WMU: Making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

Why Missions Discipleship Is Important for Preschoolers

> "How awesome it is to watch God work in the hearts of these little ones and see them grow in Christ." - Roberta Richardson

> "Those little folks exude excitement when they learn about Jesus and pray for the missionaries!"

- Mission Friends teacher

The journey to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission begins as you lead your preschoolers to grow in missions. Preschoolers come to understand that God loves me, God loves all people, and some people do not know about God's love.

#### Preschoolers can learn about missions through

- Bible thoughts related to missions,
- fun hands-on activities,
- mission stories,
- cultural learning activities,
- sensory activities,
- prayertimes,
- giving offerings, and
- helping others.



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WMU: Making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

## What is Mission Friends?



**Mission Friends** is the WMU missions discipleship group for preschoolers from birth through kindergarten. In Mission Friends, preschoolers develop a missions heart as they move from a focus on themselves to a focus on others. Preschoolers grow toward God as they become aware that God wants everyone to know of His love.

You can teach your preschoolers about missions by helping them

- learn about missions work in North America and around the world,
- pray for missionaries and people who need to hear of God's love,
- give to missions through cooperative giving and special missions offerings, and
- do missions by helping others in your church, your community, and around the world.

For more information about starting Mission Friends, visit <u>wmu.com/preschool</u>.

**To learn more** about leading Mission Friends, visit <u>wmu.com/howtoleadpreschool</u>.

#### Join our Facebook community: facebook.com/WMUPreschool

#### **How to Start Mission Friends**

#### • Begin with prayer.

Make prayer a part of each step in starting and leading Mission Friends.

• Select leaders.

Based on the number of preschoolers expected, secure the number of leaders you will need.

#### Order materials.

Place your order for Mission Friends curriculum by visiting wmustore.com/ preschool or calling 1-800-968-7301.

#### · Invite preschoolers.

Let parents of preschoolers know Mission Friends is starting by sharing in your church newsletter and on social media.

#### • Enjoy!

Plan fun activities from *Mission Friends Leader* for your first session and gather supplies. Greet preschoolers with a smile and enjoy leading them to develop a heart for missions.



#### We're here to help!

For questions about starting or leading Mission Friends:

National WMU: Contact Joye Smith, ministry consultant, at jsmith@wmu.org or (205) 991-4980.

State WMU: Find links to state WMU websites at wmu.com/statecontacts.

Contact your local Baptist association, your state WMU office, or national WMU for training opportunities.

## Resources for Preschoolers



Our resources for preschool teachers will help you engage preschoolers of all ages in hands-on missions awareness and involvement.



#### **Mission Friends Leader**

This quarterly magazine provides weekly sessions with creative activities and mission stories. Every month, preschoolers learn about missionaries who serve through North American or international missions. Each monthly unit also focuses on one of the Christian concept areas: God, Jesus, Bible, Church, God's Creation, Self, Family, World, or Community.

*Mission Friends Leader* includes reproducible pages (Mission Friends at Home) to share with families as take-home leaflets.

Order one per leader.

Annual subscription (four quarterly issues):

- Print: \$26.99
- Digital: \$24.99
- Digital/print bundle: \$30.99



#### **Mission Friends Leader Kit**

Energize your preschool classes with games, picture puzzles, posters, Bible thought markers, and more. You'll also receive vibrant photos of missionaries and the places where they serve. The kit complements the learning experiences in *Mission Friends Leader*.

Order one per group. Annual subscription (4 quarterly print issues): \$84.99

For a full listing of all resources available to enhance preschool missions experiences—including preschool storybooks—visit <u>wmustore.com/preschool</u>.



#### **New Customers: Save 20% Today!**

Ready to get started and be on mission? **Enjoy 20% savings** on your **new curriculum order** by calling WMU Customer Service at 1-800-968-7301, Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. CT. Be sure to mention promo code **START20**. (Some restrictions apply. Discount not available at <u>wmustore.com</u>.)

