MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA, LESSON ONE

David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Crossway International

SAFARI FACTS

KENYA

NAIROBI, KENYA

FACTS ABOUT NAIROBI

Nairobi is the capital city of Kenya.
Nickname: Green City of the Sun
Area: 269 square miles/696 square kilometers
Population: Over 3,000,000; 10th largest city in Africa
Elevation: 5800 feet/1767 meters
Languages: English, Swahili
Climate: Average temperature December - March, 75 F/24 C, two rainy seasons

Lesson Purpose: To help children understand the concept of spiritual blindness and how to overcome it.

Lesson Objectives:

- To teach children what greed is, that it leads people to do bad things like poaching elephants, and that it is a sin.
- To teach children that Satan makes us spiritually blind so that we will not understand the gospel, but God removes our spiritual blindfold so that we can believe.
- To make children aware of the problem of clean drinking water in Kenya and what the ministry of Crossway International is doing to help.
- To highlight Crossway's ministry of giving goats to widows and how their model can help us spread the gospel exponentially.

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

Swahili is a language spoken in some countries in Africa. The Swahili word for "journey" is *safari.* Over the next few weeks, you will join Jesse Patete on an exciting journey all around the African country of Kenya. He will visit several missionaries and ministries to explore the work they do to share the gospel in Kenya. There will be many fun adventures along the way.

While in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, Jesse visits the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and learns all about elephants. Later he meets Dean Chollar who works with Crossway International. Crossway is a ministry that helps provide wells to people with no access to clean drinking water. It has started three schools and assists hundreds of orphans. Crossway also supports more than 60 blind children. Dean demonstrates a unique way to share the gospel. (The children will learn how to utilize this tool themselves in Lesson 2). He also shares a physical challenge that he says God has used in a special way to help him share the gospel.

Are you ready? Let's go on a safari!

PLAY VIDEO NOW (12:41)

STOP 1

Lesson Objective: To teach children what greed is, that it leads people to do bad things like poaching elephants, and that it is a sin.

Did you know that elephants are born blind? This means that when they are babies their mothers have to take very special care of them. They must learn to use their trunks to help them explore the world around them because they cannot see. And sometimes they even suck their trunks like babies suck their thumbs!

Mother elephants are very protective of their babies. They will do almost anything to protect them. However, there is a danger from which even mother elephants need protection. It is called "poaching." One example of poaching is when someone kills an elephant for its tusks.

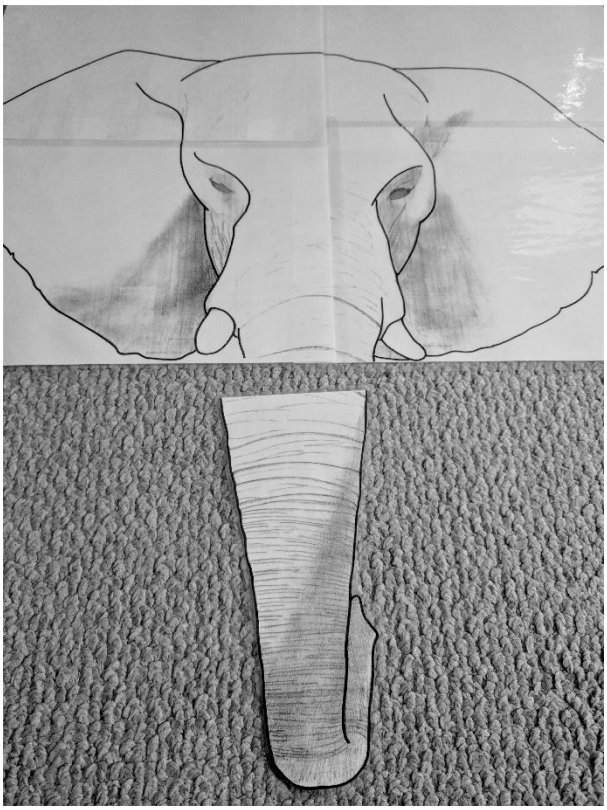
The tusks are made of ivory, so they are very valuable. People pay poachers lots of money for elephant tusks. What would cause a person to do this? Greed means wanting something for yourself so much that you will do anything – even kill elephants – to get it. Poachers are greedy for the money they can make by selling the tusks of the elephants.

