

An illustration of a man with dark, curly hair and glasses, wearing a yellow sweater, sitting and reading a green book. A young child with dark hair is sitting in front of him, also reading the book. The background consists of thin, yellow, branching lines on a white background.

FAMILIES ON MISSION

*A 4-part family discipleship guide for the
2026 ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS®*

ELIZABROADUS.ORG

Families on Mission's Lesson Plan: Heavenly Harvest & EBO

A resource in the 2026 EBO Curriculum series

Theme: Fill the Gap

Theme Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16

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Scripture Quotations

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) unless otherwise indicated.

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DEVELOPING *Missional Families*

Missional parenting means helping our children follow Jesus in everyday life. It is not only about what they learn at church. It is also about what they hear, see, and practice at home. When families pray together, serve together, and talk about Jesus, children learn that faith is active and loving.

Why it matters:

1. Jesus calls us to love Him and love others.
2. Children learn by watching faith lived out.
3. Families help children grow into followers of Jesus.
4. Missions helps children see that God cares about people everywhere.
5. Kids can learn to pray, give, serve, and tell others about Jesus.

Missions discipleship teaches children how to learn about missions, pray for missions, support missions, and most importantly, do missions and tell about Jesus. From simple statements like, "God loves me, and He loves you, too! That's why He sent Jesus!" to participating in acts of service, children gain confidence and opportunities to share their faith. They learn that God can use their interests and passions to be His hands and feet.

Missional living starts right where you are.

Missional living doesn't require grand trips or complex programs. Families can

- **Pray** for missionaries, churches, and people in need.
- **Learn** about what God is doing in Kentucky and around the world.
- **Support** missions through giving and encouragement.
- **Do** simple acts of service in their neighborhood that can open doors for gospel conversations.

When families live this way, children see that following Jesus is not just something we talk about. It is something we practice together. In this way, we are not just raising children who go to church; we are raising disciples who are actively engaged in God's work, seeing the world through His eyes, and living out His love to those around them.

FOR THE PARENTS

The following is meant to provide background for you as you prepare to teach your children. To prepare your heart to teach, make sure to Read the Parent Devotion Page beforehand.

Key Scripture(s): Ephesians 4:15-16

Ephesians 4:15-16 reminds us that Jesus is the Head of the church and that every believer has a part to play. God grows His people in truth and love so the whole body can work together well. In these lessons, "fill the gap" means stepping into places of need so God's love can be seen and shared.

Biblical Background

When Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians, he was likely a prisoner in Rome, writing to a city that was a massive melting pot of cultures, religions, and social classes. Ephesus was home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and the culture was steeped in individualism and idol worship. For the early Christians there, the idea of "unity" was revolutionary. They were coming from backgrounds where people were divided by ethnicity, status, and gender. The church needed to learn how to grow together instead of living for themselves. That same truth still matters for families today. God calls parents and children to grow in Christ and work together in love.

Scripture Insights & Teaching Anchors

Paul explains that God provides specific spiritual gifts not for personal status, but to "equip" every believer for a shared mission. He uses the metaphor of a human body to show that spiritual maturity is a collective effort: the body only functions when it remains connected to its "Head," Jesus, and when every "joint" and "ligament" fulfills its specific role. We have a radical call as believers to "fill the gaps" for one another, and if even one part of the body remains inactive or disconnected, the church is hindered. Because Jesus brings us together as His church, every member of God's family can help fill gaps by sharing His love and the gospel throughout Kentucky.

About the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions

The Eliza Broadus Offering (EBO) helps Kentucky Baptists reach people with the gospel and meet needs across the state. Through EBO, churches and ministries are supported in their work. Since 1913, this offering, sponsored by Kentucky WMU in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has supported churches and ministries like church planting, disaster relief, student ministry, and evangelism. Your prayers and gifts help share the gospel and meet critical needs throughout Kentucky. For more information, visit Elizabroadus.org.

PARENT TAKEAWAY:

THESE LESSONS ARE NOT ONLY ABOUT HELPING OTHERS. THEY ARE ABOUT LEARNING TO LIVE AS ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST, USING OUR GIFTS TO POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS.

