

## MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA, LESSON 3

Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage, Artist Doug Van Howd, A Rocha Kenya, Care of Creation

### SAFARI FACTS

#### KENYA



#### NANYUKI, KENYA



#### FACTS ABOUT NANYUKI

Nanyuki is a town in central Kenya. It's known as a gateway to Mount Kenya and the wilderness of Mount Kenya National Park. Several trails, including the Naro Moru and Sirimon routes, ascend the mountain. The park's wildlife includes leopards, giant forest hogs and more than 100 bird species. Northwest of Nanyuki, the plains and hills of the vast Laikipia Plateau are home to lions, elephants and rare Grevy's zebras.

Population: 50,000

Elevation: 6200 feet/1889 meters

**Lesson Purpose:** To help children develop an awareness of man's responsibility to care for God's beautiful creation.

**Lesson Objectives:**

- To expose children to more animals found in the country of Kenya and to help them understand why conserving and protecting them is so important.
- To introduce children to the art of sculptor Doug Van Howd and to see how he uses his art to bring awareness to the problem of elephant poaching in Africa.
- To introduce children to the ministry of A Rocha and help them see God as Creator as they "consider the birds," as well as help them consider how they can be part of the solution to the environmental problems in the world.
- To introduce children to the ministry of Care of Creation and help them understand the importance of caring for God's beautiful creation.

**VIDEO INTRODUCTION**

Jesse has more adventures in Nanyuki, Kenya, as he visits Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage, where he gets up close and personal with many African animals including the bongo antelope, ostrich, African crowned crane, pygmy hippopotamus, and llama. Every year Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage invites thousands of African children to come visit and learn about wildlife conservation.

Jesse also gets a glimpse into artist Doug Van Howd's studio where he is currently sculpting a life-size elephant. Doug uses his art to bring awareness to the widespread practice of poaching elephants in Africa. When he first started visiting Africa, there were 10 million elephants. Now there are only about 400,000. He explains that every 12 minutes we lose an elephant to poaching.

Jesse also visits Lake Elementeita, a place which attracts large flocks of flamingoes because of its algae-rich waters.

Jesse's next stop is the Kenya chapter of A Rocha, a ministry whose goal is to help people feel more connected to God's creation. He meets Colin Jackson, an ornithologist, who believes that Jesus is the answer for the environmental problems of the world. Colin introduces several fascinating species of birds found in Kenya and shows how God's power can be seen in even the smallest of creatures.

Finally, Jesse meets Craig Sorley of Care of Creation, whose mission is "to mobilize the church to care for God's creation." Since all things were made by Him and for Him, Craig believes that Christians should play a larger role in caring for the earth. The ministry teaches a method to local farmers called "Farming God's Way," which enriches the soil instead of stripping it and making it unproductive. They also encourage Kenyans to plant more trees to replace those that are cut down. Craig reminds us that in the Bible, God uses a tree as the symbol of life.

Let's go on a safari!

## PLAY VIDEO NOW (16:49)

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### STOP 1

**Lesson Objective:** To expose children to more animals found in the country of Kenya and to help them understand why conserving and protecting them is so important.

**Materials needed:** Variety of small stuffed animals, small baskets or boxes (shoe boxes work well) to serve as beds for the animals, small pieces of fabric cut into rectangles to serve as blankets, play baby bottles

*Let the children spend some time playing with the animals, feeding them, and putting them to bed. While they are playing, talk to them about the different kinds of animals they saw being cared for at the Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage.*

Do you know what an orphan is? It is a baby that has lost its parents. Many animals in Kenya become orphans because their parents are killed by poachers. *(Remind them what they learned about poaching in Lesson 1.)* Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage helps take care of orphaned animals.

If you found a baby animal that didn't have parents to care for it, would you care for it? Of course, you would. Why is it important to take care of orphaned animals and protect endangered animals?

Read Psalm 8:6-8:

*"You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen – even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas." (NKJV)*

The "him" in this verse is talking about people, men and women. The Bible teaches us that God gave man authority over all the animals on earth. He gave us permission to use animals to help us for things like farming, transportation, or even for food! But He never gave us permission to abuse them. God wants us to be kind to animals and take good care of them.

Aren't you glad that there are places like Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage to take care of animals that need help?

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### STOP 2

**Lesson Objective:** To introduce children to the art of sculptor Doug Van Howd and to see how he uses his art to bring awareness to the problem of elephant poaching in Africa.

**Materials needed:** Crayola® Air-Dry Clay or modeling clay

Links to supplies for this craft can be found at our website [www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies](http://www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies).

