



LESSON PLANS



Pre-K
HAPPY TRAILS

We are
Mission KY!



EBO MISSION STUDY FOR PRESCHOOL

Written by Denise Gardner

September 2023

Scripture

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

2023 Theme

We are MissionKY

About the theme: God has placed you where you are to proclaim His excellencies all around you. From equestrians to racing fans, from the local church to the nations next door, Kentucky Baptists are His people, shining the light of Christ in the darkness. We are Chosen. We are Commissioned. We are MissionKY.

SESSION GOALS

Preschoolers will learn about Happy Trails Ministry through story and play. They will learn the importance of telling people about Jesus.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Chris Clarke is a Mission Service Corp missionary through the Kentucky Baptist Convention and ministers through the equestrian ministry, Happy Trails Ministry. Chris serves as a Cowboy Church Chaplain. He leads early morning worship services at horse shows. Chris says, “We literally take the gospel message TO THE PEOPLE.” Matthew 28:19-20 tells Christians to GO. Chris is being obedient to God’s command to GO into all the world and share with all people groups the Gospel of Jesus Christ, believing that as we are faithful to go and sow seeds into His Kingdom, He will bless those efforts and bring forth an abundant harvest. Chris shares the basic truths of the Gospel in a language which horse people can understand. He uses “horsey” parallels. Chris even uses his horse, Chip to show people a better understanding of Biblical principles as it’s presented in a unique way. Chris encourages folks to get involved in a church “back home.” For those living in western Kentucky, he extends invitations to attend Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church, which he pastors.

Chris would like to introduce, *Barry. Barry and Chris have known each other for many years. Barry rarely attended church, but Chris and Barry connected through horses. Chris continually encouraged Barry to attend the cowboy church. He would come a few times, but nothing really seemed to speak to Barry. Then Barry’s wife passed away; Chris was asked to assist with the funeral. In the days and weeks following the funeral, Chris would call and check on Barry. He would assure Barry of his prayers. Chris was being a pastor to Barry. Barry began attending church regularly and assured

Chris that he has a personal relationship with Jesus. Chris was able to connect with Barry because of a shared interest in horses. Because Chris reached out in compassion during a time of need, Barry rarely misses church at Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church in Draffenville. Barry is being fed spiritually as he grows and serves.

When you give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky missions, you are providing diesel fuel for travel, Cowboy New Testaments and ministry liability insurance for the ministry as Chris shares about Jesus.

Contact information:

Chris Clarke
Happy Trails Ministry
P. O. Box 907
Nortonville, KY 42442
wcclarke1@gmail.com

SESSION PREPARATION

- Print photographs of Chris Clarke and Chip, his horse.
- Cardstock (white or light green)
- Brown washable paint
- Black marker
- Toy horses, barn and blocks
- Water table with raw shelled corn or wheat
- Toy shovels, scoops, measuring cups
- Small buckets
- Eliza Broadus Offering envelopes (1 per child)

SESSION PLANS

OPENING ACTIVITY: Interest Areas. As preschoolers enter the classroom, direct each child to one of the following interest areas; the Nature Area, Art Area, or Block Area. Decide how you will direct the preschoolers: Will each child choose an area or will the child be directed to an area. It would be best if a teacher could lead at each area. If you only have 2 teachers, then each teacher can move from area to area engaging children. Another option is to move as a group to each area. Choose what is best for your situation. Questions and comments are included under each area to help lead conversation about equestrian ministry.

Art: Handprint Horse

Preparation: Secure washable paint, cardstock paper and markers.

This activity is very simple. The first step is to paint the child's hand completely with brown paint. Next, press the painted hand on white cardstock, after allowing the print to dry, then add with a black marker hooves, eyes, and hair (tail and mane).

Tip: A hair blow-dryer will be helpful if drying time is an issue.

Questions or comments: Say: *Have you ridden a horse? Today our story is about a pastor who has a horse named Chip. Pastor Chris and Chip go to weekend horse shows and tell people about Jesus. Pastor Chris is called a chaplain. A chaplain is like a pastor in a workplace. Hospitals, police and fire stations, the military (army, navy, coast guard, air force), or a school are workplaces where you might find a chaplain.*

Blocks: Horse Show

Preparation: Secure toy horses to use with the blocks.

Encourage children to build a horse lot and barn for the horses and hold a Horse Show. To help children understand what a simple horse show looks like; Show the children the following YouTube which shows a simple horse show.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/-3w2QjY74oU?feature=share>

Questions or comments: Say: *I think it would be fun to go to a Horse Show. Pastor Chris goes to horse shows and he tells people about Jesus. He also takes his horse, Chip with him.*

****Important: Check allergies !**

Share with the children of **ONE rule to participate in the corn table: the corn stays in the table.** Remind the children of this rule as they play and learn (over and over!)