PARENT DEVOTION

Read: Ephesians 4:15-16

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (NIV)

Ephesians is a letter written to encourage the church at Ephesus as they develop into mature believers. In Chapter 4, Paul explores how the church functions as a picture of Christ here on earth. By using the image of the body, Paul teaches that each part has separate functions, but are all necessary. While Christ remains the life-giving Head, the body’s growth is dependent upon the connections. Because Jesus is the Head, He grows His church in truth, love, and witness. When we don’t participate and remain disconnected, we prevent the whole body from building itself up. While you don’t have to be the best or most talented, you do need to be willing to be equipped and ready to perform the task God has assigned you in love.

This passage reminds parents that spiritual growth is not a solo project. Paul reminds us that love, not duty or studiousness, should underscore our growth. Love drives our obedience, our desire to know God better, and our evangelism. It helps us see other believers as essential workers in God’s redemption story. Love helps us support our children when they are being “difficult” or “quiet.” At church or in school, your children may feel alone; like broken missing pieces, often overlooked and set apart from the whole. Paul’s message here can bring hope, as spiritual maturity was always meant to be a team activity. Because God has equipped each of us differently with various gifts, talents, and passions, working together is the only way we might reflect the wholeness of Christ.

Gospel Reminder:

We do not become part of God’s family by being helpful enough. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Because He saves us, we learn to live in love, truth, unity, and mission.

Reflect:

Am I trying to function on my own? Am I trying to fill any “gaps” in my life with anything other than God’s grace? Am I showing my children what it looks like to love and serve the church? How can my family grow in unity and mission this week?

Meditate:

(Scripture-focused only – we fill our minds with God’s Word, not empty them.)

- Connection – Am I fulfilling the role God has set before me with excellence and love? If I truly believe that the body cannot grow “in every way” unless every part is working, how does that change the way I see and relate to my family during “challenging” times? Are my children struggling to see their role in the church? How can I support them?
- Spiritual Growth – Have I ever used my parental role as a way to fill a void, rather than allowing Christ to guide me? How does He work in and through me in church? At home? At work?

Pray:

“Lord, help me to keep you at the center of our home, guiding our actions and desires, allowing us to complete the work you have set before us in love. Reveal to me where we are weak, so that we may submit it to you and allow you to shine brightest.”

MISSIONS MOMENT

BIG IDEA:

WHEN WE GIVE, PRAY, AND SERVE, GOD USES OUR GIFTS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND HELP PEOPLE ACROSS KENTUCKY.

ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING

Did you know that God wants everyone to know how much He loves them? He asks us to help share that amazing message! In Kentucky, we have a special way to do this called the Eliza Broadus Offering (EBO).

Imagine our church reaching out to help people right here in our state who don't know Jesus yet! That's what the EBO does! When we give to the Eliza Broadus Offering, our gifts go to support different ministries all over Kentucky that share the good news of Jesus (many offer practical help too!) It's like our money becomes "helper hands" that help others and point people to Jesus.

EBO helps with things like:

- **Feeding Hungry Families:** Some places use EBO funds to grow food in greenhouses to share with families who don't have enough to eat.
- **Helping New Moms and Babies:** Pregnancy care centers receive help to care for new mothers and their babies.
- **Starting New Churches:** Sometimes, groups want to start a new church to reach people who speak different languages, like Arabic. The EBO helps them do that!
- **Reaching College Students:** There are ministries that help students in college learn about Jesus and grow in their faith.
- **Helping Churches Respond To Disaster:** When there's a flood or a storm, EBO funds can help churches respond and help people who have lost their homes or need assistance.

So, when we give to the Eliza Broadus Offering, we're helping people hear about Jesus, get the help they need, and see God's love in action, all across Kentucky!

QUESTIONS

- Why do you think God wants us to help people hear about Jesus?
- How does EBO help churches and ministries serve others?
- What is one way our family can help fill a need this week?

ACTIVITY

Show the Week of Prayer Kids Prayer Guide to your children. Explain that you will pray each day for one of the requests and check the box. This is a great way to see how people are being reached right now in Kentucky!





2026 WEEK OF PRAYER: MISSION KY KIDS

Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky Missions®



The Week of Prayer for the Eliza Broadus Offering is a great time to pray as a family for people in Kentucky who are telling others about Jesus! For 8 days you can pray for different people and groups that the Eliza Broadus Offering helps to fund.