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#### Meet the Missionaries



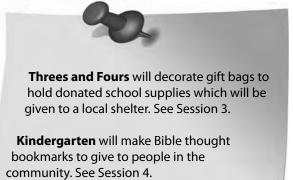
Kerry and Twyla Jackson live in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jackson was involved in Royal Ambassadors (RA) when he was a young boy. He has also been involved in several missions leadership roles after he attended seminary (Bible college). Mr. Jackson and his wife started a new church in both Atlanta and Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Jackson does live art presentations where he creates art as he shares about Jesus. The Jacksons serve God by sharing about Jesus through art, and by leading and teaching other creative people.

Mrs. Jackson attended Girls in Action (GA) and Acteens when she was younger. She helps her husband as he shares art and his love of Jesus with the people around him. Mrs. Jackson is a dietician who helps people to learn about and eat healthy foods. She also teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bible studies to people who move to Atlanta from other countries.

Visit wmu.com/preschool for more information and activities.

NEW: See select activity sketches on page 9.

#### Missions Area: Atlanta, Georgia Concept Area: Community Writer: Andrea Floyd



#### Prayer Requests and Contact Information

- 1. Pray for Mr. Jackson to have many opportunities to share about Jesus through his art ministry.
- 2. Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Jackson as they tell other people about Jesus.
- 3. Pray for ministry partners to join with Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and help them as they use art to teach others about Jesus.
- 4. Pray for Mrs. Jackson as she teaches English as a Second Language and Bible studies to people who have moved to Atlanta from other countries.
- 5. Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Jackson to be strong and healthy.

Address: 1704 Summit Village Lane Marietta, GA 30066 Email address: kbj@bellsouth.net, twyladj@bellsouth.net Website/blog: www.drawingtotherock.com

Note: Extra Activities are available as Free Downloads. Visit wmu.com/preschool and click on the Free Downloads tab.

## Activities and Ideas

Babies, Ones, and Twos

#### **Missions Area:**

Atlanta, Georgia

#### **Concept Area:**

Community

Writer: Janora Skeens

#### Supplies

Pictures 1-4\* Kit items 1, 2\* Mission Friends Digital Package,\* E238101, \$8.99 community helper dress-up clothes toy fire truck, police car, and ambulance toy community helper figures toy vehicles for babies butcher paper large crayons 2–6–piece wooden community helper puzzles gift bags packages of large chalk house paint brushes bean bags

#### Books

In My Community / En mi comunidad,\* E188107, \$1.99

Display the "community" poster from the Mission Friends Digital Package all month.

Songs are from Sing to the Tune.\*

#### Outcomes

Babies, ones, and twos will learn about missionaries Kerry and Twyla Jackson. They will hear about people who have different kinds of work to do.

#### **Bible Thoughts**

Help one another (see Gal. 5:13). We are helpers (see 2 Cor. 1:24).

#### Activities

#### **Dress Up as Helpers**

Provide community helper dress-up clothes for ones and twos to wear. Talk about work the helpers do. Say: Kerry Jackson draws pictures to help people learn about Jesus.

Open the Bible and read: Help one another (see Gal. 5:13).

#### **Community Helper Play**

In advance, prepare kit item 1, "Bible Thought Markers." Place in a Bible.

Provide a toy fire truck, police car, ambulance, community helper figures, and blocks. Give a baby a vehicle to hold. Share that Kerry and Twyla Jackson help people learn about Jesus. Read Bible thoughts as preschoolers remove markers. **Open the Bible and read:** Help one another (see Gal. 5:13) and We are helpers (see 2 Cor. 1:24).

#### **Color with Crayons**

In advance, tape white butcher paper over a section of the floor.

Give ones and twos large crayons to color on the paper. Talk about Mr. Jackson's work as an artist. Mention that he tells people about Jesus as he paints pictures. Show Pictures 1-4.

#### Look at Books

Picture read *In My Community*. Hold a baby and point to helpers in the book. Explain that Mr. Jackson is a helper who tells people about Jesus.

#### **Work Community Helper Puzzles**

Set out 2–6–piece wooden puzzles about helpers. Talk about Mr. and Mrs. Jackson being helpers in their community. Sing "Helpers Kind and Good," page 31. **Open the Bible and read:** We are helpers (see 2 Cor. 1:24).