Read 1 Timothy 6:10:

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (NKJV)

The Bible says that greed causes people to sin in many ways. It causes some people to stop being faithful to God. And the end result is it causes a lot of sorrow in their lives. Even though poaching elephants is against the law, many people still do it because they are greedy and want the money they can get for the ivory tusks. We can be thankful for the many people in Africa who are protecting and caring for elephants like the elephant sanctuary Jesse visited.

GAME: Pin the Trunk on the Elephant
Materials needed: Elephant template, elephant trunk template, tape and blindfold.


Elephant template printed, laminated, and taped together

Print out the elephant template at the end of this lesson on four sheets of paper and tape together to make a whole elephant. Print out the elephant trunk template and cut it out. The pieces can be colored and laminated or printed on colored paper. Hang the elephant on the wall and let the children take turns being blindfolded and trying to pin the trunk in the correct place.

A piece of blue painter's tape on the trunk will allow it to be easily removed and used again and again.

When baby elephants are happy, they play! We are going to play a game now. It is called "Pin the Trunk on the Elephant."

Let all the children take a turn trying to pin the trunk on the elephant after being blindfolded. Some children will not feel comfortable being blindfolded, and that is okay. Many others will gladly participate! Afterward, talk to the children about how baby elephants must feel when they are born blind.

How would their trunk help them explore and do things? They could use it to feel for their mothers. They could use it to pick up things. And remember – some elephants even suck it like a baby sucks his thumb! Talk about the blind school children in the video. What could they do even though they are blind? They go to school and sing songs. They even learned a story and recited it. They were smiling and happy and learning even though they are blind. What about Dean Chollar? What could he do even though he is blind? He travels around the world telling people about Jesus. He did the paper-folding evangelism tool by feeling it with his hands. There's almost nothing he can't do! God has used him in special ways because he is blind.

Just like God uses them, He can use you, too! Sometimes you might feel like you cannot do a job for God. You might feel like you are not good enough or smart enough or strong enough. But the Bible says that God helps us by giving us His strength. God made you and He wants you to serve Him. AND He will help you!

STOP 2

Lesson Objective: To teach children that Satan makes us spiritually blind so that we will not understand the gospel, but God removes our spiritual blindfold so that we can believe.

Ask the children how it felt when they were blindfolded and how it felt when the blindfold was removed.

The children and Mr. Chollar are physically blind. That means that they cannot see out of their eyes. Did you know that the Bible says that a person can be spiritually blind? A spiritually blind person cannot "see" or understand the gospel. It could be that they believe they can do something to earn God's salvation, or perhaps they have never heard the good news that Jesus wants to give them eternal life as a free gift.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4:

"…whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." (NKJV)

The first "god" in that verse is with a little "g." That is not talking about the true God that created everything. That is talking about Satan, the devil. He does not want people to believe in

Jesus Christ and go to live in God's house, heaven, when they die. So, he does everything he can to put a blindfold over their minds and their hearts so that they will not believe in Jesus. He wants people to believe that they can be saved by things like being good, keeping the Ten Commandments, being baptized, joining a church or doing good things to serve God. But none of these things will save you. Remember: salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone. Satan does not want you to believe that!

If a person is blind to the gospel and cannot understand it because Satan is tricking them into believing the wrong thing, how does a person come to understand and believe in Jesus?

Read John 12:32:

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." (NKJV)

Even though we are born spiritually blind when we come into this world, Jesus is always working to open the spiritual eyes of every person. Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the world, not just the sins of those who trust in Him as their savior (1 John 2:2).