- ☒ As a family, pray one request each day and talk about how God is working in Kentucky. After you pray, check the box and thank God for the people serving Him.

DAY 01 PRAYING FOR HELP

- ☐ Pray that God helps **Heavenly Harvest** in **Benton** stay strong, brings more people to help give food and clothes to those in need, and helps others see Jesus.

DAY 02 PRAYING FOR HOPE

- ☐ Pray that new families will learn about Jesus and feel God's love through **Pathway of Hope** in **Greenville**.

DAY 03 PRAYING FOR STRENGTH

- ☐ Pray that God helps **Hope House Ministries** in **Bowling Green** stay strong, have what they need, and welcome more people in need in their community.

DAY 04 PRAYING FOR MISSIONAL FAMILIES

- ☐ Pray for more families from **Parkland Baptist Church** in **Louisville** to help, that churches in eastern KY will work with them, and that everyone travels safely.

DAY 05 PRAYING FOR CHURCH PLANTING

- ☐ Pray that the **Arabic Baptist Church of Northern KY** in **Florence** would help those with Arabic as their heart language learn more about Jesus

DAY 06 PRAYING FOR SALVATION

- ☐ Please pray that God helps the **Central KY Network of Baptists** connect pastors, with other churches, missionaries, and ministries so more people can know Him.

DAY 07 PRAYING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

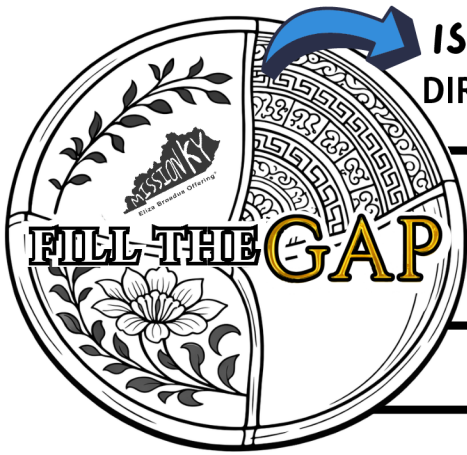
- ☐ Pray that God helps young adults at **Somerset Community College** know Jesus, grow in their faith, and have the leaders and support they need to share His love.

DAY 08 PRAYING FOR COMMUNITIES

- ☐ Pray that God brings mission teams to help the **Freeda Harris Baptist Center** in **Elkhorn** work with local churches to teach people in their community about Jesus.

Each prayer reminds us that God is already at work, and our family gets to join Him.

KentuckyWMU



IS THE 2026 EBO THEME BASED ON EPHESIANS 4:15-16

DIRECTIONS: Look up Ephesians 4:16 and write it below

CHALLENGE: Can you memorize Ephesians 4:15-16 as a family? We'd love to see it! Optional: Get a grown up to post it to socials and Use #MissionKYkids .

DIRECTIONS: Color the picture

Can you find:
A **heart** (love),
A **plant** (growth),
A **Bible** (truth),
A **Chain link** (working together)



DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blank with 1 way you can live "Fill the Gap" in telling Kentucky about Jesus this week. Use an arrow to point your action toward the word "Jesus"!

I WILL

TO HELP SOMEONE KNOW JESUS THIS WEEK!



BIBLE STORY

BIG IDEA:

GOD BRINGS HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND USES EACH PERSON TO SHOW HIS LOVE, STRENGTHEN HIS CHURCH, AND HELP MEET NEEDS.

GOD'S TEAM - WE ALL HELP!

Have you ever seen something broken, like a favorite mug or a toy? What do we usually do? Sometimes we try to fix it, or sometimes we just throw it away. But in Japan, there's a special way to fix broken pottery called Kintsugi. They don't try to hide the cracks; instead, they use gold to mend the pieces together! This makes the pottery even more beautiful and special than before. The broken places become a part of its unique story. It reminds us that God can mend what is broken and bring people together in His family.

