Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Mission Project (*Choose a Partner of Your Church to Help)*

Week 1: Bring a list of organizations and people with whom your church partners. Tell children about these organizations and choose one to collect items for.

Week 2: Create posters asking for items to donate for this organization. Encourage children to think about what information needs to be on their poster (where to drop off the items, what items they need, who these items will benefit etc.) Take children around the church and hang their posters. Send home a letter about the items you are collecting and why.

Week 3: Talk about how children can encourage others to bring in items. Brainstorm ways that children can also raise money to purchase these items.

Week 4: Ask someone from the organization with whom you are partnering to come and talk about what they do and who they help.

Week 5: Collect items and box/package them together. Encourage children to make cards to go along with the items.

Preschool Stations

Station 1: Books/Puzzles

August 3: Put together puzzles with food, farms or farm animals. Talk about how Jeff and Alicia Lee work with the Food Bank of Macedonia to help others have enough to eat.

August 10: Read books about construction (like the Construction Site books).

August 17: Read books related to food, like any on this list: https://www.readbrightly.com/fantastic-food-books-for-preschoolers/

August 24: Put together puzzles with teddy bears. Talk about how they bring us comfort.

August 31: Read books related to going to bed, like *The Going to Bed Book, Goodnight Moon,* or any on this list: https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/books-bedtime/

Station 2: Art/Music

August 3: **Create a Chicken**: Use the tutorial found here: https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/construction-paper-chick-craft/ or here: https://www.simpleeverydaymom.com/handprint-chicken-craft/ to create paper chickens. Talk about how the Poraka Group Home in Macedonia has 100 chickens that lay eggs each day.

August 10: Listen to Worship Songs: Listen to Praise and Worship songs and talk about how much God loves us.

August 17: Create a Bowl2Go: gather white paper and crayons. Draw your favorite foods in a bowl to create a Bowl-2Go. Talk about how Ridgewood Baptist offers meals at lunch to raise money and to feed the homeless.

August 24: Create a Blanket: gather play dough and encourage children to create blankets from their play dough. Talk about how blankets help us feel safe and keep us warm.

August 31: Create a Comforting Friend: Gather socks, rice, measuring cups (or scoops), lavender essential oil, and ribbons. Encourage children to use measuring cups to scoop rice and pour it into their socks. Drop a few drops of lavender essential oil onto the rice. Use the ribbon to tie it tightly. Talk about how lavender helps make us sleepy. Trinity Baptist Church and Sleep in Heavenly Peace work together to help children and youth have beds to sleep in.

Station 3: Play Pretend

August 3: Play Farmer: Encourage children to pretend to grow crops. Talk about the different aspects of being a farmer: digging holes to plant seeds, planting seeds, watering the plants, picking fruits and vegetables. Option: have play fruits and vegetables that the children can hide and then find to pick their crops.

August 10: Play Doctor: Gather doctor's supplies (a play medical kit, play stethoscope etc.) or if you don't have access to these, use cloth bandages and adhesive bandages. Encourage children to bandage pretend boo-boos and listen to each other's hearts. Talk about how doctors help us stay well.

August 17: Play Grocery Store: Set out play food, a pretend cash register, and baskets for children to use to shop. Encourage children to pick out their food and buy it at the cash register. Talk about how sometimes people don't have enough to eat. Ridgewood Baptist and Southwest Community Ministries are helping make sure everyone has enough to eat.

August 24: Host a Teddy Bear Tea Party: Gather teddy bears and play cups and saucers. Encourage children to choose a teddy bear, sit with them at the table, and have a tea party. Talk about how we like to hug and cuddle with our teddy bears, and they help us feel safe. Members of Kathwood Baptist crochet blankets to help others feel safe.

August 31: Play School: Gather paper, crayons and other school supplies. Ask for a volunteer to pretend to be the teacher. Have students sit down as the teacher "teaches." Encourage the teacher to hand out paper and crayons for their students to color.

Station 4: Games

August 3: Collect Eggs: Hide plastic eggs (or white ping pong balls) around the room. Encourage children to find as many as they can. Talk about how the people at Poraka (the group home for adults with developmental delays) collect eggs to use for cooking.

August 10: Build a Home: Gather blocks (large cardboard blocks or wooden blocks) and encourage children to work together to build homes. Talk about how Sowing Seeds of Hope and Alabama CBF joined together to help families have a safe way to enter and leave their homes.

August 17: **Cut Fruits and Veggies:** Collect a variety of play fruits and vegetables, along with play knives and bowls. Encourage children to "cut" their fruits and vegetables and put them in their bowls.

August 24: Play with Patterns: Gather a variety of colors of plastic cups or plates. Encourage children to make their own patterns with these. Then, encourage children to work together to create one big pattern. Talk about how people who crochet blankets create patterns with their yarn.

August 31: Play Asleep or Awake: Encourage children to play and then when you turn the lights off and say "asleep!" to lie down and pretend to be asleep. Then, turn the lights back on and say "awake!" Encourage children to stand back up and keep playing. Continue to turn the lights on and off, saying "awake" and "asleep" for a few more rounds.