Jesus is always drawing people to Himself. He uses the beauty of creation.

Read Romans 1:20-21:

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." (NKJV)

How could anyone look at a beautiful sunrise, birds flying over the ocean, and the many wonders of nature and think it all happened by mistake? When you see design, you know that someone smart planned it.

What if I told you that your bicycle came together by itself? You might think I was crazy. Any living creature is far more complicated than your bicycle. Don't let anyone fool you into believing that all the design we see in the world around us happened by chance. Even those who don't believe in God are usually impressed by extreme beauty. This is one of the main ways Jesus draws people to Himself.

The blindfold of spiritual darkness can start to come off when anyone starts to think about the intelligence or brains behind creation. However, the big blindfold can be removed when people hear the gospel. God takes the "blindfold" off of a person's mind. Then they can understand and accept the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Remember when you were wearing the blindfold to play Pin the Trunk on the Elephant? Could you see anything? When you took off the blindfold, what could you see? Everything! That's what happens in your mind and your heart when God takes off the "spiritual" blindfold. You understand things in the Bible that you couldn't understand before. You understand the true way to be saved.

What is the true way to be saved?

Read John 1:12:

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (NKJV)

To be saved you must believe that Jesus is God's Son. God sent Him to die for your sins. He died on the cross, but then three days later He rose from the dead! This is what you must believe to be saved. It is the ONLY way to become a child of God.

Read John 14:6:

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (NKJV)

Believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved. There is no other way to get to live forever with God when he establishes his kingdom on Earth.

STOP 3

Lesson Objective: To make children aware of the problem of clean drinking water in Kenya and what the ministry of Crossway International is doing to help.

What are some ways that we saw on the video that Crossway International and Dean Chollar are helping people in Africa? One way is through drilling wells to get clean water. They have provided wells with clean drinking water for over 130,000 people. That's a lot of people!

What would you do if you had to collect water every day for your family? Do you think you could do it? We are going to play a game that will help us understand how hard it is.

GAME: Kukusanya Maji ("Gather Water" in Swahili)

Materials: 2 small baskets or buckets, 2 small bean bags, something light like packing peanuts, marshmallows, or balls of paper

Divide into two teams. Fill the basket or bucket with one of the materials mentioned above. Tell the children to imagine that their container is really filled with water. Have two children put the containers on their heads, using the bean bag to level it. Have them walk as quickly as they can without holding it with their hands and without spilling the contents. If they spill, then they have to start over. Then they pass it to the next person. Whichever team has all players complete the task first wins. Play as many rounds as you have time for.

Many children in Kenya cannot go to school because they have to spend their day collecting clean water for their families. Sometimes they have to walk a long way to get clean water. Sometimes the water they get isn't clean and they get sick from drinking it. Every year, one

million people die from diseases they catch from drinking unclean water! Can you imagine how happy they must be when Crossway International digs a well in their village and they have fresh, clean water without working so hard or walking so far to get it? And they don't have to worry about getting sick when they drink it!

Let's thank God that we have clean water. And let's thank Him that people like Mr. Chollar are helping people in Kenya get clean water.

FINAL DESTINATION

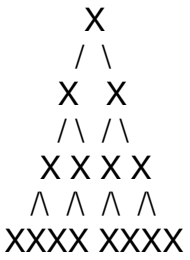
Lesson Objective: To highlight Crossway's ministry of giving goats to widows and how their model can help us spread the gospel exponentially.

Materials needed: African Woman Template

Besides wells for clean water, Crossway and Mr. Chollar also give goats to widows. The Swahili word for "goat" is "mbuzi." A widow is a woman whose husband has died. In Africa it is very hard for women to earn a living after their husband dies. So, it is a huge blessing when they receive a goat.

