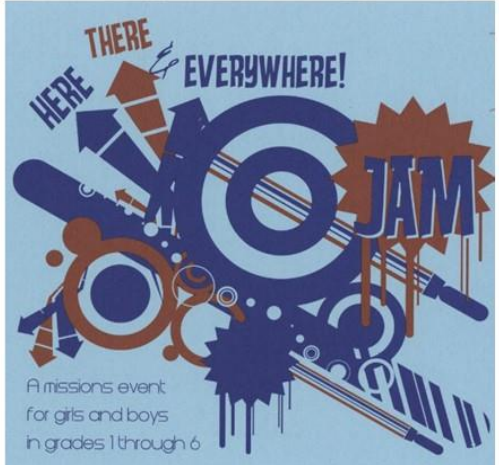
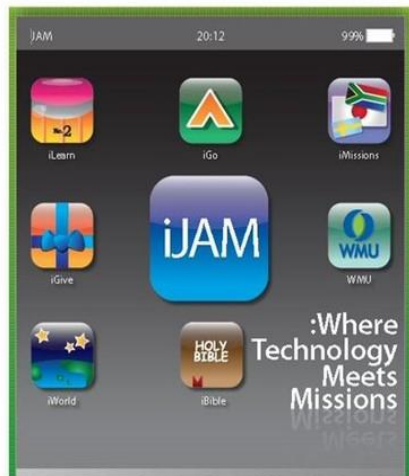


Missions Activities for Children grades 1-6

JAM

Journey into Adventures in Missions



The Best of JAM Kit 2020: Missions Activities for Children in grades 1-6

A resource provided by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 682789, Franklin, TN 37068, www.tnwmu.org.
Compiled and edited by Allison Young, Tennessee WMU Children's Missions Advocate, ayoungresources@gmail.com.

Dear Missions Leaders and Parents,

Tennessee WMU has provided JAM: a missions event for children in grades 1-6 for the past thirty years. Because of staff transitions and the pandemic, we unfortunately weren't able to have JAM events in 2020. We still wanted to provide you a resource to churches, groups, families provide a missions experience for children, so we have taken some of our favorite JAM activities and lessons from past years to bring you the BEST OF JAM Kit. Special thanks to Allison Young for her hard work in pulling all of this together!

Please contact me if you need additional resources and ideas for missions discipleship for children and youth.

Blessings,

Kim Cruse, Tennessee WMU Missions Discipleship Specialist,

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BEST OF JAM ACTIVITIES

The following activities are offered as options for your Best of JAM experience. Feel free to use all of them or just a few. They each have been pulled from or are adapted from a past JAM theme, represented in the title.

Game Options

2006: Winter Blast – Snowflake Code

Supplies: Plain white paper, scissors, pencils, coded message sheet (for each child), decoder poster (these are attached at the end of this document)

Instructions: Using plain white paper and scissors, have children cut out and create their own snowflake. Give each child a coded message sheet. Using a pencil, instruct children to look at the decoder poster to decode their coded message (Answer: TELL ABOUT JESUS).

Once they have finished, encourage children to write the coded message on the snowflake they cut out at the beginning of the activity. Point out that even though the message for everyone is the same, no two snowflakes are alike. The same is true for us; God has made us different and unique, but His message to us is the same – “Tell about Jesus!”

2012: iMissions – Barrier Pictionary

Supplies: iPad with drawing app (if not available or uncomfortable with children using, use a whiteboard or chalkboard)

Instructions: Tell children that there are many barriers that exist in the world which make it hard for people to be able to hear about Jesus. Our goal as believers is to break down these barriers so that everyone can know about Him! In this game, children will each have a turn to draw one of those barriers on the iPad for the rest of the group to guess. You can either whisper the word to them or have it written on a slip of paper. Barriers for children to guess include: *books, law, travel, language, fear, people, silence.*

2014: Mission Possible – Building Churches

Supplies: Legos/blocks/tinker toys

Instructions: Children will compete to build a church “building” using all the items provided. Place two sets of blocks/sticks/Legos on the table and allow two teams to compete to see who can complete a building the fastest. Time the team to see how fast they can accomplish the goal. Allow children to play again if they want to improve their time.

