

Do a New Thing

ISAIAH 43:19

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS, CHILDREN STUDENTS & ADULTS

2022-2023 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions

Visit GoldenOffering.org to view the 2022-2023 GOTM promotion videos and resources to supplement and build on the activity ideas below. Many of the activities can be adapted for different age groups.

Activities for Preschoolers

1. Show preschoolers a packet of seeds and a finished plant product like beets, beans, carrots, cucumbers, or radishes. Talk about things seeds need to grow - soil, water, sunlight. Let preschoolers observe or help plant some seeds in a pot. Tell preschoolers that some people "plant" churches. These church planters need helpers, money, and a place to meet. If you do not want to use a pot and soil, you can instead have each preschooler put a bean in a wet paper towel and place it in a Ziploc bag. You can then tape them to the window and see how much they grow in the next few weeks to review church planting and the Golden Offering. To help preschoolers remember to pray for church planters, give each preschooler a seed packet with the name of a church planter in Tennessee on the packet. Say a sentence prayer for the church planters in Tennessee. Contact Bernie Baker at bbaker@tnbaptist.org for the name of a church planter near you.
2. Using coffee or snack cans, make a GOTM offering bank for each preschooler. Precut slits in the plastic lid so that coins and folded bills may be put inside and cut white copy paper the size of each can. Help preschoolers glue the paper onto their can. Guide the preschoolers to decorate their banks with crayons and stickers. Tell preschoolers that the money they save in their banks will go to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions to help missionaries in Tennessee.
3. During your time of emphasis for the Golden Offering, have toys available that go with the different ministries the offering supports. Use the toys to share with your preschoolers about the ministries. You can find a list of ministries the offering supports at GoldenOffering.org under Ministry Allocations. For example: for Disaster Relief, you could use vests, hats, tools, blocks, or Lincoln Logs to help you share about disaster relief ministry and what they do for people during a disaster.

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Activities for Children

1. Invite Disaster Relief volunteers from your church or association to share with your group. Ask them to wear their DR shirts or hats, to bring some equipment for the group to see, and to share about the work they have done (chainsaw, feeding, mud-out, etc.). Give them time to share stories and pictures with the group. After they have shared, gather your group around the volunteers and pray for the ministry, the volunteers, and those to whom they will minister to in the next year. Remind everyone that the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions helps support the ministry of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief.
2. Let children watch the GOTM Kids Video available at GoldenOffering.org. Then have the children create a skit or commercial based on what they learned about the offering and the ministries it supports. Ask your pastor to let the children share their skit during a worship service or video record their skit to show during the service to promote the offering.
3. Have children make reminders to encourage people to pray for and give to the offering. Attach Smarties to small index cards that say, "Be smart. Pray for state missions and give to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions." Have children give the reminders out with offering envelopes before or after a worship service.
4. Email Bernie Baker at bbaker@tnbaptist.org to get the name and contact information of a church planter in Tennessee who is close to your church. Show the children the "What is Church Planting?" video available at GoldenOffering.org. Share the information about the Tennessee church planter and have the kids make cards of encouragement to send to the church planter. If close enough, consider scheduling a visit to go to the church plant. While there, the church planter can share about the church, and your group can pray for the planter, church, and community.
5. Create prayer stations representing some of the stories and prayer requests shared in the videos and Week of Prayer Guide. Additional information can be found at GoldenOffering.org. Put cards with prayer prompts at each station. Play quiet worship music as the children visit the stations as a group, in small groups, or on their own. Close the activity with a time of prayer.

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Activities for Students

1. Review the GOTM theme “Do a New Thing” and the emphasis verse Isaiah 43:19 with your students. Ask them why they think this theme and verse fit the Golden Offering. To gain some ideas to answer the question and understand the theme further, have them watch the “Do a New Thing –Theme Interpretation” and the “GOTM Overview” videos found at GoldenOffering.org under the promotional resources. Have students paint a picture on canvas with the theme and/or emphasis verse on it. Encourage them to hang their painting up in their home or room where they can be reminded to give to the offering, pray for state missions, and serve their community.
2. Invite a BCM director from a Baptist Collegiate Ministry university campus near your church to share with your students about the BCM –ways they are trying to reach students, how the Golden Offering supports the ministry, and ways your students can be praying for the ministry. Or you could arrange to take your students to the university or BCM facility to hear from the BCM director. Visit www.tnbaptist.org/collegiate-ministries to find a BCM near your church.
3. Have students watch several videos from GoldenOffering.org and read the information in the Week of Prayer guide. Talk about the ministries highlighted in the videos or prayer guide. Have students brainstorm other people or situations that could benefit from these ministries and then briefly write each person or scenario on a separate piece of paper. Crumple all paper into balls. Divide the room in half. Line the paper balls in the center of the room. Divide two teams unevenly. Explain that students will have two minutes to try to get all the paper balls onto the opposite side of the room. Students may block, swat, or throw the paper balls. Students may not cross the center line. The side with the most students will most likely win. After the game, explain that it is challenging to minister to everyone when there are so many needs and only a few helping to minister. Divide the teams evenly and play again. Discuss how much easier it is when there are more hands to help. Encourage students to add “extra hands” to these ministries by praying for ministry leaders and those they serve.
4. Ask students to write down any sources of income they have and their amounts (allowance, part-time job, birthday money, etc.) Tell students to think through everything they have spent money on in the last week (coffee, soft drinks, snacks, music, clothes, etc.), and write down those numbers, too. Challenge students to prayerfully consider what they have that they can give or what they could give up so that they can give to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.
5. Show the “Compassion Ministries” video and review some of the facts from the “Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field” flyer available at GoldenOffering.org. Ask students who they see at home, at school, or in their community who are in need and may not know Jesus as their Savior. Ask them to write five names on an index card of people that they think are living without Jesus in their lives. Challenge students to pray for them and for opportunities to share Christ’s love with them. Give students time to pray in pairs or small groups for the people whose names they wrote down.

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Activities for Adults

1. Invite a state missionary to share with your group. You can request a speaker at GoldenOffering.org.
2. Prayer sustains the work of state missionaries and mission efforts in Tennessee. Design a prayer walk or prayer stations using the Week of Prayer Guide, GOTM Highlights & Talking Points, and other resources available at GoldenOffering.org. Create at least five stops or stations with information, needs, prayer requests, pens, and sticky notes. Instruct participants to write a prayer on a sticky note based on the information at the prayer station and then place the note on a focal point in the room or at each prayer station. Display the theme poster with the state goal (\$2.4million) and your church goal. Give participants a copy of the GOTM September monthly prayer calendar, available at GoldenOffering.org, to take-home and use in their daily prayer time.
3. Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief teams respond to difficult crisis situations every year with help and the love of Christ. Invite church or association members who are on a Disaster Relief team to wear their DR shirts and hats at your offering event. Ask one or two volunteers to talk about a recent disaster they worked. Show the "Disaster Relief" video found online at GoldenOffering.org. Share about any upcoming Disaster Relief training in your area. (Check with your association office and visit tndisasterrelief.org.) Pray for the training of new volunteers and the work of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief. Encourage church members to sign up to be trained.
4. Write the phrase "Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field!" across a Tennessee map. Cut the map into a puzzle with the number of pieces appropriate for the size of your group. Have your group assemble the puzzle to reveal the phrase. Show the "Compassion Ministries" video and/or review some of the facts from the "Anyway You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field" flyer, available at GoldenOffering.org. Divide into small groups to pray for our mission field and the ministries supported by the Golden Offering.