How could a goat be a blessing to them? What would they use it for? They can drink the milk from the goat. People in Kenya love to eat goats. They can also use the milk to make cheese and butter. They can even sell the milk, cheese, and butter to earn money for their families to live. Did you know that goats have lots of babies? So, if their goat has babies, they can sell them to earn money. But do you remember what they are supposed to do with the first two baby goats that are born? They are supposed to give them away to two other widows. This is a way that one goat can help many, many women, not just one.

Print and cut out the AFRICAN WOMAN TEMPLATE. Make sure you have 15 women. Use the exponential growth illustration below as a guide to discuss how one goat for one woman turns into many goats for many women. Each "X" represents an African woman. (A piece of blue painter's tape on the back of the cut-outs will enable you to stick them onto the wall or whiteboard without causing damage when you remove them.)



Example of how to use African Woman Template

Crossway gives one goat to one woman. (Stick one African Woman cut-out on the wall or whiteboard.) When her goat has babies, she gives the first two goats to two other women. (Put 2 women on the board under the first woman as illustrated by the X's above.) When their goats have babies, each woman gives them to two other women. (Put 4 women on the next line.) When their goats have babies, what do they do? That's right! They also give two goats to two other women. (Place 8 women on the last row.) How many women have goats now? Let the children help you count them. Look how one goat to one woman turned into 15 goats for 15 women! And it doesn't stop there. Those eight women on the bottom will give goats to other women, too. And the number of women and goats will grow and grow and grow!

Now think about if we told others about Jesus the same way that the women give goats to other women. How fast would the good news spread? Did you know that Jesus wants us to tell others about Jesus?

Read Mark 16:15:

"*And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"* (NKJV)

God wants us to tell everyone about Him. And we don't have to go to Kenya like Dean Chollar. God wants us to tell our friends about Jesus. He wants us to tell our neighbors how to be saved. He wants us to tell our families and anyone we meet that believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved. God wants you to come to His house in heaven. There is no other way to get to heaven except through Jesus. You must believe in Him.

Go over the Memory Verse:

John 14:6:
"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (NKJV)

ADDITIONAL CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

John 14:6 Coloring Page – http://fromvictoryroad.com/2015/09/13/john-146-coloring-page/

Elegant Elephant Coloring Page by Marjorie Sarnat– https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=2c5cdbcd56a7b17b768181439&id=079579a18f&e=0dbc6d766c

African Mother and Baby Elephant Coloring Page – http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/african-elephant-mother-and-baby

MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Crossway International
GoCrossway.org

MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA LESSON 1 Date _____

Dear Parent,

Today we began a safari to Kenya! For the next ____ weeks, we will learn about many missionaries, ministries and animals in the country of Kenya. Today we learned:

- what greed is and how it leads people to poach elephants
- what spiritual blindness is and how to be cured by faith in Christ
- what Crossway International is doing to help provide clean drinking water for Kenyans
- how giving one goat to one widow can turn into hundreds of goats for hundreds of widows
- the Swahili words for journey (safari), water (maji), goat (mbuzi), and thank you (asante).

This week's Memory Verse is John 14:6:
"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (NKJV)

This week's ministry is Crossway International. Find out more about their work at GoCrossway.org.

Mission Explorers Kenya is produced by KidsTalkAboutGod.org, which provides lots of opportunities for kids to have a real voice in sharing the gospel around the world. To find out about upcoming opportunities for children, sign up for the newsletter at KidsTalkAboutGod.org/news.