2015: Missions Expedition – Suitcase Scramble

Supplies: Suitcase(s), verse cards

Instructions: Depending on the Bible lesson taught, use the verse discussed in that lesson for this activity. Before the activity, write one or two words of the verse on a separate card and scramble the cards in a suitcase placed on one side of the room. Children must race from the other side of the room to the suitcase to get each card, one at a time. Have children put the verse in order. If help is needed, show the children the card with the reference and encourage them to look it up in the Bible.

2017: Reach Out! – “Out”Reach Challenge

Supplies: 5 numbered boxes/bag with objects inside: canned food (food banks), toothbrush (dental ministry), blanket (housing ministry), book (after school programs), shirt (clothes ministry)

Instructions: Many local churches and associations have different forms of outreach to the community. In this activity, children must reach out their hand into each mystery box/bag and feel the object inside. Each object is something that a church or local ministry might use for outreach to others. Children will need to guess what is inside. When they are correct, they will then explain how that object can help churches tell the good news of Jesus to others. Encourage children to get involved in outreach in their church.

Craft Options

2007: Here, There, & Everywhere! – Encouragement Corner

Supplies: construction paper, envelopes, stamps, pens, pencils, stickers

Instructions: Lead children to write a note of encouragement to a missionary kid going to college in TN. Encourage them to include a scripture verse and decorate with drawings and stickers. (Contact Tennessee WMU for names and addresses.)

2010: Christmas Around the World – Map Ornament

Supplies: Old maps (to cut apart), markers, scissors, multi-colored string, hole punch

Instructions: Provide children a piece of an old map and a pair of cut the map up into whatever shape they desire (star, circle, square, children use multi-colored washi-tape to decorate outline of the Depending on the Bible lesson taught encourage children to use a write the Bible verse from the lesson in the middle of the shape. Use a hole punch to create a hole at the top and thread a piece of string through to create an ornament.



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scissors to
etc.). Let
shape.
marker to

2011: Missions & Me – Best of JAM Puzzle

Supplies: 8 popsicle sticks per child, painters tape, markers

Instructions: Provide children 8 popsicle sticks and have them line them up in a row and tape them down with a strip of painters tape. On the opposite side of the taped sticks, using markers, have children draw a scene from either the Bible lesson or missions story. When they are finished, they can remove the painters tape from the back side and then mix up the popsicle sticks (now puzzle pieces). Encourage them to solve their newly created puzzle by piecing back the drawing.

MEET A MISSIONARY

Coordinate a “virtual” meeting with a missionary through Kim Cruse, Tennessee WMU Missions Discipleship Specialist. Contact kcruse@TNBaptist.org

BEST OF JAM MISSION PROJECT

If your church is involved in a church-wide mission project/collection, get children involved in it so to be consistent in the overall message of this project to the church as a whole. The more involvement in a church-wide, community project, the more impact it will have.

However, if you are looking for a project to get your children involved in, below is the mission project from JAM 2019 which is still a huge need from the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board’s Compassion Ministries arm, especially in light of COVID-19. Click the link for more information.

2019: Let’s Go! – [Christmas Backpacks](#)

BEST OF JAM: Bible Study and Mission Lesson Option 1: 2010 Christmas Around the World



JAM's 2010 theme was *Christmas Around the World*. It was a fun, innovative look at how people around the world celebrate Christmas and share about Jesus' birth. Parts of the following Bible/missions story lesson from that year are included below, while other parts have been updated.

Song Suggestions

- ["Christmas Around the World"](#) by Slugs and Bugs (*This was actually the theme song for JAM 2010!*)
- ["Jesus is the King"](#) by Cool Worship Kids
- Christmas Carols such as: "Joy to the World," "Go Tell It On the Mountain," etc.

