jesus’ disciples.***

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### CRAFT

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Toolbox pattern (CP Resource Item #5)
- Tool – DISCIPLE (CP Resource Item #5)
- Stapler
- Yellow Construction Paper
- Black Construction Paper
- Red Construction Paper
- Green Construction Paper
- White Construction Paper
- Black Cord (6 inches per child)
- Yellow Beads
- Red Beads
- Green Beads
- White Beads
- Black Beads

*\*There are two craft options with this lesson – a wordless book or a Gospel bracelet. You will need only the supplies needed for the craft you choose.*

Have all the children that are new this week color and assemble their toolbox.

*Say: Each week we add a new tool to our toolbox.*

*Say: Can you guess what tool we might add to our toolbox this week? This one may be a little hard to guess. It is DISCIPLE.*

*Say: Add the DISCIPLE tool to your toolbox!*

*Say: We can share the Gospel and be a disciple of Jesus. Today we are making a book (or a bracelet) that will be a great tool to help us be disciples!*

### OPTION #1 WORDLESS BOOK

*Say: Today we are going to make a Wordless Book.*

1. Go ahead and make this activity beforehand and demonstrate it for the children. After your children have stapled the pages together have them practice it with a friend or a teacher.
2. Staple your pages in this order and demonstrate it beforehand:
  - **Yellow/Gold:** God wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. (John 3:16) But there's a problem – sin.
  - **Black:** We are all sinners. (Romans 3:23)
  - **Red:** Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
  - **White:** When we believe in Jesus, we will be made clean from sin. We now can have a relationship with God and will one day be with Him in heaven. (John 1:12-13)
  - **Green:** When we begin our new life with Jesus we want to grow in it. (1 Peter 2:2)  
A simple way to teach about growing in the Lord:
    - Go to the Lord in prayer.
    - Read your Bible.
    - Obey.
    - Worship God at church

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### CRAFT (continued)

#### OPTION #2 GOSPEL BRACELET

*Say: Today we are going to make a Gospel bracelet.*

1. Each child will need about 6 inches of cord.
2. Make one knot several inches from the bottom of the cord. This knot will prevent the beads from falling off.
3. String the beads in the following order: Yellow, Black, Red, White, Green. Read the following as the children are putting their beads on the bracelet:
  - **Yellow/Gold:** God wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. (John 3:16) But there's a problem – sin.
  - **Black:** We are all sinners. (Romans 3:23)
  - **Red:** Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
  - **White:** When we believe in Jesus, we will be made clean from sin. We now can have a relationship with God and will one day be with Him in heaven. (John 1:12-13)

- **Green:** When we begin our new life with Jesus we want to grow in it. (1 Peter 2:2)  
A simple way to teach about growing in the Lord:
    - Go to the Lord in prayer.
    - Read your Bible.
    - Obey.
    - Worship God at church
1. After the green bead, tie another knot to hold beads in place. Then tie to fit the wrist.

## LESSON THREE

# God at Work in America



### BIBLE VERSE

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)
- Poster (CP Resource Item #3)
- Ball

Read Matthew 28:19-20 from the poster.

Ask: Does anyone know what these verses are called?  
(The Great Commission)

*Say: These were the very last words Jesus said to us.*

Let's learn the verse.

Play SPARKLE.

Have children go around the circle, saying Matthew 28:19-20, one word at a time. Once all the words have been correctly said, the next child says the complete verse. The next child in the circle says, "Sparkle," and the next child sits down. Start the game over when there are only a few students left standing.

### CLOSING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- God at Work in America (Resource Item #14)
- Paper Plate
- Music
- Candy (optional)

Play the following game to review what we have learned so far about the Cooperative Program.

### Cooperative Program: Pass the Plate

During this game of Pass the Plate play hot potato by using a plate or an offering plate. When the music is playing pass the plate and when the music stops the person with the plate must answer a question. If the student answers the question properly, they will get a piece of candy.

Questions (Please feel free to come up with your own as well):

What does CP stand for?

What is the cooperative program?

What is a missionary?

Who can be a missionary?

Say Acts 1:8 from memory.

Where can you be a missionary?

What is the first tool in your toolbox?

What is the second tool in your toolbox?

What is the third tool in your toolbox?

### PRAY

Close in prayer thanking God that we can all be His disciples and for the many ways missionaries are being His disciples in America.

## LESSON FOUR

# God at Work Around the World



### PURPOSE

During this lesson children will see how God is at work in and through the Cooperative Program and how Southern Baptist churches work together to tell the people all over the world about Jesus.