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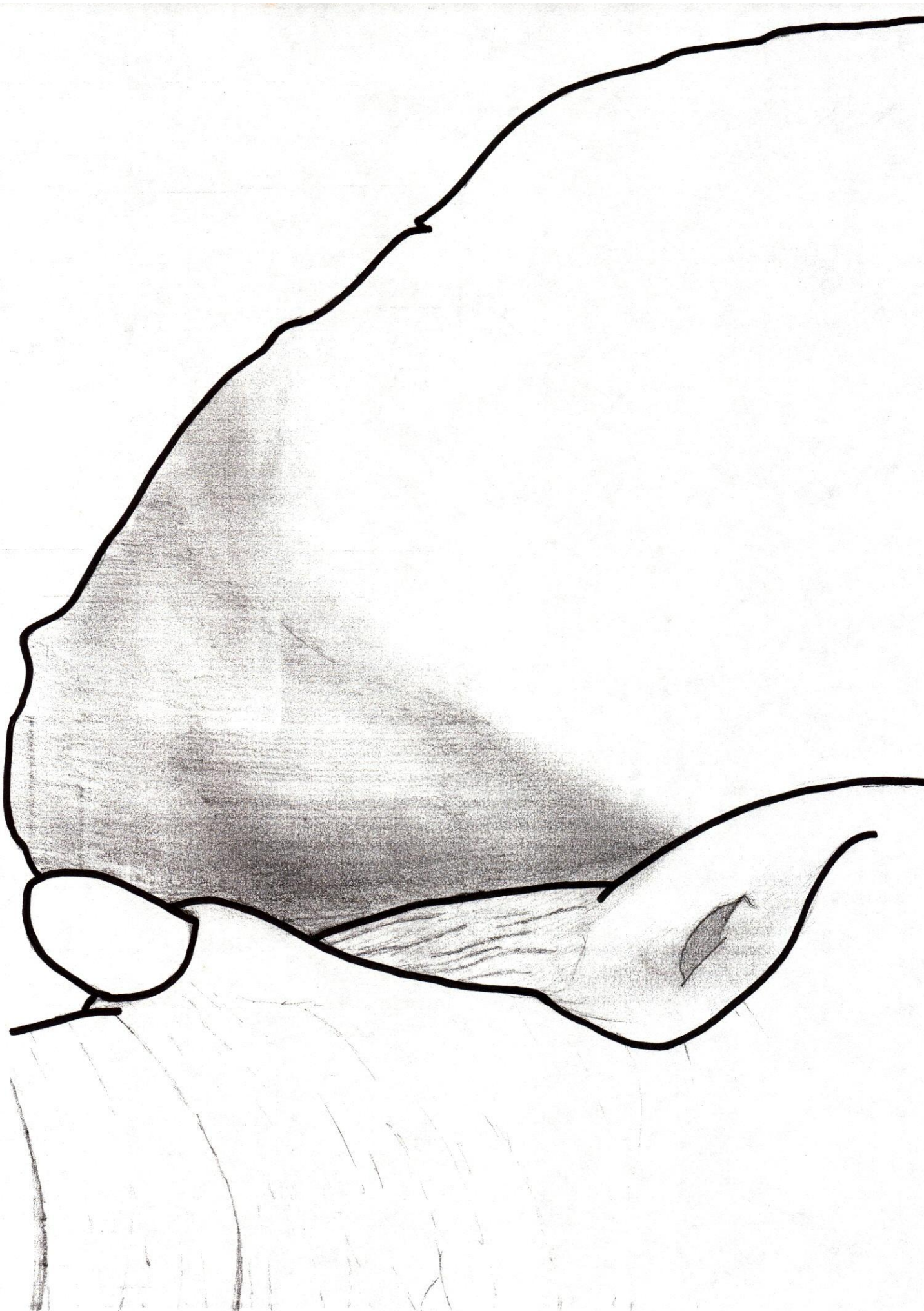