#### Look at Art Supplies

**In advance,** fill gift bags with art supplies (crayons, paper, colored chalk, and house paint brushes).

As ones and twos dump out art items, talk about missionary artist Kerry Jackson. Explain each item. Share that Mr. Jackson helps people learn about Jesus. **Caution:** Supervise carefully.

#### Play a Toss Game

In advance, prepare kit item 2, "Helper Hats Toss Game."

Let ones and twos toss bean bags onto pictures. Ask them to name the helper where the bean bag lands. Sing "What Helper Wears a Hat?," page 31.

Plan several activities each week. Babies, ones, and twos love repetition!

#### Outcomes

Preschoolers will meet Kerry and Twyla Jackson, missionaries to artistic people in Atlanta. Focusing on the concept of **community**, preschoolers will hear that missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.

#### Activities

#### **ART—Easel Painting**

**In advance,** secure a large box to the table. Use clothespins to clip paper on the four box sides. Add paint to paint containers.

Discuss Picture 2. Let preschoolers paint at the box easel. Say: Mr. Jackson paints pictures and uses his art to tell others about God and Jesus. **Tip:** See sketch on page 9.

#### **BLOCKS**—Airport Trips

**In advance,** search online for pictures of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Show pictures. While preschoolers build an airport with blocks and toy airplanes, say: Mr. Jackson is an artist. He travels by plane to different places where he paints pictures about Jesus.

#### **BOOKS**—Bible Study

Display a Bible and preschool Bible teaching pictures. As preschoolers choose a picture, find the story in the Bible and retell it. Say: Mrs. Jackson leads a Bible study at church for people from other countries.

#### **HOMELIVING—Healthy Meals**

In advance, prepare kit item 4, "Healthy Foods Checklist."

Provide toy pots, dishes, and foods. Help preschoolers read the checklist and mark off items they add to meals. Say: You are making healthy meals. Mrs. Jackson is a dietitian who teaches people in her community how to make healthy food choices.

#### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT—The Jacksons Go

Sing "Missionaries Go," page 34, while marching around the room. Say: The Jacksons travel to different communities to help artistic people learn about God and Jesus.

#### NATURE—Compare Fruit

Post the allergy alert chart. Allow preschoolers to help wash the peach and apple. Slice the fruit. Compare the seeds as preschoolers taste the fruit. Say: Peaches grow in Georgia. The Jacksons want people in Georgia to know about God and Jesus.

**Open the Bible and read:** God is good to us (see Psalm 73:1). **Caution:** Keep knife away from preschoolers.

#### PUZZLES AND MANIPULATIVES—Match Creative Tools

**In advance,** prepare kit item 3, "Creative Tools Game." Invite preschoolers to match creative people with their tools. Say: Mr. Jackson uses his artistic abilities to tell creative people about God and Jesus.

See page 8 for Group Time and story.

### **Session 1**

Threes and Fours

Missions Area: Atlanta, Georgia Choose three to four interest area activities for each session.

**Concept Area:** Community

Writer: Brenda Morris

#### Supplies

Picture 2\* Kit items 3, 4\* Mission Friends Digital Package,\* E238101, \$8.99 "Mission Friends at Home" (p. 10-11) large box thick paper clothespins tempera paint paint brushes electronic tablet toy airplanes preschool Bible teaching pictures play food dry erase pens and erasers peach and apple knife (leader use only) **Collect supplies** for Group Time: needed for worship music each activity you've paper chosen to lead. crayons scarves

#### **Bible Thoughts**

God is good to us (see Psalm 73:1).

Display the "community" poster from the Mission Friends Digital Package all month.

All songs are from Sing to the Tune.\*

## **Session** 1

### Kindergarten

#### Missions Area:

Atlanta, Georgia

#### Concept Area:

Community

Writer: Brenda Morris

#### Supplies

Picture 3\* Kit item 5\* Mission Friends Digital Package,\* E238101, \$8.99 "Mission Friends at Home" (p. 10–11) drawing tools boxes masking tape toy tools trifold display board pictures of creative workers, art, and art tools variety of artwork electronic tablet brushes (twig, horsehair, bamboo, watercolor, and house paint brush) plastic canvas plastic darning needles yarn for Group Time: worship music paper crayons scarves

#### **Bible Thoughts**

God is good to us (see Psalm 73:1).