### BIBLE VERSE

“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, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)

### BIBLE STORY

Paul’s First Journey (Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28)

### BEFORE THE SESSION

Hang “Around the World” Posters (CP Resource Item #17) around the classroom.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- God at Work Around the World Map (CP Resource Item #1)
- Around the World Posters (CP Resource Item #16)
- Bible
- Toolbox Pattern (CP Resource Item #5)
- Tool – GOSPEL (CP Resource Item #5)
- Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Maps
- Glue
- Permanent Marker
- Colored Paper or Card Stock



## LESSON FOUR

# God at Work Around the World



### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- God at Work around the World Map (CP Resource Item #1)

Show the God at Work around the World Map (CP Resource Item #1)

*Ask: Where is God at work? All over the world!*

Review: We have seen that when we give our tithes and offerings to our church, we are helping tell people about Jesus in Alabama, America, and ALL over the world!

Tonight, we are going to see how the money we give through the Cooperative Program helps people all over the world!

*Say: Let's take a trip around the world and see how missionaries are sharing the Gospel. International missionaries go to countries other than their own to share stories about Jesus.*

Allow the children to walk with you to each Around the World poster and read each one of them.

Conclude by watching the video

### RESOURCE ITEM #16 INFORMATION

1. Water Purification (Cambodia) - A village of Vietnamese refugees settled in the middle of a lake during the Vietnam War. Southern Baptists bought

two barges to provide space for a water purifier, a school, and a recreation area.

2. ESL - English as a Second Language ministries help people learn English for high school and college classes, employment, and general education.
3. Gospel Distribution - Missionaries take scriptures into areas where people do not have access to God's Word.
4. Theological Training - Local pastors and other church leaders need training in the Bible and other classes to help them better lead their churches.
5. Identifying Unreached People Groups - Some missionaries look for people groups who have never heard about Jesus. Once they find them, they can help take the Good News into their communities.
6. Medical Missions - Many parts of the world have limited access to medical care. Medical missionaries not only provide medical care for sick people, but they also help them learn about eating properly and getting the right nutrition.
7. Agricultural - Believe it or not, some parts of the world don't know how to care for cows or goats to get milk. Some missionaries have special training to teach people how to farm and care for animals that can provide food.
8. Dance and Gymnastics Classes - Dance and gymnastics classes are a creative way to get involved with a community, build relationships, and share the Gospel.
9. Soccer Teams, Athletics, and Gym - Soccer teams, athletics, and gym are another way to get involved in the community and to share God's love.
10. Children's Ministry/Orphanages and Education - There are countries where schools do not provide education for kids with special needs. Some missionaries provide a place for these kids to have a chance to learn.

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### BIBLE STORY

*Paul's First Journey, Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28*

Open your Bible to Acts 13 and 14. Hold it open while you tell the Bible story of Paul and Barnabas.

***Say: Do you remember in the story a few weeks ago a man named Saul who became Paul? Today we are going to learn about Paul's first journey as a missionary with his friend Barnabas.***

Tell the following Bible story:

Paul had a great friend named Barnabas and they were with the church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit chose them for a special work that God had planned for them. So, they obeyed God and left Antioch to tell others about Jesus.

They first headed to the island of Cyprus on a sailboat. They went to many cities and told people the Good News of Jesus. They left there and went back to the mainland then went to another city named Antioch in Asia. On the Sabbath Day, Paul was invited to speak at the synagogue.

Paul began to preach that people can be forgiven for their sins through Jesus. He said that believing in Jesus is the one and only way to be forgiven. Keeping the laws of Moses cannot make you forgiven. The people were very interested in what Paul was saying, so he and Barnabas went back the next Sabbath Day. The people wanted to know more.

When they went back, the synagogue was packed! Almost everyone in the city, both Gentiles and Jews, had come to hear the message of Jesus! But the Jews were not happy with the message and kicked Paul and Barnabas out.

After they left Antioch, they went to the city of Iconium. The same thing happened again. Many wanted to hear the Good News of the Gospel, but the Jews were against Paul and Barnabas and were going to kill them. Luckily, Paul and Barnabas escaped.

They went to the city of Lystra next. Paul healed a man there and many were confused thinking he was a god. But Paul and Barnabas told them they were not gods. They wanted to tell them the Good News of GOD. Then the people that were unhappy with them from Antioch and Iconium showed up and caused so much trouble that they turned the people of Lystra against Paul and Barnabas. They tried to stone Paul and threw him out of the city.

Paul and Barnabas then went to the city of Derbe and back to Lystra and Iconium to tell people there about Jesus. They encouraged people to believe!

They finally returned to Antioch and reported what God had done and that He had helped them share the Good News of the Gospel.

***Say: Paul and Barnabas traveled many miles on land and water to tell others about Jesus. God wants us to share the Good News with others as well. It can sometimes be difficult, but we know God is with us, and we should always be willing to tell others about Jesus.***

### PRAY

Lead the children in prayer asking God to help them be brave in sharing the Good News of Jesus like Paul and Barnabas were!