*Give each child some modeling clay and encourage them to sculpt an elephant. Have some pictures from the internet of small clay elephants for them to use as inspiration. You could also provide small plastic or silicone molds used for candy making. The clay can be pressed into the molds and easily released. Cookie cutters could be used as well. If using the air-dry clay, place everyone's creations on a tray and let them dry until the following week when they can be painted with acrylic or tempera paints. After everyone is finished with the activity, set their creations aside either to take home at the end of class or to dry until next week.*

All of you just made a small elephant out of clay. Can you imagine what it would be like if you were making a life-size elephant? That's what the artist Doug Van Howd is doing. He is making a sculpture of an elephant that is the size of a real elephant! Why is he doing that? He is using his art to bring awareness to what is happening to the elephants in Africa.

When he first started going to Africa many years ago, there were 10 million elephants in Africa. Now there are only about 400,000 elephants. Poachers kill the elephants to get their tusks which are made of ivory and are very valuable. Poaching is against the law, but these people do it anyway.

Doug said that every 12 minutes an elephant is killed. (Set an alarm on your phone or clock to go off in 12 minutes.) We are going to set an alarm to go off every 12 minutes until class is over. Every time it goes off that represents one elephant that is killed by poachers. Let's see how many elephants we will have by the end of class.

Wouldn't it be sad if we didn't have any more elephants in the world? God made elephants as part of His creation. They are beautiful and amazing animals. Let's help take care of them and pray that God would change the hearts of the people who are poaching them.

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### STOP 3

**Lesson Objective:** To introduce children to the ministry of A Rocha and help them see God as Creator as they "consider the birds," as well as help them consider how they can be part of the solution to the environmental problems in the world.

**Materials needed:** Pictures printed from the internet of the willow warbler and the sandgrouse

The Swahili word for "bird" is *ndege*. Colin Jackson is the national director of the Kenya chapter of an organization called A Rocha. The goal of A Rocha is to help people feel more connected to God's creation.

Colin Jackson is an ornithologist. That is a person who studies birds. Colin shared how birds can remind us of God. And God tells us something very important about birds in the Bible.

Read Matthew 6:26:

*“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (NKJV)*

God tells us to look at the birds and think about how they get their food. When you go to the grocery store with your mom or your dad, do you ever see birds in there buying bird seed? No, of course you don't! Have you ever seen a bird planting a garden? No! That is because God provides food for the birds in nature. They eat things like nuts and seeds that they find outside. Sometimes we put bird feeders in our yards and fill them with bird seed. That is so that we can attract birds and see them, not because they cannot find their own food. God has provided their food for them.

In that Bible verse God says that you are even more valuable than birds. If God provides for the birds, He will provide for you, too. Aren't you glad that you don't have to fly around outside looking for nuts and seeds to eat? God has placed grownups in your life to help take care of you.

When we look at birds, we can see how God provides for them and for us. What else can we learn about God by looking at birds? Let's look at the willow warbler. It is a tiny bird that weighs only 1/3 ounce. *(Use something to demonstrate how much this is and let the children take turns holding it. For example, 18 cotton balls weigh 1/3 oz. or one willow warbler. Or, 1/4 cup of rice weighs about 1.6 oz. or about 5 willow warblers.)* These birds are small, but every year they fly 9,000 miles! That is like driving across the whole United States three times. God has also placed within these birds the ability to navigate their way to places they have never been, using stars they have never seen. That's pretty amazing.

Read Psalm 32:8:

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.” (NKJV)*

God doesn't just guide willow warblers. He guides you, too. He has even given us a “map” – the Bible. It is filled with instructions that help us live the way God wants us to live. And He gives the Holy Spirit to those who are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is like having GPS inside us guiding us just like God gives the willow warbler the ability to read the stars to guide it on a 9,000-mile trip and then back home.

Now let's look at the sandgrouse. God gave them feathers that are like sponges. What do sponges do? They absorb water. Sandgrouse fly 20 to 30 miles to find a watering hole. When they find water, they sit in the edge and their feathers soak up water. Then they fly all the way back to their nest where their chicks are waiting. Then the baby birds suck the water out of their feathers just like a baby sucks milk out of a bottle.

We talked about how God provides us with food to eat, and that includes water to drink. But the Bible talks about another kind of water. This isn't the liquid stuff that we drink when we are thirsty. This is a kind of spiritual water that we need.

Read John 7:37-38:

*"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (NKJV)*

Jesus says, "If you're thirsty, come to me and drink." Is he talking about giving you some lemonade or maybe some root beer? No. Jesus is talking about a kind of spiritual water. He's talking about salvation. He is the only one who can offer you salvation. Then Jesus says you will have a river flowing out of your heart. That is the Holy Spirit. So, when you get saved through believing in Jesus and His death, burial, and resurrection, then the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. Salvation is like a drink of water that you drink one time. You are saved only one time. After you are saved, Jesus gives you a never-ending supply of spiritual water through the Holy Spirit. It's like drinking a big bottle of your favorite drink and it never, ever runs out no matter how much you drink. All of us must drink water to live. If you are a Christian, then you need the living water that the Holy Spirit gives.

