Season of Prayer 2023

for Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina

Children's Sermon 2



Writer: Gretchen Williams-Blakeney, Children in Action[™] Coordinator, Bethel Baptist Church, Sycamore, SC

Scripture: Mark 16:15 (CEV) "Then He told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world."

Music:

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands My God is So Big

Prepare: Place this where it can be read by the children. "O de crab, he taste so fine Yuh catch 'um wid a neck an' a line. Bile de water 'til e good n hot Den eat de crab sraite from de pot!" This is written like it would be spoken by the Gullah people.

Welcome:

Welcome the children with a smile as they arrive.

Introduction:

- We are celebrating the annual Season of Prayer for State Missions and collecting money for the Janie Chapman Offering[™].
- Share Mark 16:15
- Did you know that we have people who tell others about Jesus here in South Carolina?
- These people are just like missionaries who live all over the world, but they tell people about Jesus here, in our state.

• Sing the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Emphasize to the children that it is a big world and God wants all the people in the world to know He loves them.

Activity with the visual you created: Can you read this? It says

> "Oh, the crab, he tastes so fine You catch him with neck on a line. Boil the water till they good and hot Then eat the crab, straight from the pot!"

Share the Story:

The First Union African Baptist Church was built in 1881 by a group of freed slaves called the Gullah People.

Daufuskie Island is small, but the church has a blend of the past and present in culture and in worship. A portion of the island is where the rich and famous people live. There are nice resorts and golf courses on this part of the island. The rest of the island is different, though. The other part has dirt roads and fewer people travel there.

In 2016, as Hurricane Matthew approached, Pastor Aaron hesitantly left the island and encouraged the people to leave as well. Because he is a trained volunteer fireman, he came back to the island ready to help with the clean-up from the storm. A resident said to him, "Pastor, you don't need to be doing this. We need you to check on others with a multitude of needs. Before the storm, you were the pastor of the church. Now, you are the pastor of the ISLAND." Aaron now ministers to 550+ residents on the island and about 2000 in the summer. The church holds additional services in the evenings during the summer to provide worship opportunities for people who have to work on Sunday mornings. They also incorporate Spanish language songs into the service since Spanish is the heart language for many seasonal workers. Aaron prays that God will use this island to bless His Kingdom as He draws others to Him in this quiet peaceful place.

What's next for this church? Aaron says they pray Psalms 119:18, "Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wonderful things from Your instruction." (HCSB)

Pray:

- That those attending the church will grow in their desire to go deeper with the Lord.
- That outreach efforts to the island community will be effective in reaching people with the Gospel of Christ.
- That God will use this island to bless His Kingdom as a restorative element for many seeking peace and purpose.

Additional Content:

When big storms, we call hurricanes, come to South Carolina, our Disaster Relief teams prepare to help people after the storm passes. After a hurricane, when all of the emergency workers go to help people, we also have a lot of men and women from across our state who go to help. Our Disaster Relief teams are some of the first people to go back to places like Daufuskie Island after hurricanes. Pray for these teams that they would stay safe and have opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