## LESSON FOUR

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### CRAFT

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Toolbox Pattern (CP Resource Item #5)
- Tool – GOSPEL (CP Resource Item #5)
- Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Markers

Have all the children who are new this week color and assemble their toolboxes.

*Say: Each week we have added a new tool to our toolbox.*

*Say: Can you guess what tool we might add to our toolbox this week? This one may be a little hard to guess – GOSPEL.*

*Say: Add the GOSPEL tool to your toolbox!*

*Say: It is our responsibility to give our tithes and offerings to our church so that the Gospel can be shared with people all around the world. We are also instructed to share the Gospel in our neighborhood and community. Let's make a set of footprints to remind us to do that.*

Help kids trace each foot on a sheet of construction paper and cut them out.

On one footprint write one way they can do God's work in their neighborhood or community.

On the other footprint write a way they can pray for a missionary that is across the world telling others about

### PRAY

Jesus.

Have a time of prayer and ask those that would like to pray to do so.

## LESSON FOUR

# God at Work Around the World



### BIBLE VERSE

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Maps
- Glue
- Permanent Marker
- Colored Paper or Card Stock
- Scissors

### PREPARATION

Using a couple of older highway maps, cut to fit some onto 8 ½" x 11" card stock. Attach them to the cardstock. Take a black permanent marker and write two to three words from the verse per sheet. Make sure to include the scripture reference. Cut the map apart into several pieces. Divide the verse into the same number of sections. Write one to three words of the verse (including scripture reference) on each piece of the map. Attach each piece of the map to a piece of colored paper or cardstock. Laminate for durability if you desire.

Have the children put the verse in order.

You can divide the children into teams and time them to see who can put the verse in order the fastest.

Remove one phrase at a time and let the children take turns saying the verse with a phrase or two removed.

### CLOSING ACTIVITY

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- God at Work Through the Cooperative Program (CP Resource Item #1)
- God at Work in Alabama (CP Resource Item #7)
- God at Work in America (CP Resource Item #14)
- God at Work Around the World (CP Resource Item #17)

We have learned over the past few weeks where God is at work.

Ask: Where is God at work?

Share the God at Work posters in this order:

- Resource Item #1
- Resource Item #7
- Resource Item #14
- Resource Item #17

Talk about how the first map was completely empty and is now full.

***Say: Because we all give THROUGH the Cooperative Program, we can help spread the Good News of Jesus in Alabama, America, and ALL over the world!***

Ask for volunteers to pray for missionaries who are telling people about Jesus in:

Alabama / America / ALL over the world

Teachers conclude the prayer time by asking God to help each person in the class to be bold and be missionaries who are also willing to tell others about Jesus.

# Leaders

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*God At Work* is a unit containing 4 lessons teaching how God is at Work through the Cooperative Program in Alabama, in America and around the World.

Each lesson contains the following components:

- Bible Story
- Games
- Craft
- Video

and much more!

These lessons will help children learn more about the Cooperative Program and how they can get involved in missions.

They can be used in a variety of ways in your church:

- 4 week discipleship/missions training for your children and on Sundays or Wednesdays
- VBS missions emphasis
- During the summer on Wednesday nights
- For a camp missions emphasis

Also included is a special MISSIONS PROJECT/Mail for Missionaries for the children to write notes to missionaries in Alabama, in America and all over the world. See the “Mail for Missionaries” page and resources for more details.

The Alabama State Board of Missions would also like to invite your group to our facility in Prattville to take a tour and meet some of their state missionaries. We are located at 1404 Fairview Avenue, Prattville, AL 35066. You can schedule a tour by calling: 1-800-264-1225.

Thank you for teaching the next generation about how God IS At Work through the Cooperative Program!

# Parents



Your children have been learning how ***GOD IS AT WORK*** through Southern Baptists all over the world through the Cooperative Program to tell people about Jesus.

## **BIBLE FOCUS:**

*Through the Cooperative Program:*

Paul Meets Jesus: Acts 9:1-22

*In Alabama:* The Widows Offering: Luke 2:1-4

*In America:* The First Disciples: Matthew 4:18-22

*Around the World:* Paul's First Journey: Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-28

## **DISCUSS HOW YOUR FAMILY CAN BE INVOLVED:**

- Pray for missionaries that are working in our Alabama, in America and all over the world telling people every day about Jesus
  - Discuss with your children giving/tithing and what that means using the following scripture. Read the verses together as a family.
    - Leviticus 27:30
    - Malachi 3:10
    - Proverbs 3:9
    - 1 Corinthians 16:2
  - Share with them how the money they give can be used in your church and a portion of those gifts are used to support the Cooperative Program ministries they have been learning about.
- Review the Bible Verses they have been learning-say them together as a family
    - ACTS 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
    - 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 observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

# Mail for Missionaries

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As you have been learning how God is at Work all over the world, you have seen how many missionaries the Cooperative Program is able to support-missionaries in Alabama, Alaska, Asia and in every corner of the world!

