

MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA, LESSON EIGHT

The Ark School, Giraffe Rescue Center

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 that the only way to be born again is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Lesson Objectives:

- To teach children that there are many religions in the world, but none of them will save you. You must be born again.
- To teach them that we should help people in need because of God's love in our hearts.
- To help the children have an appreciation for those who seek to rescue and protect giraffes that are in danger of extinction.
- To show through the Scriptures that Abraham was saved through faith in Christ which is the way every person must be saved.

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

Once again Jesse travels to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, and visits the Ark School. He meets Bentina and Bernard, who founded the school to evangelize Muslims and non-Muslims in their area. They started by teaching adults in the evenings. Then they saw a need to teach children who did not have access to a good education. Many students at the school are of the Borana tribe which migrated to Nairobi only 20 to 30 years ago.

Another stop in Nairobi is the Giraffe Rescue Center. The center was started in the 1970's to rescue Rothschild giraffes. It gives these endangered giraffes a good place to live and roam freely and also protects them from poaching. Jesse gets up close and personal with the giraffes as he feeds them and even gets a shower from one.

Let's go on a safari!

PLAY VIDEO NOW (13:54 minutes)

STOP 1

Lesson Objective: To teach children that there are many religions in the world, but none of them will save you. You must be born again.

How many of you like birthdays? What is so fun about birthdays? Presents and cake and parties. How many times were you born? Yes, only once. How many birthdays do you celebrate each year? Only one, because you were born only once. How would you like to have two birthdays every year? Did you know that Jesus said if you want to go to God's house, then you have to be born *again*? I wonder what He meant. We will talk about that in just a minute.

When Jesse visited the Ark School, he learned that many of the students are Muslims. That means that they follow a religion called Islam, which does not believe that the Bible is the true Word of God or that Jesus is God. Jesse met Bentina and Bernard, who started the school, and learned that one of their goals at the Ark School is to share the gospel with Muslims as well as show them the love of God.

Why do they want to share the gospel with people who already follow a religion? Because following a religion does not save you – no matter what the religion is. Religions have lots of rules that say “do this” or “don’t do that.” But following rules can never save us. Why? Because the Bible teaches that the only way to be saved is through faith alone in Christ alone. There are over 4000 religions in the world, and not a single one of them can save you.

One night a man visited Jesus, and they talked about how to be saved. This man’s name was Nicodemus. He was a very religious man and a teacher in his religion. Even though he was very religious, Jesus told Nicodemus that there was only one way to be saved.

Read John 3:3:

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (NKJV)

What did Jesus mean when he told Nicodemus that he had to be born again? Did He mean that Nicodemus had to go back into his mommy’s tummy and wait nine months? No! Jesus didn’t mean being born like that. Let’s read another verse to help us understand.

Read John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (NKJV)

In this verse, Jesus says that you have to believe in Him to have everlasting life. When you believe in Jesus and are saved by faith in Him, He makes you a new person in your heart. Instead of wanting to do bad things, God gives you desires to obey him. And if you disobey God by sinning, then you feel bad about it in your heart. When you listen to the Holy Spirit, who lives in every believer, and God’s words in the Bible, you will have new thoughts and desires. All who trust Jesus Christ as their Savior are part of a new creation. They have a new destiny. They will be like Christ, who lives to please His Father. If you start cooperating with God now by obeying Him, you will experience the adventure of Jesus living His life through you (Galatians 2:20). When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, he was talking about the new life you have in Christ. When you get saved, you have two birthdays – the day you were born and the day you were born again!

Let’s say a prayer to thank God for making a way for us to be born again.

Lord, thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You for providing salvation to anyone who trusts in Jesus by faith. Thank You for the new life You give to anyone who does this.

After praying, encourage the children to come to you after class if they would like to know more about being born again. Do not ask for a show of hands of who wants to be saved. Children are very literal and many times will believe that raising their hands saves them. Trust the Holy Spirit

to work in their hearts and move them to seek more answers. Leading a child to Christ is a sacred trust and should be handled with care.

STOP 2

Lesson Objective: To teach children that we should help people in need because of God's love in our hearts.

In the video, we learned that the Ark School teaches a sewing class for adults. Why do they teach people how to sew? Many of the people who attend the Ark School are poor and do not have money for school supplies or even for food. Sewing is a valuable skill that can help them earn a living. We saw some women making purses to sell. This helps them earn money to support their families.

The Bible teaches a lot about helping people in need. In fact, it says that if we don't help people in need, then God's love does not live in us.

Read 1 John 3:17:

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in Him?" (NKJV)

This is telling us that if we see a person who has a need and refuse to help him, then how can we say that God's love lives in us? God's love in our hearts makes us want to help people. When people don't listen to God, they act selfishly just like those who don't believe in Christ. The people at the Ark School teach people to sew because they are letting Jesus live through them. They see that these people need help. They have God's love in their hearts.

Do you have a desire to help people in the name of Christ? What are some things that you can do to help people who are in need? (*Help them think of things such as donate toys that are in good condition to the Salvation Army, donate some of their allowance to a local food bank, etc.*)

Most of us have everything we need and almost everything we want. God says that when we have so much, we need to be generous to those who don't have everything they need, especially things like food and clothes.