Sometimes in our world, we see "breaks" or "gaps" too. These aren't broken pottery, but they can be places where people are sad, lonely, or need help. Maybe a friend at school is sitting by themselves (a gap of loneliness), or a family needs food (a gap of hunger), or someone hasn't heard how much God loves them (a gap of not knowing Jesus). These "gaps" might seem scary, but in God's family, these are exactly the places where His amazing love, like the Kintsugi gold, can shine! God brings beauty by repairing and joining what is broken through Christ, because Only Jesus can truly heal what sin has broken and make us part of God's family.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:16 that we are all part of God's team, like a body. In your body, you have joints - like your elbows and knees. Your joints help your body move and work! The Bible says we are "joined and held together by every joint." Guess what? You are one of those joints! Every person in our family, every person in our church, is a special joint in God's team.

If your knee joint didn't work, could you run and play well? No, your whole body would have trouble! It's the same in God's team. When each of us does our part, helping, sharing, and showing love, then God's whole team grows, and more people can learn about Him. This is how we "fill the gaps" in our communities and all over Kentucky, just like the Eliza Broadus Offering helps us do!

ACTIVITY

Let's make a special "Kintsugi Unity Jar" to remember how God uses each of us to make something beautiful when we work together!

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your time together by praying as a family. Thank God for making each of us special and for giving us a part to play in His team. Ask Him to help your family, and all the people in Kentucky, work together to show His love and help "fill the gaps" in our world.





BIBLE FOCUS:

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV) "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

WHAT WE LEARN:

Just like a broken pot can be mended with gold to become even more beautiful, God mends us and brings us together as His church. Even though we are all different, we are joined by Jesus to grow and build each other up in love! Each one of us is an important part of God's amazing plan.

MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED:

- **Printed outline of a broken pot or vase:** (You can use one of the Kintsugi coloring pages we made, or draw a simple pot outline and add "cracks" to it.)
- **Different colored construction paper or tissue paper:** Cut into small squares or torn into small pieces (like the blue ones in your example photo). Use many different colors to show how unique each of us is!
- **Glue sticks or liquid glue**
- **Optional:** Gold glitter, gold paint, or yellow paper strips (to make the "gold mends")
- **Scissors** (if cutting paper)

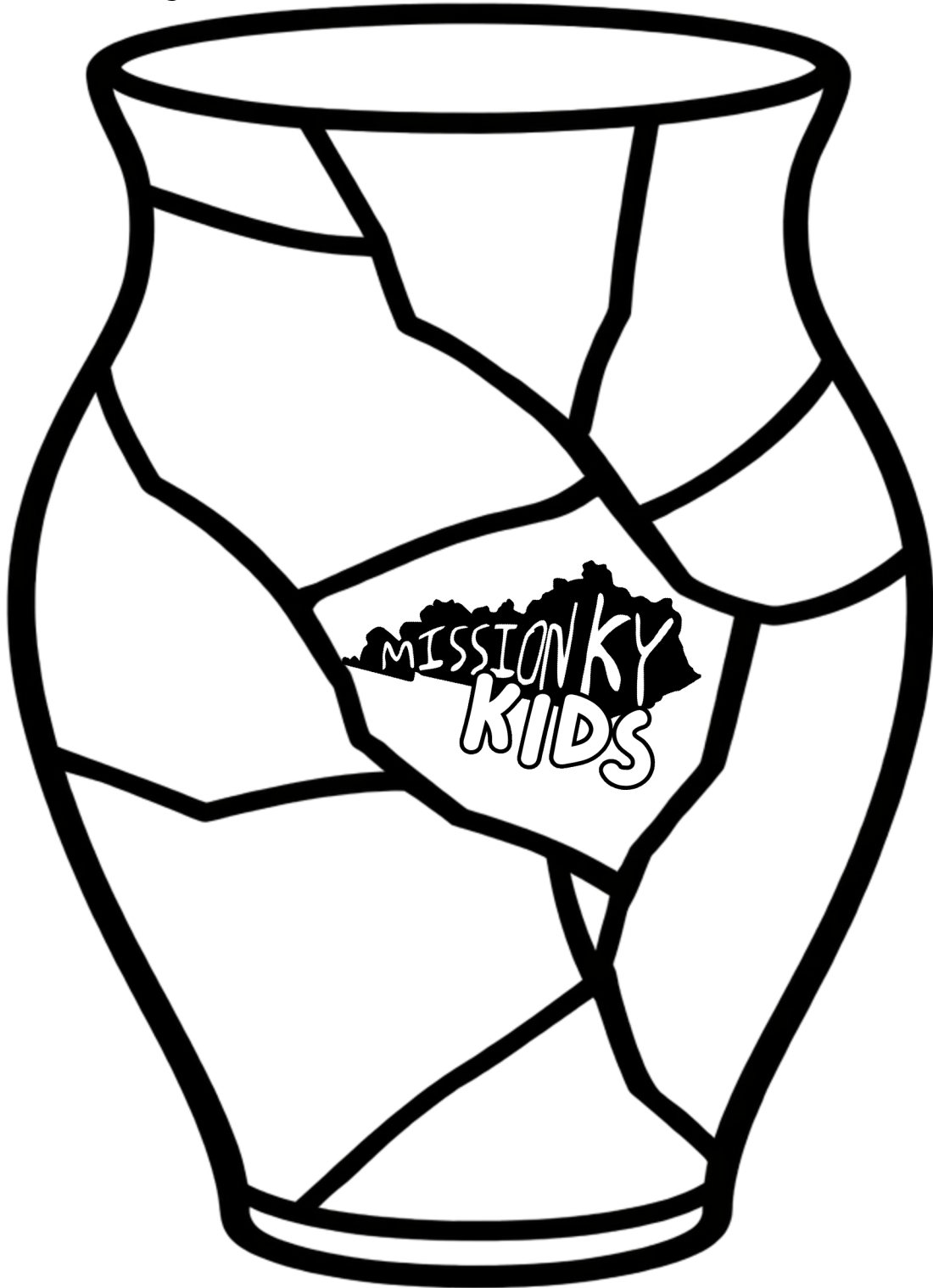
LET'S BUILD OUR UNITY VESSEL!

