

ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS, CHILDREN, STUDENTS & ADULTS

2023-2024 SEASON OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS AND
GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

Visit GOLDENOFFERING.ORG to view the 2023-2024 GOTM promotion videos and resources to supplement and build on the ideas below. Many of the activities can be adapted for different age groups.

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

1. When we talk about state missions and the Golden Offering for Tennessee missions, one of the things that people say is “Any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field.” This means that any way we look at Tennessee there are people who need to know Jesus or who may need our help. What are some things that we slice, cut, or pull apart – apples, oranges, pie, pizza, etc. This next week or month when you or your family eat a slice of pizza, pie, or orange, remember to pray for our mission field in Tennessee.
Here are some suggested activities involving pizza:
 - ★ Have pizza toys in the kitchen play area for them to play with as they share about missions in Tennessee and the Golden Offering.
 - ★ Print out a picture of a pizza and cut it into slices. On each slice of pizza, write the name of a ministry supported by the Golden Offering.
 - ★ Have preschoolers decorate small pizza box banks with “Any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field.” Before decorating the boxes, put a slit in the top of the box for money to fit through and tape the sides of the box together. Tell preschoolers that the money they save in their banks will go to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions to help missionaries in Tennessee. Collect their offering from their boxes at the end of your offering emphasis.
2. During your time of Golden Offering emphasis, have preschoolers play with items that go with the different ministries the offering supports. Use items to share with your preschoolers about the ministries. For example:
 - ★ BlueOval City Initiative - use construction vests, tools, a section of a road map carpet and toy cars and trucks as you share about the new BlueOval City plant being built in West TN and how the Golden Offering will be used to share Jesus with construction workers and all the new people moving to the area.
 - ★ Disaster Relief Ministries - use vests, hats, tools or building blocks to help share about disaster relief ministries and how they help people during a disaster.



ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

3. Share pictures that represent some of the ministries that the Golden Offering supports. After using the pictures to talk about the different ministries, lay the pictures around the room. Call out one of the ministries or something that one of the ministries does and have the children go to the picture that goes with the ministry you called out. For example, a toolbox or chainsaw picture could be used for Disaster Relief.
4. Download and print copies of the coloring page of the state of Tennessee with the All Things Tennessee theme or the coloring page of the GOTM logo. Have preschoolers color a page and take it home to put up somewhere in the house to help them remember to give to the Golden Offering or hang all the colored pictures somewhere the whole church can see to remind everyone to give.
5. 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.



ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

1. Invite someone from one of the ministries that the Golden Offering supports to come and talk to your group about their ministry. After they have shared, have the children circle around them and pray for them and their ministry.
2. When we talk about state missions and the Golden Offering for Tennessee missions, one of the things that people say is “Any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field.” This means that any way we look at Tennessee there are people who need to know Jesus or who may need our help. Discuss and show examples of things we slice, cut, or pull apart – apples, oranges, pie, pizza, etc. Share some of the child appropriate facts from the Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyers that show that any way we look at Tennessee it is a mission field. Here are some suggested activities.
 - ★ 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 and age of your group.
 - ★ Have a pizza party with some fun games or music and share about the Golden Offering and the ministries it supports.
 - ★ Put a few orange or apple slices in sandwich baggies with a note attached to the bag that says “Please support the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Any way you slice it, Tennessee IS a mission field.” Have the children hand out bags of fruit slices at the end of a church service to remind everyone to give to the Golden Offering.
3. Create prayer stations representing some of the stories, ministries and prayer requests shared in the videos, Week of Prayer Guide, and other information found at GoldenOffering.org. Put cards with prayer prompts at each station. Children can visit the stations as a group, in small groups, or on their own to learn about each area or ministry and then pray for specific needs/requests. You could have a volunteer or two at each prayer station sharing the information with the children. Close the activity with a time of prayer.
4. Use the information in the GOTM Scavenger Hunt downloadable file found at GoldenOffering.org to create a scavenger hunt for your children to learn about ministries supported by the Golden Offering. Children can work together or in teams to find all the clues. At the end of the hunt, you can have a prize for the group or for the team that finishes first.
5. 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.



ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

1. Ask your students, what do you think of when you hear the word Tennessee? Then ask them, what are your favorite things about Tennessee? Tell the students that this year's theme for the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is All Things Tennessee. Tennessee is a mission field. Share some of the statistics from the Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyers. The money we give through the Golden Offering goes to ministries that are helping to shine the light of Jesus in our state. Select one of the Golden Offering videos to show students and then discuss how needs are being met and Jesus is being shared by the highlighted ministry. Suggested videos:
 - ★ Baptist Collegiate Ministries: UT-Chattanooga (4:47) - College is a time of transition for students who are preparing for their life as adults. Baptist Collegiate Ministries are at the heart of helping them find their way spiritually by both reaching college students with the gospel and preparing them to be missionaries in both the marketplace and in vocational ministry.
 - ★ Christian Women Job Corps: Champion Recovery Community (3:56) - Sometimes people just need help with a new start in life. Christian Women's Job Corps addresses several needs people have including their spiritual need to know Christ.
 - ★ BlueOval City Opportunity (2:45) - Ford is building the nation's largest automobile plant in America in Haywood County to manufacture the all-electric F-150 Lightning truck. The population in the region is expected to increase by 90,000 over the next 10 years. Tennessee Baptists has an unprecedented opportunity to make Christ known to thousands of people, many who have never heard of Him.
2. Make several different size circles on the floor. You will show the group that you want them to start with the biggest circle and try to fit everyone in when you say go. They have one minute to do it. Have the group do it again but with a smaller circle. You can repeat this with as many circles as you like. Then to finish the game they will have a super tiny circle they will try to fit everyone into in a minute. You will then ask them to share what was easy about this game and what was hard. Sharing Christ with others can be uncomfortable. It may force us out of our comfort zone. Do you think that the ministries supported by the Golden Offering were easy to start or are easy to do? Some people might find these ministries hard, scary or a challenge to do, but we must remember that all things are possible with God. What may God be asking you to step outside of your comfort zone to do? Maybe it is giving your Starbucks money to the Golden offering. Maybe it is serving in a ministry at church or in the community. He could be asking you to share your faith with someone at school or on your ball team. Or maybe God is showing you what He wants you to do with your life for Him. Will you step outside your comfort zone to do His will?



ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

3. 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.
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 flyers 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.



ALL THINGS TENNESSEE



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT...TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD.

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. Display the theme poster with the state goal (\$2.7 million) 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. 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 flyers available at GoldenOffering.org. Divide into small groups to pray for our mission field and the ministries supported by the Golden Offering.
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 your group the Myth Busters: Church Planting Edition video available at GoldenOffering.org. Share the information about the Tennessee church planter and have the group 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. Christian Job Corps, a Tennessee WMU ministry, teaches women and men job skills and life skills so they can earn a living and care for their families. Give each adult or small group a piece of paper with the letters A- Z. written down on the side of the paper. Tell everyone they have one minute to write down a job/occupation that begins with each letter (A - actor, B - barista, C - carpenter, etc.). Call time, review the jobs listed, and recognize the person or group listed the most jobs. Choose a few of the occupations to discuss what skills would be needed for each job and how a person would learn those skills. Explain that CJC sites teach job and life skills, English Language Learning, addiction recovery, and help students get their GED. The most important thing taught is the hope they can find in Jesus through Bible studies and mentorship. Show the GOTM video Christian Women Job Corps: Champion Recovery Community found at GoldenOffering.org. Close in a time of prayer for the 19 CJC sites in Tennessee – information can be found at www.tnbaptist.org/cwj-cmjc.

