

# Parades, Cowboys, and Camp



## Leader Prep

Attractional events are an effective part of God's Plan for Sharing. What, you may ask, is an attractional event? I'm glad you asked. An attractional event is an event that draws people who might not be interested in coming to church. The gospel is presented in the course of the event. Eddie Miller leads the Sierra Baptist Association as a church planting missionary. He coordinates attractional events throughout the association. He trains people to share their faith during the course of the event. This meeting will expose the children to attractional events and creative ways to share their faith while participating in such events.

An attractional event can be sponsored by the church or by the city. One example of an event sponsored by the city is a parade. Fernley, Nevada, hosts a Fourth of July parade each year. The First Baptist Church of Fernley gives out water bottles and gospel tracts during the event. They put the gospel in the hands of hundreds of people each year who would never come to their church.

Another attractional event is a roping contest. The Cowboy Fellowship of the Sierra Baptist Association hosts a Fourth of July roping contest. They provide a free breakfast and worship service prior to the roping contest. The entry fee for the contest is waived for those who attend worship.

A third attractional event hosted by the Sierra Baptist Association is a children's camp held at the Cowboy's Rest Camp. The camp is for children in grades 3-5. It is a five-day camp. The children sleep in tepees and covered wagons. Eddie Miller serves as camp pastor. They have lots of fun activities, Bible studies, and missionary speakers.

● **Objective:** Boys and girls will understand what an attractional event is and how they are used to tell people about Jesus.

● **Scripture Focus:** Matthew 5:15-16

● **Key Verse:** Matthew 5:16

● **Materials Needed:**

- Paper
- Markers
- Copies of each group's "Learning Activity" information and assignment

Matthew 5:16

“  
In the same way, let your light  
shine before men, so that they  
may see your good works and  
give glory to your Father in  
heaven.  
”

## Learning Activity

Today we are learning about using attractational events as a tool to tell people about Jesus. (*Divide the children into three groups. Assign each group a type of attractational event. Give each group a copy of their information and assignment.*) Your group should work together to tell the big group about the event. You can use art and words to share the information.

### Group 1: I Love a Parade!

- Fernley, Nevada, has a Fourth of July parade every year. The First Baptist Church of Fernley gives out water bottles and gospel tracts. They gave out so much water this year it took seven four-wheelers to move it all! As they give out the water, they get to talk about Jesus to people who would never come to their church. Gemma helped at the parade this year. Two years ago, someone shared about Jesus with her at the parade and she became a Christian!
- Design parade floats that tell about Jesus. Share the floats with the whole group.

### Group 2: Rope'em Cowboy!

- The Cowboy Fellowship of the Sierra Baptist Association sponsored a roping contest on July 3, 2010. The event began with a free pancake breakfast. This was followed by a worship service. The entry fee for the roping contest was waived for those who attended the worship service. Prize buckles were awarded to the winners of the contest.
- Design prize belt buckles for the roping contest. Share your buckle designs with the whole group.

### Group 3: Tepees and Covered Wagons!

- Eddie Miller served as camp pastor for the Nevada Baptist Convention Children's Camp. Boys and girls, in grades 3-5, from around the state, spent a week learning to live out their relationship with Jesus in everything they do. The camp used a survivor theme. They also played lots of games and competed by tribal group. They slept in cabins, tepees, and covered wagons.
- Design tribal flags for the survivor camp. Share the flags with the whole group.

## Lesson

An attractational event is an event that attracts people. People who might not come to a traditional church service will often attend an event that is fun and interesting. Some attractational events are hosted by a city or organization. Other organizations are invited to participate. A holiday parade is one of these events. They are often hosted by the city, but many groups are invited to participate. Other attractational events are hosted by a church, association, or state convention.

Eddie Miller is a church planting missionary for the Sierra Baptist Convention in Nevada. Part of his job is to encourage churches to develop and participate in attractational events. He prays for the pastors and church leaders, trains them in how to share their faith, and helps them find the resources they need for the event.

A great example of an attractational event sponsored by a city is Fernley's Fourth of July parade. (*Invite Group 1 to share their paragraph and briefly show their parade floats.*) Eddie encourages First Baptist Church of Fernley to participate in the parade each year. Nevada is very hot in July. In 2010, they gave out 2,000 bottles of ice cold water during the parade. They also gave away 1000 copies of the Gospel of John. They invited people to church and to Vacation Bible School. Gemma enjoyed helping with the ministry. In 2008, someone shared water and the gospel with her at the parade and she became a Christian!

Eddie Miller coordinated the details and enlisted volunteers for the roping contest held at Rogers Arena. This event was sponsored by the Sierra Baptist Association's Cowboy Fellowship. (*Invite Group 2 to share their paragraph and briefly show their prize buckle designs.*) Many people who would never attend a traditional church service came for the free pancakes and roping contest. They heard about God's love for them and met people who cared about them. They also

had a great time roping the cows and watching the teams rope. They learned about a cowboy church that Eddie pastors. It meets every Wednesday night.

One last kind of attractational event is sponsored by the Nevada State Convention. It is a summer camp for children in grades 3-5. The camp is called Cowboy's Rest Camp. (*Invite Group 3 to share their paragraph and briefly show their tribal flags.*) Boys and girls learn about God and about missions while they are at camp. Each year boys and girls decide to become Christians at the camp. Many also commit to be missionaries wherever they are. Sometimes they also commit to be a pastor or missionary when they grow up.

These are just three examples of attractational events. The only limit to these events is our imagination. Can you think of attractational events that our church does to tell people about Jesus? (*Possibilities include Vacation Bible School, holiday events, festivals sponsored by the church or city festivals that the church participates in, block parties, concerts, and revival services*)

## Challenge

Here are some steps you can take this week:

- Pray for Eddie Miller and his family as they lead Sierra Baptist Association to share Jesus with lost people.
- Seek out opportunities to learn how to share your faith.
- Participate in attractational events sponsored by your church.
- Share your faith with people you spend time with during the week.

## PARENT LETTER

*(Please note that a sample parent letter is available at the end of this lesson.)*

Provide children with an information sheet to take home and share with their parents. You may want to add this to any communications you send home weekly, or create a flyer or letter just for this purpose. Customize the letter for your situation.

Dear Parent,

Today your child learned about Eddie Miller, a church planting missionary for the Sierra Baptist Association. Eddie serves the Nevada Baptist Convention through the North American Mission Board. His job has many responsibilities. One of those is encouraging churches to participate in attractional events. These events attract people who do not have a relationship with Jesus. They provide opportunities to share God's love with people who might not ever visit a traditional church service. Review the lesson with your child by asking the following questions.

1. Where does Eddie Miller serve? (Sierra Baptist Association in Nevada)
2. What is an attractional event? (An event that attracts people who do not have a relationship with Jesus.)
3. What kinds of events does Eddie Miller lead his association to participate in? (Holiday parades, roping contests, children's camps)
4. What kinds of attractional events does your church have? (These will vary but could include Vacation Bible School, holiday events, festivals [civic or church sponsored], and concerts.)

Pray with your child for Eddie and Kathy Miller as they serve in Nevada. Pray that they will have the resources they need to continue their ministry. Ask God to help your family find ways to share your faith with the lost in your neighborhood. Pray for your church as you reach out to the lost in your community.