Display the "community" poster from the Mission Friends Digital Package all month.

All songs are from Sing to the Tune.\*

#### Outcomes

Kindergartners will learn about Kerry and Twyla Jackson who minister to creative people in Atlanta. Focusing on the concept of **community**, they will hear that some people have differing abilities.

#### Activities

#### **ART—Explore Shapes**

In advance, prepare kit item 5, "Exploring Art Shapes."

Provide paper and drawing tools. Show shape cards and encourage kindergartners to use different drawing tools to make and explore the shapes. Say: Kerry Jackson is an artist. With his wife, Twyla, he tells other artists about Jesus.

#### **BLOCKS—Build an Airplane**

Encourage kindergartners to build an airplane with boxes, masking tape, toy tools, and blocks. Say: Mr. and Mrs. Jackson travel by plane to tell artistic people about Jesus.

#### BOOKS—Make a Trifold Book

Invite kindergartners to glue pictures of creative workers, art, and art tools on the trifold display board. Use markers to add the Bible thought and label pictures. Read the pictures and discuss different types of creativity. Say: Some people are creative artists. God gives different abilities to people in our community.

Open the Bible and read: God is good to us (see Psalm 73:1).

#### HOMELIVING—Art Gallery

Lead kindergartners to create an art gallery by arranging artwork. Pretend to visit the gallery and discuss the displays and variety of art media. Say: Mr. Jackson uses his art to reach out to artistic people and tell them about Jesus.

#### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT—Traveling in Georgia

In advance, search online for pictures of Georgia.

Show the pictures. Sing "Traveling Through Oregon Rhyme," page 49, substituting "Georgia." Pray for the Jacksons as they tell people in Georgia that God loves them.

#### NATURE—Examine Brushes

Post the allergy alert chart. Let kindergartners explore different brushes. Ask: Who do you think would use this brush? Why is each brush different? God has given different abilities to people who use different tools in their jobs.

#### PUZZLES AND MANIPULATIVES—Canvas Stitching

In advance, cut canvas into different shapes.

Discuss Picture 3. Invite kindergartners to draw a simple design on canvas. Show how to sew on the lines with a plastic needle and yarn. Say: God gives people the ability to be artistic in different ways. One of Mrs. Jacksons' hobbies is creating through sewing.

Tip: See sketch on page 9.

Provide both active and quiet activities for preschoolers to choose from.

#### **Group Time Tip:**

Quietly play instrumental music. If preschoolers get a little loud, encourage them to whisper low enough to still hear the music.

#### Introduction

Ask: Do you like to draw, color, paint, tell stories, make music, or dance? God made us all different and we are all good at different things. Listen to find out what Mr. Jackson likes to do.

#### **Tell the Story**

#### **Painting to Tell a Story**

Mrs. Jackson put on a worship song and looked at the audience watching Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson began to paint with bright colors on a large sheet of paper. The men and women listened to the music and watched Mr. Jackson paint.

"What is that?" pointed a woman.

"I think a man?" said a man.

"Not just a man," said another woman, "that's Jesus!"

As the song ended, Mr. Jackson finished his painting. He stood back. Everyone could see the painting of Jesus.

"I am thankful God gave me the ability to paint. I want to use my talent to tell people about Jesus as I serve God." Mr. Jackson encouraged the people to use what they like to do to tell others about Jesus. "God gave you a talent. No

matter what it is—writing, singing, drawing, or playing instruments—find a way to use your talent to serve God."

#### Stop here for Threes and Fours.

**Ask:** How did Mr. Jackson tell people about Jesus? What did Mr. Jackson tell the people to do? Why? (Go to Prayertime below.)

#### Continue for Kindergarten

Later, Kerry Jackson met with people at a nearby church. Twyla Jackson arranged cookies, chips, cheese, crackers, and water on a table.

As people arrived, Mrs. Jackson said, "Hello! Grab a snack and find a seat."

Everyone grabbed a snack and sat down to listen.

"Welcome," said Mr. Jackson. "I am glad you are here. What do you like to do? You may not think you are good at it, but what is something you enjoy doing?"

One lady raised her hand. "I'm Sarah. I enjoy writing poems and notes to people."