Nature: Corn Table

Preparation: Secure a sand/water table from your church or a plastic bin. Place raw dried corn in the table/bin. Add scoops or measuring cups and small buckets (Small buckets can be purchased from Dollar Tree). Another option to include in the corn table is a tractor with a wagon or an open semi trailer truck. Children will have fun filling the wagon or truck with corn.

Questions or comments: Say: *Do you know that horses love to eat corn? Who likes to eat corn? When you eat corn, does it look and feel like this corn? Who made all the vegetables and animals? Yes, God created everything that in our world - corn and horses!*

Transition: As each child completes one activity encourage that child to move to another until all areas are complete. Encourage taking turns with the corn table. Give children a warning approximately 5 minutes before it is time to transition to **Group Time.** Begin assigning each child a job to help with cleaning up and transitioning to group time. As a child completes the cleanup job, direct that child to the area for Group Time.

GROUP TIME

Tell the story of Chris Clarke, pastor of Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church and founder of Happy Trails Ministry. Use the photograph of Chris and Chip as you tell the story.

STORY TIME

Tell the story. *Boys and girls, I would like to tell you about a cowboy named Chris Clarke. This cowboy is a pastor, and he travels to horse shows just to tell people about Jesus. Pastor Chris started going to horse shows when his daughter started riding her horse in shows. Horse shows are competitions where riders can show what their horse can do. Most horse shows are on the weekends, which is the same time that you and I go to church. How would someone who is showing a horse go to church? Pastor Chris realized that people going to horse shows needed a church too. That's when Pastor Chris heard God telling him that he could bring the church to the horse shows. Pastor Chris attends horse shows with his horse, Chip. He makes friends at the horse shows and prays with anyone who tells him of their needs.*

*Let me tell you about one of those friends! His name is *Barry. Chris has known Barry for many years, but Barry did not go to church. But Chris and Barry connected through horses. Pastor Chris continually encouraged Barry to attend the cowboy church. He would come a few times, but church didn't seem to be something Barry wanted to attend. Then Barry's wife died. Since Barry did not know a pastor other than Chris, Barry asked Pastor Chris to help with the funeral. In the days and weeks following the funeral, Pastor Chris would call and check on Barry. He would pray for Barry. Chris was being a pastor to Barry. Barry began attending church regularly and told Pastor Chris that he loved Jesus. Barry rarely misses church at Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church in Draffenville, Kentucky. Barry is learning and growing in his faith.*

Pastor Chris also provides an early morning worship service for people coming to the horse show and gives Cowboy Bibles to anyone that needs a Bible. Pastor Chris' church also has a children's church called "Cowboy Church, Jr."

CLOSING

Say: You and I can help Pastor Chris tell people about Jesus. We can't go to Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church. We don't live in Draffenville, Kentucky. But we can still help Pastor Chris. We can give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. Pastor Chris receives money from that offering to purchase the Cowboy Bibles that he gives to people. So, you and I can give to the Eliza Broadus Offering. I'm going to give you an envelope to give money to help Pastor Chris buy the Cowboy Bibles. Pastor Chris also uses some of the money to buy gas for his truck to go to the horse shows to tell people about Jesus. [Give each child an envelope and tell the adult that picks up the child about the offering, so they can help the child give an offering.]

You and I can also pray for Pastor Chris. Pastor Chris asked that we pray

- for good health for his wife, Shelia and him.*
- for safety as he travels with Chip*
- that the Spirit of God will go before him preparing the hearts of people who need to hear about Jesus' love.*

Let's pray for Pastor Chris.

Dear Jesus, thank you for Pastor Chris. Help Pastor Chris and Shelia stay healthy. Give him safety when he travel to horse shows to tell about You, Jesus. Jesus, show your love to the people Pastor Chris talks to. Amen

About the Eliza Broadus Offering (EBO):

These are our neighbors, friends, & family shining the gospel of hope in the darkness of a fallen world. 100% of your generosity enables Gospel transformation in your neighborhoods.

Optional Activities:

The Horse Show

Pinterest has several articles on making Pool noodle horses. To watch a video of making a pool noodle horse, click on <https://pin.it/4TLvcFl>
Secure a pool noodle (1 per child), ribbon, curly ribbon or yarn (for the mane), big google eyes (2) for each child.

Videos of Chris Clarke and his horse, Chip

Chip saying his prayer before he eats his breakfast,
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/142G51vT7oMnQfX3yO188yTC69E-pGyfq/view?usp=drivesdk>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gqq00nkG11n3mGrGBsBKc1dD0JjXtNYK/view?usp=drivesdk>

Note: the video of Chip saying his prayer is a short video and perfect to show preschoolers. The second video is approximately 25 minutes and good for the leader to watch for more information on how Pastor Chris shares his faith using his horse, Chip.