Opening Activity – Christmas Charades

Materials: Strips of paper with following phrases: *Christmas caroling, Opening presents, Wrapping a gift, Decorating the Christmas tree, Having a snowball fight, Building a gingerbread house, Hanging Christmas lights, Baking Christmas cookies* (feel free to add extra, if you'd like)

Say: *Christmas is not too far away and for the next few minutes, we will look at how the truths of Christmas apply to us and telling others about Jesus, even when it's not necessarily Christmastime! Let's get into the Christmas spirit, though, by playing Christmas charades. When it's your turn, you will get a Christmas phrase to act out for the rest of us to guess.*

Ask for volunteers. Give them a strip of paper with the Christmas phrase. Play as short or long as you like.

Bible Lesson – Unwrap the Gift

Materials: 2 wrapped gifts

- Label one gift "1" with a tag on the outside that says "To everyone. With love from God." Inside the wrapped gift, have John 3:16 written out.
- Label the other gift "2" with a tag on the outside that says "To every child of God." Inside that wrapped gift, have James 1:17 written out.

First Gift – Say: *We had fun playing that game, and now it's time to open some gifts! They are for everyone. Let's open the first one.* Take gift 1 with John 3:16 in it and read the gift tag. Say: *Who would like to open this first gift?* Have a child come up and take the gift, open it, and read what's inside. Have the children repeat the verse together. Then ask the following questions: *Who gave us this gift? What did He give us? Why did He give everyone this gift? What did (child who took the gift) do to get such a special gift?*

Say: *God gave us His Son, Jesus. He is the reason we celebrate Christmas. God's Son was the first Christmas present ever. God gave us His Son so that He could live a perfect life and then die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. It's a gift offered to everyone. But YOU must take the gift and make it YOURS. No one else can take it for you. Not your leaders, your friends or your parents can take it for you. If you know God gave you Jesus but don't accept the gift, it is not yours. So if you have never admitted you are a sinner and asked Jesus to save you from your sins, you can do that today. You can talk with any leader here and they will be happy to help you.*

Say: *What did the gift tag say? (let them tell you) That's right, this gift is for everyone. So after we receive our gift of Jesus, we need to let everyone in the world know what a special gift God has to give them. And that is just what a missionary does. He/she goes to people who do not know about God's gift and tells them. How awesome is that? Can you be a missionary to your family, friends, and neighbors? Yes, you can tell others about God's gift!*

Second gift – Say: *We have a second gift here, let's see who this is to.* Read the gift tag. Say: *Who is a child of God?* Let the children respond. Say: *We need someone to open the second gift and read it for us.* Choose a child and let them open the gift and read the verse from James 1:17. Say: *What do you think this verse means?* (Let a few children tell you what they think). *That's right. God gives us good things all the time. Can you think of good things He has given you?* Let a few children tell you some things God has given them – keep it short, not long stories.

Say: *Because God loves us as His children, He wants to give us good things. Maybe they are physical things, maybe they are talents or hobbies or skills. God does not have to give us any of these good things, but He wants to. And because we love God, we want to give these good things back to Him. This means we use the gifts he has given us as a way to tell others about Him. Missionaries do this every day. They take the gifts God has given them – speaking ability, medical knowledge, musical talent, and more – to connect with people in America, as well as all over the world to share with them about the love of Jesus.*

Say: *How might you take the gifts God has given to you and use them to share with others about Him and His Son, Jesus?* Allow children to answer if they are comfortable doing so. Encourage children in their responses.

Say: *These are all fantastic ways you can use your gifts to tell others about Jesus. Let's make it our goal to share the gifts God has given us with others so that they can know about THE GREATEST GIFT, Jesus.*

Pray.

Missions Lesson

Materials: Nativity set, world map, TV or computer for mission video

Show nativity set. Say: *How many of you have seen something like this before? What is it, what story does it tell, and who are the people represented?* Allow children to answer. Say: *Nativity sets are pretty popular Christmas decorations for most people and there are many sets that are made in different countries around the world. One of those places is South Asia.* Show on map.