Another man said, "My name is Mark. I love music and playing the piano."

Other people shared what they liked to do.

Pause and ask preschoolers to name things they like to do.

Mr. Jackson continued. "Those are great things to do. I like to paint pictures about Jesus so people can learn about Jesus."

Mr. Jackson continued sharing about his work. He was happy to tell people more about Jesus.

Ask: Why were the people meeting together? What does Mr. Jackson like to paint? Why?

#### Prayertime

Pray that people Mr. Jackson meets will learn more about Jesus.

#### **Closing Activity**

Play worship music. Give preschoolers the choice of coloring or moving scarves to the music.

Give out September "Mission Friends at Home," pages 10-11.

### **Session 1**

**Group Time** 

#### **Missions Area:**

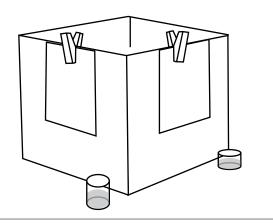
Atlanta, Georgia

**Concept Area:** Community **Writer:** Andrea Floyd

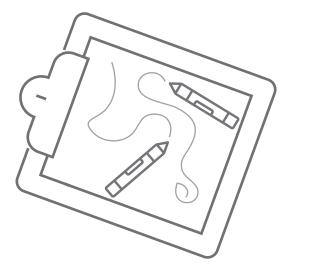
## **Activity Sketches**

#### For Threes and Fours

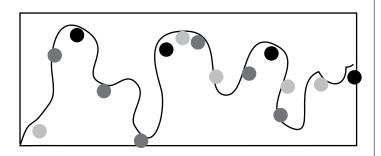
**ART-Easel Painting (page 6)** 



**HOMELIVING-Creative Missionaries (Session 2)** 

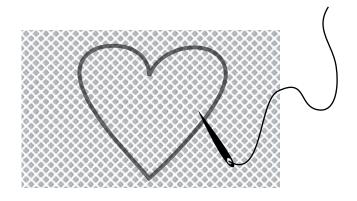


ART-Colored Dots (Session 3)



### For Kindergarten

PUZZLES AND MANIPULATIVES-Canvas Stitching (page 7)



HOMELIVING-Florist Shop (Session 2)



NATURE-Color Experiment (Session 3)



WMU<sup>®</sup> grants permission for leaders to copy these pages for each child's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Creative for the Creator

## MISSION FRIENDS at HOME



Kerry and Twyla Jackson are missionaries in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jackson is an artist who uses his artistic gifts to reach other creative people of the arts community in the Atlanta area. Mr. Jackson uses live art presentations to share about Jesus and leads Bible studies to disciple and mentor other artists.

Mrs. Jackson loves meeting people in her community who moved there from other countries. She helps them learn English and tells them about Jesus.

Pray that the artists and international people to whom Mr. and Mrs. Jackson minister will hear about and decide to love Jesus.

## **Families on Mission Calendar**

Missionaries: Kerry and Twyla Jackson Missions Area: Atlanta, Georgia Concept Area: Community



\*Borrow from your child's Mission Friends class or church library; or order from wmustore.com/preschool.

## 10











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God is good to us (see Psalm 73:1).

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Love each other (see John 15:17).



Kit Item 01 (Babies, Ones, and Twos) Bible Thought Markers

Babies, Ones, Twos

**Mission Friends Leader Kit** and Picture Set

Cut apart markers. Mount on card stock and cover with clear self-adhesive plastic. Place in the Bible for a baby, one-, or two-year-old to find. Use as directed each month.



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Kit Item 02 (Babies, Ones, and Twos) Helper Hats Toss Game

**IRE** 

Mount items on poster board. Cover with clear self-adhesive plastic and cut apart cards. Spread cards out on the floor and tape in place. Use as directed.