1. **Prepare Your Pot**
2. **Choose Your "Pieces":** Pick up different colored pieces of paper. Each color can represent a different person or a different part of God's church (like friends, family, teachers, helpers). Explain that we are all unique, just like these different colors, but still belong together!
3. **Glue and Arrange:** Start gluing your colored paper pieces onto the "broken" sections of your pot outline. Ask your child to imagine how each unique piece helps to make the pot whole again. You can overlap them a little, just like how people work together and support each other.
4. **Add the "Golden Mends" (Optional but Fun!):** Once your paper pieces are glued down, use gold glitter, gold paint, or yellow paper strips to draw/glue along the "cracks" or edges where your paper pieces meet. Explain that this is like the Kintsugi gold, showing how Jesus helps to join us together with His love, making us even more special and beautiful because of Him!
5. **Let it Dry**

TALK ABOUT IT!

- How did all the different colored papers come together to make one beautiful pot?
- How does Jesus bring people together who would otherwise stay apart? How does He help people forgive, serve, and work together?
- How is this like how different people in our church or family come together to make one strong group?
- What does it mean for each part to do its work? How do you do your part in your family or school?
- How does God's love (like our golden mends) help us to stay strong and grow together?

MY KINTSUGI UNITY VESSEL



**GOD BRINGS BEAUTY BY REPAIRING AND JOINING WHAT IS BROKEN
THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

BIBLE STORY

BIG IDEA:

JESUS HELPS HIS PEOPLE GROW, AND WHEN WE HELP ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, GOD'S LOVE SHINES THROUGH OUR FAMILIES AND CHURCHES.

JESUS- THE BEST GARDENER

"Let us grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." Ephesians 4:15b
(simplified)

Imagine a beautiful, colorful garden! What kinds of things grow in a garden? (Pause for answers: flowers, vegetables, trees). That's right! All sorts of wonderful plants. Now, think about what those plants need to grow big, strong, and beautiful. (Pause for answers: sunshine, water, good dirt). Yes! They need care.

What happens if one plant in the garden isn't getting enough water, or maybe it's not feeling well? Does that just affect that one plant? (Guide toward: No, if one part of the garden isn't doing well, it can affect the whole garden's beauty and health.)