Say: *Watch this video about a craftsman in South Asia who learned from a missionary what this nativity set that he and his family made really meant.*

Show "[Nativity sets lead to ministry.](#)"

*If you do not have the accessibility to show a video, feel free to summarize the story in your own words. More information about this story can be found [here.](#)"

Say: *It's hard to believe that even the person making the nativity set had no idea what it represented! But that is the case for so many people around the world who have little or no access to or knowledge about the gospel (Good News) of Jesus. Missionaries, like the one in today's story, work every day to make sure that the people they meet know about Jesus and how much He loves them. We can thank God for our missionaries and their willingness to obey God and tell others about Him! We can also be inspired to tell those we meet about Him, as well!*

Pray.

BEST OF JAM: Bible Study and Mission Lesson Option 2: 2018 Missions Grand Prix



JAM's 2018 theme was *Missions Grand Prix*. This was a race-car themed event, focused on the race we run to share Jesus with others. Parts of the following Bible/missions story lesson from that year are included below, while other parts have been updated.

Song Suggestions

- ["Stop and Go"](#) by Yancy
- ["GO"](#) by Yancy
- ["This Little Light of Mine"](#) (Listener Kids version)
- ["One Way"](#) by Hillsong Kids

Opening Activity – Red Light/Green Light (True/False Game)

Materials: Two stoplight images (one that has a red light and one that has a green light)

Place the two stoplight images on opposite sides of the room. Say: *Does anyone know what a pit crew does at a racecar race? They fix a racecar while the race is going on. We are going to play a game about pit crews where I am going to read off a few statements and you need to decide whether the statements are true or false. If the statement is true, stand next to the green light; if the statement is false, stand next to the red light.* Allow children to “race” to the lights, but make sure they are careful of their surroundings.

Red Light/Green Light Questions & Answers:

1. A typical IndyCar pit crew involves 6 people. (True, GREEN LIGHT)
2. Pit crews have to train like athletes. (True, GREEN LIGHT)
3. Pit crews move slow. (False, RED LIGHT – they have to move super fast!)
4. The very first thing a pit crew does to a race car is lift it up with airjacks. (True, GREEN LIGHT)
5. Once the racecar is lifted up, the tires come off one at a time. (False, RED LIGHT – all the tires come off at the same time).
6. The pit crew member who takes the tires off the racecar is the same one who puts the new tires on (False, RED LIGHT – there is a separate pit crew member who puts the new tire on immediately after someone else takes the old one off).
7. If an IndyCar racecar runs out of gas, a pit crew member has to fill it with 5 gallons of gas. (False, RED LIGHT – about 19 gallons)
8. A typical IndyCar pit crew can finish their work in 8 seconds (True, GREEN LIGHT)
9. Pit crews wear a t-shirt with their racecar team’s name on it (False, RED LIGHT – they have to wear fire suits!)
10. Pit crews have to use teamwork (True, GREEN LIGHT)

Bible Lesson – Racing to Tell the Good News

Say: *Just like you had to race to complete the game, as believers in Jesus, we should race to complete our job to share His Good News with those who don't know Him!*

Say: *The beginning of Matthew 28 talks about two women – Mary Magdalene and the other Mary – who were told to move fast in order to tell Jesus' disciples some pretty unbelievable news. In order to understand why this news was so unbelievable, though, we must first understand what led up to this point. Before Matthew 28, we see what all happens involving the death and burial of Jesus.*

Ask if there are any children who can summarize what all happened leading up to this point (answers will vary; if not discussed, do summarize Jesus dying on cross as well as being buried in Joseph's tomb). Ask if there are any questions before moving on.