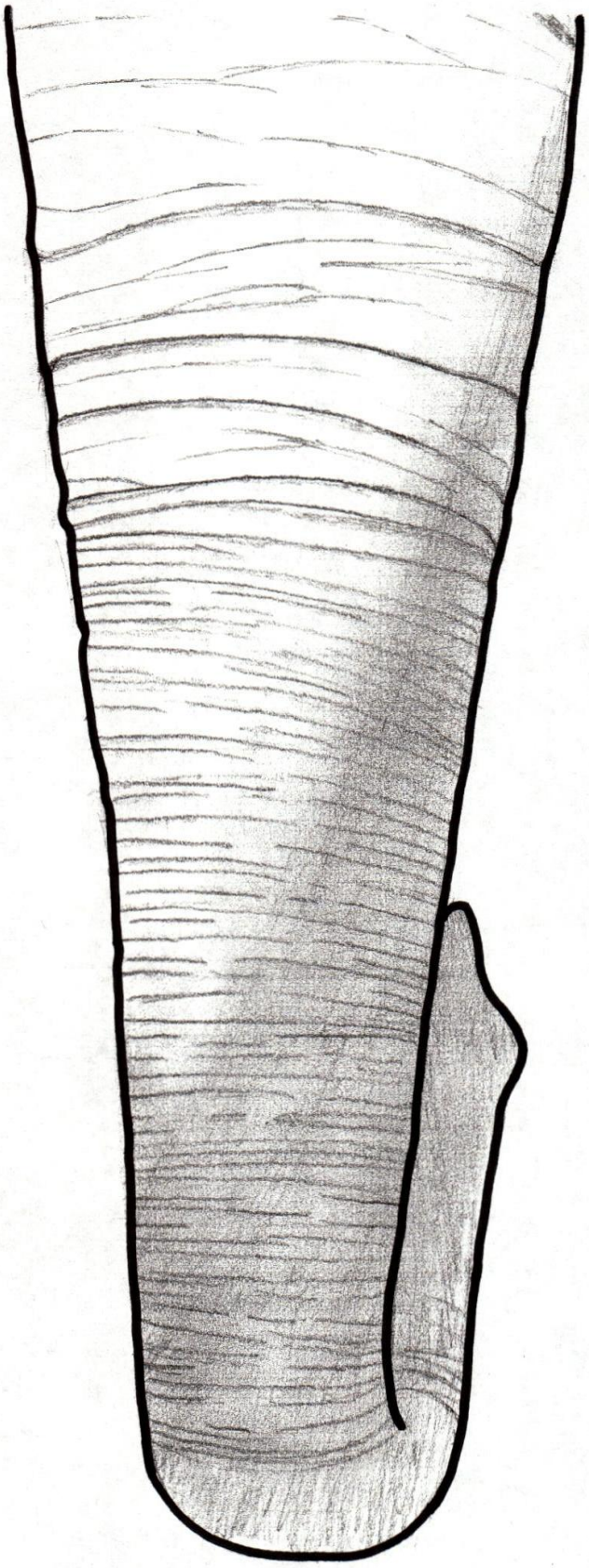
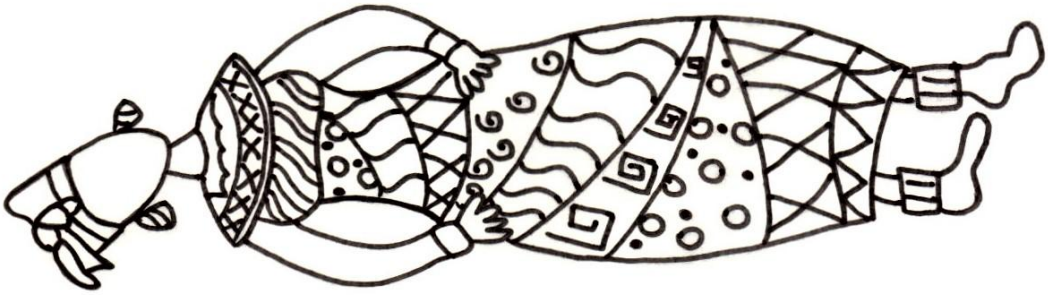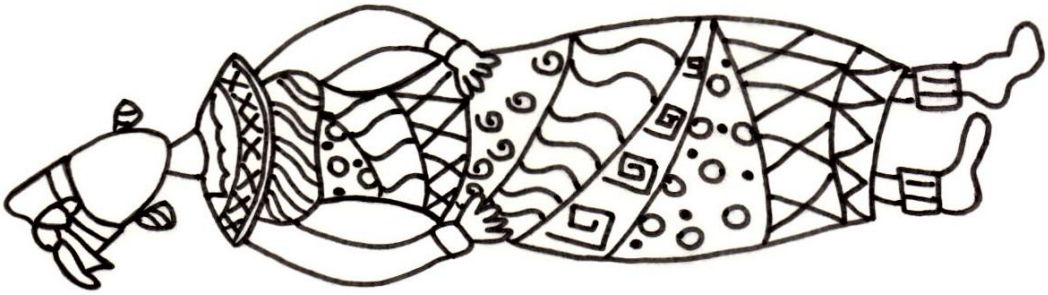