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## FINAL DESTINATION

**Lesson Objective:** To introduce children to the ministry of Care of Creation and help them understand the importance of caring for God's beautiful creation.

Do any of you have jobs that you do at home? What are some of your jobs? What kind of job would you like to have when you grow up?

Did you know that God gave the first man, Adam, a job to do right after He created him?

Read Genesis 2:15:

*"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." (NKJV)*

What job did God give Adam? To take care of the garden of Eden. There were many kinds of plants in the garden – fruits and vegetables and flowers. Adam's job was to take care of each one. That's why Care of Creation and Craig Sorley are teaching Kenyans how to care for the soil so that it doesn't get worn out. Soil that is worn out does not have the nutrients it needs to grow more plants. When people learn the Farming God's Way method, the soil is healthy and produces a lot more crops than worn-out soil.

Did you know that God gave Adam another job?

Read Genesis 2:19:

*“Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.” (NKJV)*

What job did God give Adam in this verse? Adam got to name all of the animals. That sounds like a fun job, doesn't it? And that's not all. God gave Adam and Eve a job to do together.

Read Genesis 1:28:

*“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” (NKJV)*

God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. That means He wanted them to have children and fill the earth with their family. Everyone who has ever been born is descended from Adam and Eve and is a part of their family. That means that YOU are descended from Adam and Eve, too!

God also told them to have dominion over all living things. “Dominion” means to rule over. Remember we also saw this in Psalm 8:6-8 when we talked about Mt. Kenya Animal Orphanage.

Why should we be concerned about taking care of the earth?

Read Psalm 89:11:

*“The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them.” (NKJV)*

This is talking about God. The heavens – sky and outer space and everything in between – belong to God. The earth and everything it contains are God's. He created it all.

Read Genesis 1:31:

*“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (NKJV)*

After God had created everything in the world, He looked at all of it and said that it was very good. God was pleased with His magnificent creation. If God was pleased with it, do you think that we should treat it badly? Or take care of it? We should take care of it. What are some ways that people have failed to take care of the earth? (*Help them with examples such as littering, pollution, hunting animals to extinction, etc.*) What are some ways that we can help take care of the earth? (*Examples may include not to litter and pick up litter when they see it, help protect endangered animals, and recycle.*)

This beautiful world we live in is a gift from God. He gave us the job of caring for it. That doesn't mean that we worship the earth. But one of the ways that we can worship God is by taking good care of His creation.

**Go over the Memory Verse:**

Psalm 89:11:

*"The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them."* (NKJV)

MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

A Rocha Kenya  
assets-kenya.org

Care of Creation  
careofcreationkenya.org

## ADDITIONAL CRAFTS

### Elephant Charm Necklace



**Materials:** Suede cording, small elephant charms, assortment of plastic beads

*Links to supplies for this craft can be found at our website [www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies](http://www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies).*

*Cut a length of cording long enough to go over each child's head including enough to tie a knot (about 15 inches/38 cm). Give each child an elephant charm and some plastic beads. After they have strung the beads and the charm onto the cording, tie a knot in the cording.*

### Pine Cone Bird Feeder



**Materials:** Pine cones, wood craft sticks, string or twine, birdseed, peanut butter

Links to supplies for this craft can be found at our website [www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies](http://www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies).

\*NOTE: If you have children in your class with nut allergies, sunflower butter may be substituted.

*Tie the string securely around the top of the pine cone making it long enough to hang from a bird feeder or tree branch. Use a craft stick to coat the pine cone with peanut butter. Put the birdseed in a plastic tub or on paper plates and roll the coated pine cone in the seed until covered. Send home in a zip top bag.*

Dear Parent,

Today we continued on our safari to Kenya! Today we learned:

- why conserving and protecting animals in Kenya is so important
- about the art of sculptor Doug Van Howd and saw how he uses his art to bring awareness to the problem of elephant poaching in Africa
- about the ministry of A Rocha and learned to see God as Creator and how we can be part of the solution to the environmental problems in the world
- about the ministry of Care of Creation and the importance of caring for God's beautiful creation
- the Swahili words for bird (ndege), garden (bustani), and ostrich (mbuni).

This week's Memory Verse is Psalm 89:11:

"The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them." (NKJV)

This week's ministries are A Rocha Kenya and Care of Creation. Find out more about their work at [assets-kenya.org](http://assets-kenya.org) and [careofcreationkenya.org](http://careofcreationkenya.org).

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