Read Matthew 28:1-10. After reading, ask the following questions:

- *What was the unbelievable news and why is it so unbelievable?*
- *How was the news presented and who presented it?*
- *What would your face look like if you were one of the women who saw all this?*
- *What did the angel tell the women to do? How fast did he ask them to do it?*
- *How fast did the women go and how did they feel?*
- *Who did they see as they left and how do you think that changed their speed?*

Ask someone to run as they normally would run across the room. Say: *This is a normal run, like when you're running to catch up to your friend on the playground.* Ask the same person to run across the room if they had just seen the Lord Jesus standing in front of them. Comment how fast the child moved!

Say: *The two Mary's probably moved about that fast after seeing Jesus; in fact, they probably ran even faster! Not only had they seen a remarkable sight of an angel sitting at the tomb, but they had also heard remarkable news from him – that Jesus, the man they saw die on the cross just three days earlier – had risen, just as He had said He would! It was a miracle! To top that, Jesus appears to them on their way to tell the disciples what they had seen at the tomb!*

Say: *Our goal should be to race to make Christ known. Did the women in Matthew 28 race to make Christ known? They most definitely did! Jesus wants his followers to do the same and make His name known to those who don't know Him. He tells us that later in Matthew 28.*

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Say: *What verbs (action words) does Jesus use in this command? Have you ever heard a parent use some of these words? If your mom told you to "GO" somewhere or to "MAKE" something, would you obey? For sure! If our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for us and miraculously rose again, gives us a command like this using action words such as "GO," "MAKE," "BAPTIZE," and "TEACH" then we should most definitely want to race as fast as a race car to make His name known to those who don't know about Him. That's what every single one of our missionaries do all over the world, all over North America, all over Tennessee, and all over (insert your region/town/etc.).*

Where are some places you could "GO" and tell others about Jesus? Allow for answers. What are some things you could "MAKE" or do to tell others about Him? Allow for answers. Great job! Let these ideas be goals for you as you race to make Jesus known to those who don't know Him.

Pray.

Missions Lesson – The “GO” Offering

Materials: Tennessee map, [Golden Offering logo](#), TV or computer for mission video

Say: Missionaries are on the front lines of going to other places and making Christ known. There are some missionaries who go around the world to make Christ known in different countries. There are also missionaries who go to other cities in the United States to make Christ known.

Show Tennessee map. Point out where you live. *Say: Did you know we have missionaries and missions emphases in our own state? Tennessee is bursting with many missions opportunities and outreaches from way west in Memphis to way east in Bristol! There are so many ways that people in our state are telling others about Jesus! Here are some ways Tennessee Baptists are telling people about Jesus throughout our state: Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Christian Women’s/Men’s Job Corp, planting new churches, Compassion Ministries (such as food pantries, clothes closets, school drives, toy drives, construction, homelessness), prison ministries, retreats/camps, disaster relief, and more! (Feel free to elaborate on these as you see fit. More information can be found at this [link](#).)*

Say: All of these missions outreaches, projects, and missionaries involved in them cannot happen without the support of Tennessee Baptists, which is why we have the GO Offering (better known as the Golden Offering). Watch this video to learn a little bit more about the GO Offering and how it is used.

Show “[What is the Golden Offering](#)”

*If you do not have the accessibility to show a video, feel free to summarize the story in your own words. More information can be found [here](#).

Say: Remember we learned at the beginning of this lesson about pit crews? Who can remind us what a pit crew does? Well, because we live in Tennessee and go to a Tennessee Baptist church, we are part of the Tennessee Baptist pit crew! This means that we are part of a state that believes in working together and “GOING” to spread the good news of Jesus to those who need to hear it! And even though you are a kid, you can still be a part of all that our state is doing in racing to tell this Good News. What are some ways you can be a part? Allow for answers. Say: We can be a part of racing to tell the Good News through serving in a missions outreach or project, praying for Tennessee missions, and also giving to the GO (or Golden) Offering!

Pray.



A B C D E F G H



I J K L M N O P



Q R S T U V W X



Y Z

Using the Snowflake Decoder, solve the coded puzzle below.