The Bible tells us that for those who love Jesus, we are like the plants in God's garden! And guess who the very best Gardener for believers is? It's Jesus! Jesus helps His people grow together in truth and love just like a healthy garden grows with care

Just like plants need sunshine, water, and good dirt, we need Jesus and each other to grow our hearts and minds to be more like Him. When we talk to each other honestly but always with kindness, when we help a friend who is struggling, or when we encourage someone, we are helping each other grow! Every single plant in the garden, no matter how small, helps the whole garden be healthy and beautiful. When we all help each other get what we need, our family, our church, and our community become strong and full of God's love. We show the world how wonderful Jesus, is!

QUESTIONS

while making or eating the dirt pudding

- Who helps God's people grow?
- What helps people grow in faith the way water and soil help plants grow?
- What are some ways we can help others grow in faith?
- What is one kind thing you can do this week to encourage someone?

ACTIVITY

To help us remember how good "dirt" and care can make things grow, we're going to make a yummy treat! Use the recipe on the next page to make delicious dirt pudding

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your time together by praying as a family. Thank God for being our loving Gardener. Ask Him to help each of you grow closer to Him and to help your family be a beautiful part of His garden, showing His love to everyone around you.



DIRT PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Crushed Oreo cookies
- Gummy worms

STEPS:

1. Open pudding cups
2. Crush Oreos (dirt)
3. Sprinkle Oreos (dirt) on top of the pudding cups
4. Add gummy worms



As you make the snack, talk about how plants need care to grow and how people also need love, truth, and encouragement to grow in Jesus.

MISSIONS MOMENT

BIG IDEA:

GOD CAN USE OUR GIFTS AND PASSIONS TO MEET NEEDS, SHARE HIS WORD, AND SHOW HIS LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

HEAVENLY HARVEST

Let's talk about someone who used her favorite things to help be God's hands and feet! Ms. Barbara Ray loved gardening so much she is a master gardener! Ms. Barabara noticed that many food banks and soup kitchens had trouble getting fresh, healthy vegetables, especially when it was cold outside. So, she decided to help by growing the food herself!

Ms. Barbara founded Heavenly Harvest in Benton, KY where she built special greenhouses, like giant indoor gardens, where they grow lots of fresh vegetables, even in winter. They give this fresh food, like juicy tomatoes, to places that feed people who don't have enough to eat. We're not talking about tiny greenhouses; in 2025 they gave away 5 TONS OF FRESH TOMATOES!

But Ms. Barbara knew that people need warmth and spiritual food too. So, when winter comes, they give away warm coats. And guess what they put in the pocket of every single coat? A BIBLE! They want people to not only be warm on the outside but also to have the truth of God's Word to warm their hearts and help them grow in faith. They have given away over 8,000 jackets with Bibles in their pockets! Isn't that amazing?

Like we saw in Ephesians 4:15-16, Heavenly Harvest speaks truth in love. They provide physical food (helping the body), and they share God's Word (helping their faith grow), all while showing kindness and care. But giving food, coats, and Bibles is not just kindness; it is ministry that points people to Christ. They are truly helping God's garden flourish by meeting needs and sharing the good news of Jesus! While meeting needs matters, people also need God's Word and the good news of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

while coloring the attached coloring sheet

- How can we show God's love to our neighbors?
- Why is it important to share God's Word along with helping people?
- What is one gift or interest God could use in your life?

ACTIVITY

Let's make "Warmth for Hearts" cards! Just like Ms. Barbara put Bibles in the pockets of coats, we can share God's truth and love with others. Gather some paper, crayons, and markers. Each family member can create a card with an encouraging message, a simple Bible verse (like John 3:16 or Romans 5:8), or a drawing that reminds someone of God's love. Talk about who you can give these cards to this week - a neighbor, someone who might be lonely, a healthcare worker, or even hide one for a service person to find.

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your time together by praying as a family. Thank God for giving us unique gifts and passions. Ask Him to show your family how you can use your talents to help others, meet needs, and share the truth of His Word, just like Ms. Barbara and Heavenly Harvest.



MEET MS. BARBARA RAY

Pray for Ms. Barbara's physical health. She depends on God for the physical strength to carry out the ministry of Heavenly Harvest Farms.

Heavenly Harvest Farms is beginning their
6TH YEAR
of ministry.

8,501

coats have been
given away with
bibles in the
pockets!

The Lord uses
Ms. Barbara to
feed and clothe
those in need.

5 TONS

of tomatoes were
given away in 2025!