GHTR



*Mission Friends Leader Kit* and Picture Set

Babies, Ones, Twos

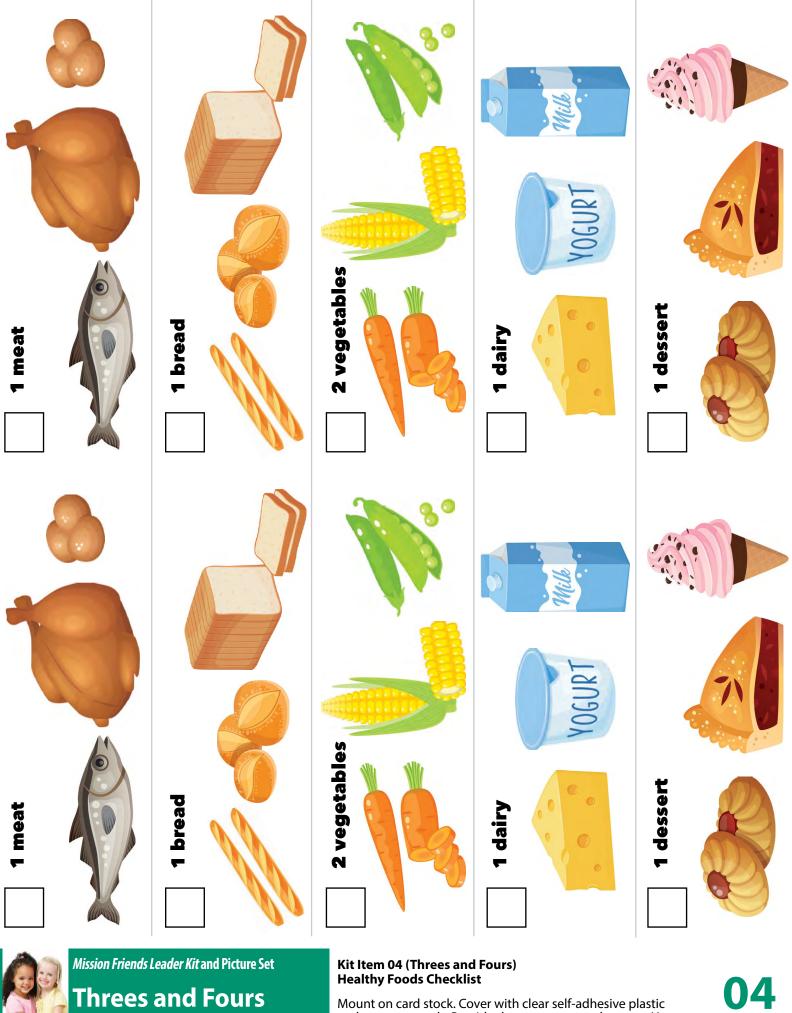


Kit Item 03 (Threes and Fours) Creative Tools Game

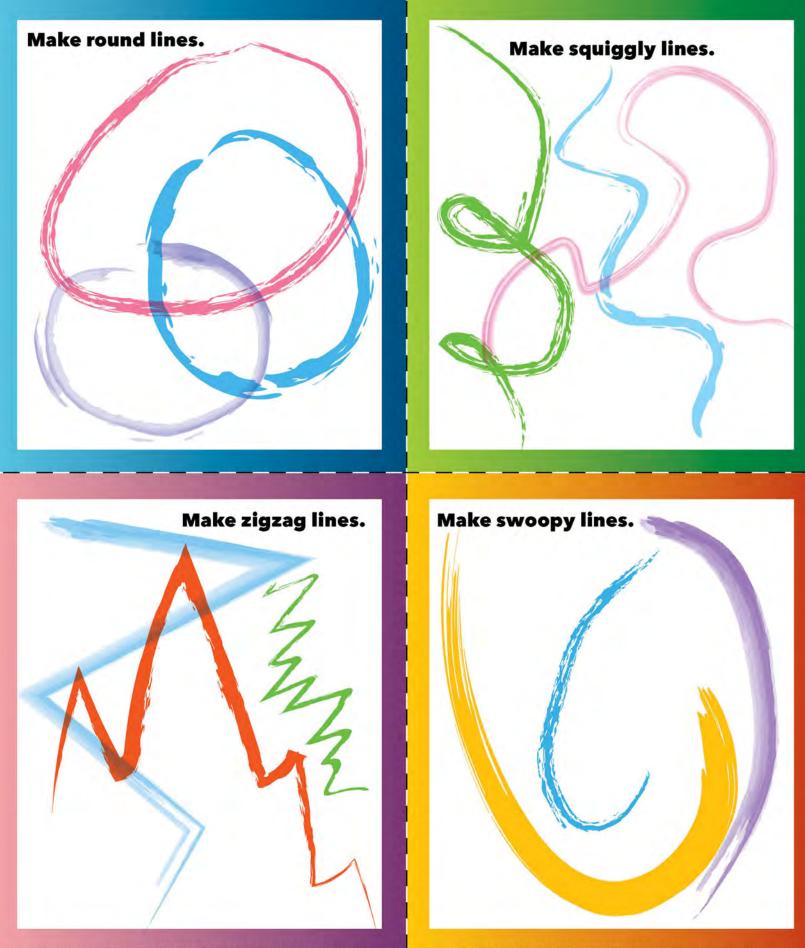
**Threes and Fours** 

Mount cards on poster board. Cover with clear self-adhesive plastic. Cut apart cards. Use as directed in Sessions 1 and 4.

**MO** 



Mount on card stock. Cover with clear self-adhesive plastic and cut apart cards. Provide dry erase pens and erasers. Use as directed in Session 1.





Mission Friends Leader Kit and Picture Set



Kit Item 05 (Kindergarten) Exploring Art Shapes

05 Mount on card stock. Cover with clear self-adhesive plastic. Cut apart cards and use as directed in Session 1.

## Atlanta, Georgia **Picture 1**

Jackson's have started new churches about Jesus. The Jacksons serve God missionaries in Atlanta, Georgia. The by sharing about Jesus through art, Jackson does live art presentations and by leading and teaching other where he creates art as he shares in Atlanta and Indianapolis. Mr. Kerry and Twyla Jackson are artists.

# **Question Box:**

1. What is a missionary?

- 2. How are some ways Kerry and Twyla Jackson tell others about Jesus?
- 3. What kinds of things do artists do?

4. What kind of art do you like to do?

# Open the Bible and read:

- Be kind and show love to others (see Lev. 19:33-34).
- A friend loves at all times (see Prov. 17:17).

## 

NAMB Photo





## Atlanta, Georgia **Picture 2**

in the audience and other artists to wants people to learn about Jesus an audience watches. Sometimes presentations where he paints or draws pictures about Jesus while music is played while Mr. Jackson through his art. He wants people creates his artwork. Mr. Jackson hear that Jesus loves them. Kerry Jackson does live art

# **Question Box:**

1. What is happening in the picture?