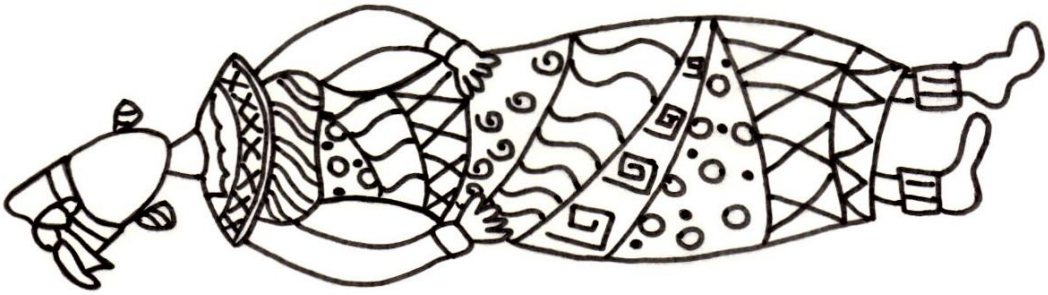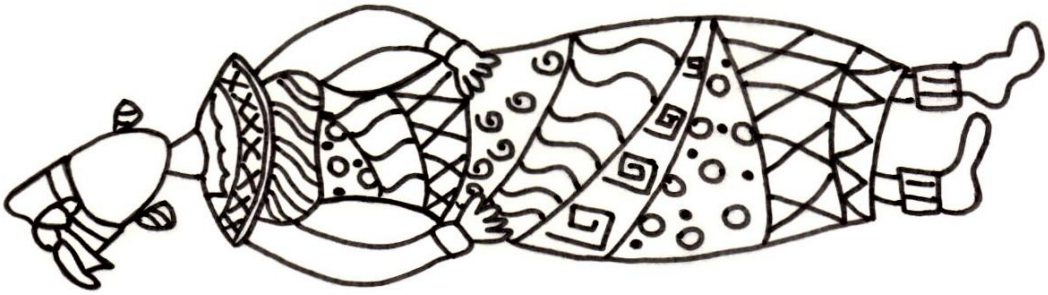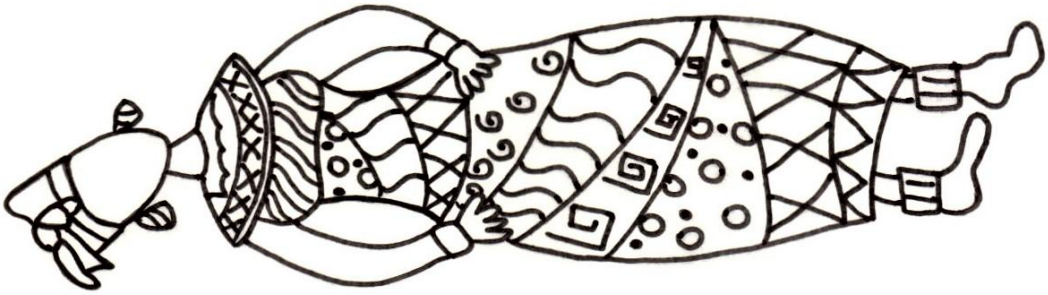
AFRICAN WOMAN TEMPLATE