

DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING

CHILDREN LESSON PLAN

PARENT'S PAGE

Below you'll find a story to share with your child, as well as a brief prayer guide and suggestions for some fun activities you can do together that will help you: 1) Think about God's power to do immeasurably more than we could ever ask or even imagine, and 2) Engage with the 2020 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer. Scroll down to the last page to find activity prompts and instructions. Links and printables are included.

Find out more about the 2020 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer, and learn about missions pioneer Mrs. Jackson herself, through resources available at absc.org/dixiejackson.

LEARN TOGETHER

What's the very biggest thing you can think of? An elephant? A whale? The world? The whole universe?

The Bible tells us that God's power is the biggest, strongest power there is. No matter how huge we think it is, it's even bigger than that! It's bigger than the very biggest thing we can imagine!

The Bible is divided into two main parts. Help me remember—what are they called?

In the book of Ephesians, which is in the New Testament, there are a couple verses that tell us something really important about God's power. Let's find them and read them together.

"With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. To him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen."
(Ephesians 3:20-21) —*International Children's Bible*

Ephesians is actually a letter. A follower of Jesus named Paul wrote it to Christians in a town called Ephesus. Paul knew a lot about God's power because he had seen it for himself, lots of times. The church in

Ephesus was still pretty new, and Paul wanted to share as much as he could with them to help them get to know God better.

In Ephesians, Paul tells us so many cool things about God. The verses we read from chapter 3 promise that when Jesus lives in our heart, God's mighty power lives inside of us, too. With God's power inside of us, we can do anything He asks us to do! And one of the most important things God asks us to do is to tell others about Jesus.

There are churches in Arkansas that are pretty new, just like the church in Ephesus that Paul was writing to. We call them church plants. They're started by folks who want to obey God by telling others about Jesus in places where new churches are needed. Every year, Arkansas Baptists set aside a special time to collect an offering and pray together for church plants in our state.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer helps church plants like Oasis Church, which was started by three friends in Little Rock. Jordan Bowen, Kent Wiles and Pranay Borde believed that God was asking them to plant a church in the Hillcrest neighborhood where people from different cultures

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could worship and learn about Jesus together. These guys were excited to obey God, even though there weren't any spaces available for their new church.

They trusted God to do much, much more than anything they could ask or think of, and God did! Woodlawn Baptist Pastor Mitch Tapson worked with the Oasis team to find a way to share his church building. And now Oasis Church is growing and sharing Jesus with people from all over the world!

Money we give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering helps grow church plants like Oasis. It also pays for ministries that help college students learn about Jesus, study materials for prisoners who want to become missionaries, and resources to repair homes that are torn up during severe weather.

A little later in Ephesians, Paul tells us that followers of Jesus are actually one big Church, like a giant family. God loves for us to work together with other Christians to help make sure everyone has a chance to know Him. The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer gives us a chance to do that. If God's power can do immeasurably more through one person, just think what He could do through Arkansas Baptists working together!

PRAY TOGETHER

Let's talk to God about the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer:

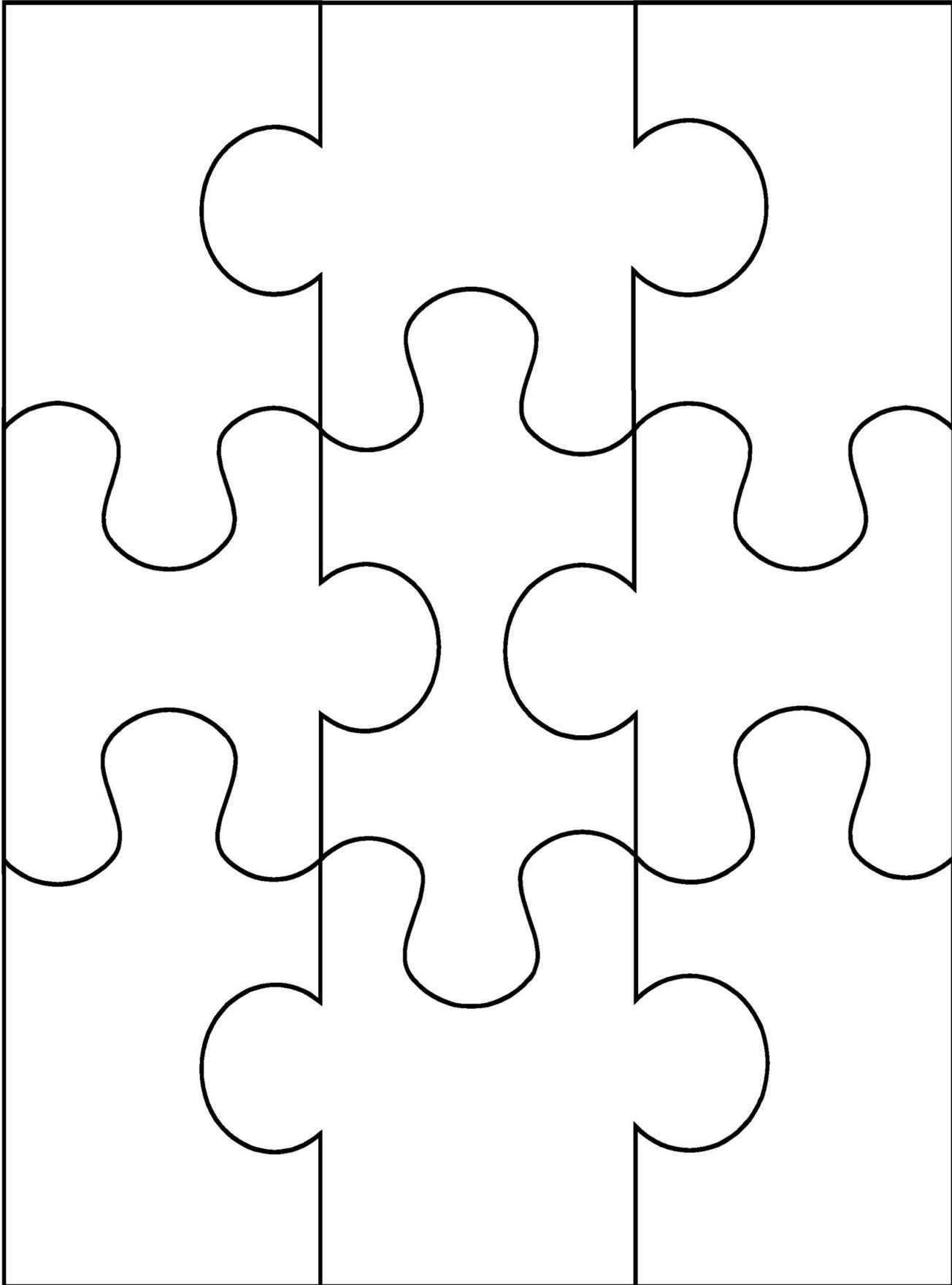
- How can we help? Let's pray about it, and then see if we can come up with three things we can do to get involved.
- How can we encourage Oasis Church, especially the kids who are learning about Jesus there? Let's promise to pray for them this year, and ask God to show us something we can do to serve them.
- How does God want us to be missionaries in our own town? There are lots of people in need right now, but it can be hard to know how to help. Let's remember that God's power working in us can do anything, and ask Him to show us how we can share His love by serving others.

