Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Southern Breakfast: Provide biscuits, gravy (optional), plates, napkins and water. Give each child a biscuit and gravy (if you have it). Talk about how biscuits are a popular part of breakfast in the South, where Clinton, MS, is located.

Older Children

Create a Megaphone: Gather construction paper (or cardstock), scissors, crayons or markers, tape, stickers and rulers. Use scissors to create a volcano shape (a triangle with a flat top instead of a pointed top). Cut a half circle from the top to create your megaphone shape. Decorate it how you wish, using crayons/markers and stickers. When you are finished, roll your megaphone into a tube shape, with the half circle turning into the mouthpiece and a wide base. Use your megaphone to declare God's love! Video tutorial: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMBoCtkOtEQ

All Ages

Talk about Worship: Gather an order of worship and invite a minister or worship leader to come to your class. If children attend worship, ask them to name parts of worship (singing songs, reading scripture, Children's Sermon, Sermon, etc.). If they don't go to worship, talk about what happens in worship. Ask a minister or worship leader to talk about worship and how it is planned. Talk about how women and men at Northside Baptist Church in Clinton, MS, participate in leading worship and sharing the gifts that God has given them.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

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

Theme Overview

Northside Baptist Church in Clinton, MS, has always been a congregation willing to listen to the Holy Spirit and to take bold measures to further the Kingdom of God on earth. They are seen as a trailblazer in their area as they boldly lead the way for women in ministry among Baptists. This session focuses on the theme of following God's call.

Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "What does it mean to be bold?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Following God's Call to Be Bold."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Following God's Call to Be Bold

It isn't always easy to be the church that looks different from its neighbors. But since Northside Baptist Church in Clinton, MS, began, way back in 1969, it has been the church that looks different. From the start, they focused on everyone being equal, no matter what their race. Then, in 1980, they voted to change their constitution to allow women deacons. Since then, they have had women deacons, women associate pastors, women music ministers, and currently have a woman pastor. They encourage young women to participate in worship by reading scripture and receiving the offering. Men and women are equal in every part of the church. It isn't always easy to be different, though. There have been times when church leaders were criticized and even reprimanded (yelled at!) for not following more accepted denominational practices. There have been times when others disagreed with them and were rude to them. But they knew that they were doing what God wanted them to do. And now, they continue to lead the way, encouraging churches to recognize the gifts that God has given to all, both men and women. They work to help others step out in faith to follow God's call. They are pioneers, leading the way to further God's Kingdom on Earth. And in 2024, Baptist Women in Ministry recognized their good work when they were named the 2024 BWIM Church of Excellence. It's a wonderful thing when others see the ways you are following God!

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How does Northside Baptist Church follow God's call to be bold?
- **Ask**: How have others reacted to them being bold?
- **Ask**: How is God calling you to be bold? How can we help you have courage to be bold?
- **Say**: Since Northside Baptist Church started, they have focused on treating everyone equally. They have recognized that God gives gifts to all, both men and women, and they have placed men and women in leadership positions, no matter what others thought. They have followed God's call and been bold, even when others told them not to.
- **Pray**: Dear God, help us to listen to you and step out on faith. Help us be bold and do what you want us to do. Amen.

Northside Baptist Church

Northside Baptist Church in Clinton, MS, has always been a congregation willing to listen to the Holy Spirit and to take bold measures to further the Kingdom of God on earth.

STUDENT HANDOUT
MARCH 15, 2026

Pathlight

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

Learn About

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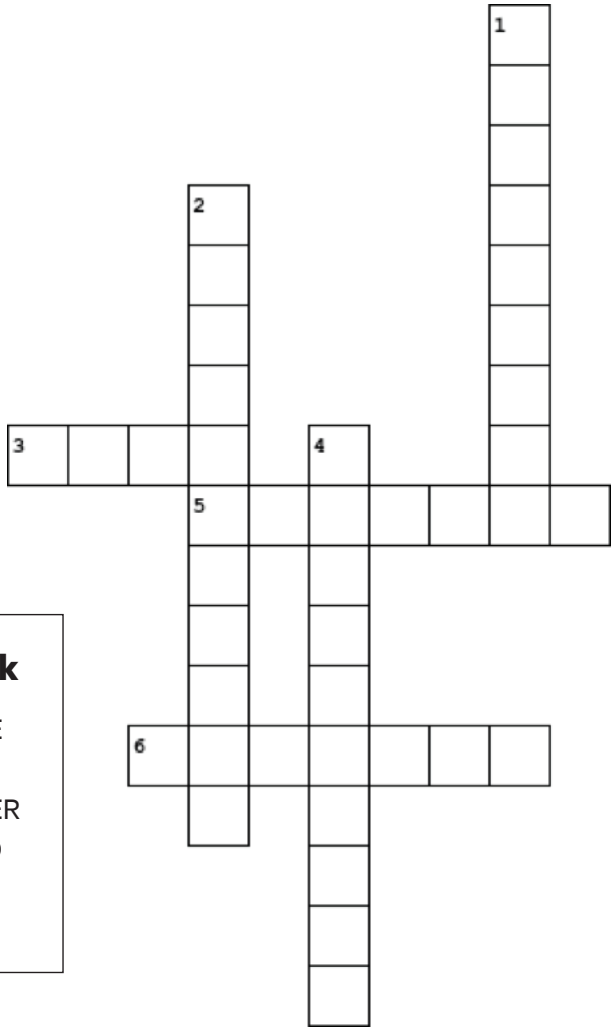
Northside Baptist Church



Word Bank

SCRIPTURE
FULL
TRAILBLAZER
CRITICIZED
BARRIER
DEACONS

Across

3. Northside Baptist Church inspires others to embrace the _____ potential of women in Baptist life, ministry, and leadership.
5. Something that prevents you from achieving your goal or going where you want to go.
6. In 1980, Northside Baptist Church changed its constitution to accept women as _____ .

Down

1. Northside encourages young women to participate in worship by reading _____ and receiving the offering.
2. Northside Baptist Church has been a _____ in their community for women in ministry.
4. How others have sometimes treated Northside Baptist Church for having women in leadership roles.