Your class can take part in a way to encourage them as they are sharing the Good News of Jesus by writing them notes thanking them for what they are doing.

Resource Item #18 are cards you can print for them to use or you can use cards you already have.

We at the Alabama State Board of Missions would like to collect cards by December 31, 2025 to send to missionaries that are serving in Alabama, in America and around the world.

You can send your cards to:

**MAIL for Missionaries  
ALSBOM  
PO BOX 681970  
Prattville, Alabama  
36088-1970**



**God at Work  
Through The  
Cooperative Program**  
*Resource Items*



**#1 Black and White World Map with Countries**

**#2 Acts 1:8 Verse Poster (CSB)**

**#3 Matthew 28:19-20 Verse Poster (CSB)**

**#4 Damascus Road Questions**

- What was the name of the man who was hurting followers of Jesus?
- What town was Saul traveling to?
- What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
- What was the name of the disciple who helped Saul?
- How did Ananias help Saul?
- What was Saul's name changed to when he was healed?
- What did Paul do after his eyes were opened and he was no longer blind?

**#5 Toolbox Instructions; Toolbox Pattern; Tool Patterns**

**#6 ABCs of Salvation Poster**

**#7 God at Work in Alabama Map**

**#8 Church Giving Statements**

**#9 What it Takes Posters**

**#10 My Money Helps**

**#11 Alabama State Board of Missions Pictures**

**#12 Alabama State Board of Missions Cards**

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes: The Alabama Baptist Children's Homes provide boys and girls with safe and loving homes.

Disaster Relief: The Yellow Shirt Army is made

up of trained Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who serve in our state and beyond when disasters strike. During the summer of 2024, Alabama Disaster Relief served in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and South Carolina. They helped over 300 families and saw 23 people pray to follow Jesus. One of those saved was a 90-year-old man.

Deaf Ministry: Ministries are provided to help the deaf and hearing impaired be able to worship.

Collegiate Student Ministry (BCM): There are more than 300,000 unreached students on Alabama's college campuses. There are seventeen state missionaries who serve as campus ministers.

Vacation Bible School: Many Vacation Bible Schools are held all of Alabama each summer. VBS leaders are equipped and trained each spring, so they are ready to reach out to students, children, and adults with the Gospel. In 2024, over 3,000 children in Alabama followed Jesus.

Children's Honor Choir: The Children's Honor Choir is 4th through 6th graders who lead in worship each March.

Shocco Springs Conference Center: Shocco Springs seeks to glorify God by providing a Christian camp environment.

The Alabama Baptist: The Alabama Baptist newspaper is a Biweekly newspaper that reports religious stories.

University of Mobile: A Christian college where students learn to follow God's calling on their lives.

Bible Drill: Children and students around Alabama learn all about the Bible and memorize scripture. They then compete in competitions each spring.

ALSBOM: The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions celebrated its 200th birthday in 2024. They help churches tell people about Jesus by providing resources, events, and training. Their office is in Prattville, Alabama. Dr. Rick Lance is the Executive Director.

YMLink: Alabama Baptist Student Ministries sent 150 students on mission to Huntsville, AL to assist with home repairs in the city. In Indiana, they knocked on over 2,000 doors to share about Jesus and saw 41 people choose to follow Him.

Church Planters: There are churches being planted across Alabama. Some of the locations where these churches are ministering to their communities and telling others about Jesus are: Tuscaloosa, Smiths Station, Saraland, Mobile, and Alexander City.

- Over 400 missionaries in America and all over the world are from Alabama.
- Thousands of backpacks are collected and filled with toys, Bibles, and other gifts each Christmas. They are given to very poor children who live by the Mississippi River.
- People who are hungry and do not have a place to sleep are helped by missionaries.
- Alabama Baptists have worked together with other states including Hawaii, Alaska, and Montana to help tell people about Jesus.

#### **#16 God at Work Around the World Map**

#### **#17 Around the World Posters**

#### **#18 Mail for Missionaries**

#### **#13 God at Work Bookmark**

#### **#14 God at Work in America Map**

#### **#15 Fish Cutouts**

- A church planter builds a church in a community where people need to hear the Gospel.
- College students who serve as summer missionaries work all over America during their summer break to tell people about Jesus.
- Over 20,000 students are enrolled in Southern Baptist seminaries (schools for ministers). They are preparing themselves to be ministers in churches.