PLAY TOGETHER

- When Paul talks about God's power, we should pay really close attention. Because this is a guy who knows from experience what he's talking about. Share this video with your child about Paul's ministry, which began with a supernatural encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. You can find several on YouTube, such as these two: youtu.be/R0p0W_Zbt1s or youtube.com/watch?v=jkXvfiB8LIE.
- The Bible tells us that memorizing Scripture is an important part of growing our spiritual muscles (for example, Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12). Here's a fun way for you and your child to memorize **Ephesians 3:20** together: Print out the attached puzzle template and ask your child to write the verse on it, using crayons or markers to make the words big, bright, and colorful. Then cut out the puzzle pieces and work together to reassemble them. (To give your puzzle some staying power, use a glue stick to attach it to a thin piece of cardboard.)
- One of the most vivid reminders we have of God's awesome power is a huge night sky filled with stars. When you're ready for bedtime prayers, take a blanket out in the backyard and spend a few minutes stargazing. Encourage your child to think about how kids all over the country are looking at those very same stars. In fact, the sky is so huge that it's also bringing daytime to kids in other parts of the world! And as big as the sky is, God's power is even bigger! Reflect on that truth together as you say your prayers.
- Your child might find the idea of God's power living inside of us to be a little abstract, but a visual using a plastic drinking straw and a stick can help. By itself, the straw isn't very strong; invite your child to demonstrate by bending the straw and even tying it in a knot. But when you insert the stick into the straw, the straw becomes stronger. God's power living inside of us makes us stronger, too! (Watch object lesson demonstrated by **Laurie Donahue** here: vimeo.com/107591477.)
- The "**Pray for Oasis Church**" printable will help your child find Little Rock on the map and offer your family

some prompts as you pray for this Central Arkansas church plant, one of several supported by the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Invite your child to color it, then decide together where you'll display it as a reminder to pray for Oasis Church this year.

- How is a church plant like a *plant*-plant? Find out by helping your child grow something of their own. Choose a spot in your yard or fill a container with potting soil; plant seeds or a seedling. Whatever's easy. (hgvtv.com has some ideas including snap peas, marigolds, and cherry tomatoes.) Tend it together, and talk about what's needed to help it flourish: water, sun, drainage, pruning. Can you think of some ways our prayers and offerings can help a church plant grow?
- Oasis is a multicultural church plant reaching out to people from all over the world who now live in Hillcrest. It's cool to learn new things about other cultures, but it's also fun to learn about things we have in common. Oasis Pastor Pranay Borde grew up in India. Children in his home country play hopscotch, except with a twist. Give it a try! Use tape or sidewalk chalk to make a simple three-box pattern. Toss a small, flat rock into the first square. Hop into the square on one foot, then use your hopping foot to kick the rock into the second square. Hop into the second square on the same foot, and with the same foot, kick the rock into the third square. Hop into the third square on the same foot and pick up the rock. First player to hop through all three squares on the same foot and retrieve the rock is the winner. But be careful: If you miss a square, lose your balance or step on a line, it's back to Square One! (From childrensministry.com)



LET'S PRAY FOR OASIS CHURCH!



A new multicultural church plant sharing Jesus in the Hillcrest neighborhood of Little Rock



Pray for Oasis Church to be a light for Jesus in Hillcrest.



Pray for Oasis Pastors Jordan Bowen, Kent Wiles, and Pranay Borde, who are teaching others about Jesus.



Give thanks for all the people of different cultures who are coming to know Jesus at Oasis Church.