- Why are people singing while Mr. Jackson creates a picture?
- 3. What is an artist?
- 4. Why does Mr. Jackson want people to hear about Jesus?

## **Open the Bible** and read:

• God made us and we are his (see Psalm 100:3).

• Love one another (see 1 John 4:7).





## **Picture 3** Atlanta, Georgia

Twyla Jackson celebrates missions as she talks about missions to interested people. Besides talking about missions, Mrs. Jackson helps her husband as he shares art and his love of Jesus. Mrs. Jackson shares her love of Jesus as she teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bible studies to people who move to Atlanta from other countries.

# **Question Box:**

- 1. How do you think Mrs. Jackson helps her husband?
- 2. How does Mrs. Jackson share her love for Jesus with others?
- Why is it important that Mrs. Jackson teaches English as a Second Language?
- Why does Mrs. Jackson lead Bible studies to people from other countries?

## Open the Bible and read:

- Jesus said, "Love one another" (see John 15:17).
- Help one another (see Gal. 5:13).



NAMB Photo

## **Picture 4** Atlanta, Georgia

Kerry Jackson is an artist who loves using his art to tell others about Jesus. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson look for opportunities in their community to teach others, lead Bible studies, and tell people about Jesus' love. The Jacksons also travel to other places to share art and teach about Jesus.

1. What Bible story is Mr. Jackson telling through his art?

- 2. Why do the Jacksons travel to other places?
- 3. Why is it important for people to hear about Jesus?
- 4. Who can you tell about Jesus?

## Open the Bible and read:

• The Lord is good (see Psalm 100:3).

• Do not forget to do good and to share with others (see Heb. 13:16).

#### **WMU**<sup>®</sup> God's mission. Our passion.

NAMB Photo