Think of a service project that your class can participate in. Some examples are:

- *Collect canned goods and donate to a local food bank or a family in need.*
- *Collect items to pack a Shoe Box for Operation Christmas Child. Details can be found at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.*
- *Collect school supplies and fill a backpack with them. Donate to a child in need.*
- *Decorate a big jar to place in the classroom and collect money. Be specific about what the money is for. Encourage the children to do extra chores to earn money for the jar.*

Be sure to send home a letter to parents telling them what you are collecting, how long you are collecting, and where to bring the collected items.

STOP 3

Lesson Objective: To help the children have an appreciation for those who seek to rescue and protect giraffes that are in danger of extinction.

Swahili for “giraffe” is *twiga*. At the Giraffe Rescue Center, they rescue rare Rothschild giraffes. This kind of giraffe has been endangered since the 1970’s. Besides giving them a good place to live and roam freely, the rescue center also protects the giraffes from poaching. Do you remember what poaching is? It is illegal hunting. What other animals have we learned are killed by poachers? In Lesson 1, we learned that elephants are killed by poachers for their ivory tusks. Poachers want to kill giraffes for several reasons: meat to eat, their beautiful coats, and even their tails.

We are going to make a giraffe for you to take home. When you look at your giraffe, remember to thank God for the Giraffe Rescue Center and ask Him to protect the rare Rothschild giraffes.

PAPER GIRAFFE CRAFT

Materials needed: 12 x 12-inch giraffe print scrapbook paper (link below), markers or crayons, tape, glue stick, scissors, copies of Giraffe Head Template at the end of this lesson

Links to supplies for this craft can be found at our website www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies.



Make as many copies as needed of the Giraffe Head Template. For younger children, cut out the heads ahead of time. Older children may cut them out themselves if time allows. Let the children color the giraffe heads.

Roll the paper into a cone shape and secure with tape. Attach the head to the pointed end of the cone with a glue stick. With scissors cut the large end of the cone so that it is straight and the cone will stand up. To make baby giraffes, use the smaller giraffe head template and cut the cone shorter.

**If unable to find giraffe print paper, plain yellow or white paper can be used. Brown paper can be cut or torn into rough shapes and glued onto the yellow or white paper to resemble a giraffe pattern.*

FINAL DESTINATION

Lesson Objective: To show through the Scriptures that Abraham was saved through faith in Christ, which is the way every person must be saved.

When Jesse was at the Ark School, he asked a teacher how they teach the Bible to Muslims without offending them. Muslims do not believe in the same God that we do. They don't believe the Bible is true or that it is God's Word. The teacher said that one of the things they teach them is about Abraham because Muslims consider Abraham to be a very important person in their history. So, let's look at what the Bible says about Abraham.

Read Genesis 15:6:

"And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." (NKJV)

This verse says that Abraham believed in the Lord. And then it says because Abraham believed in the Lord that God declared him to be righteous. The only way a person can be made righteous – or right with God – is to be saved through faith in Christ. The Bible is telling us in this verse that Abraham got saved!

Read Galatians 3:9:

"So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." (NKJV)

What does this verse call Abraham? It calls him "believing Abraham." In the Bible, a believer is someone who believes in Jesus Christ. It is a person who has put his faith in Jesus for salvation. Abraham was saved by faith alone in Christ alone. He knew that God would send a savior. He looked forward to living in the New Jerusalem (Hebrews 11:10).

That verse also talks about "those who are of faith." That is talking about anyone who has been saved by faith in Jesus Christ. It says that anyone who has been saved is blessed with Abraham. Abraham is blessed because he is a believer. And anyone else who is a believer like Abraham is also blessed.

Abraham lived a long time before Jesus was born. In fact, he lived about 2,000 years before Jesus was born! So how did Abraham get saved before Jesus was born and died on the cross for our sins?

Did you know that God promised that He would send a Savior to the very first man and woman, Adam and Eve?

Read Genesis 3:15:

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (NKJV)

We looked at this verse in Animal Theology (Lesson 7) when we learned about the crocodile.

This verse is a little hard to understand. The important thing to know about this verse is that God is telling Adam and Eve that He will send a Seed born of a woman who will destroy the serpent who is the devil. This is the first promise of Jesus. Abraham was born about 2,000 years before Jesus, and Adam was born about 2,000 years before Abraham! So a long, long time before Abraham was born, God promised to send a Savior.

Did Abraham know everything we know today about the Lord Jesus Christ? Probably not. But he knew enough to believe! We are living after Jesus was born so we know a lot more about Him than Abraham did. But the Bible still calls Abraham a believer. So, we know that he knew enough about the promised Savior to put his faith in Him. There is only one way for every person who has ever been born to be saved – faith alone in Christ alone.

How do you become a believer like Abraham? You must put your faith in Jesus and nothing else.

God promised Abraham that he would be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:3). This blessing would come through Abraham's seed, which is Jesus Christ.

Read Galatians 3:16:

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ." (NKJV)

The Bible can be divided into two parts. The first eleven chapters of Genesis speak of the initial sin in Eden and the destructive nature of that sin in the world.

In Genesis 12:1-9, God promised Abraham a son, land and a blessing. However, these three promises were so that Abraham could be a blessing to the nations through his seed. Jesus Christ was born into this world as a Jew. All Jews are the seed of Abraham because they are related to him physically or genetically. All who believe in Jesus Christ as savior are related to Abraham spiritually. The Bible says Abraham is the father of all who believe in Christ (Romans 4:11).

The second part of the Bible, after God's promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-9, presents the details of how God worked things to make Abraham a blessing to all the nations through Jesus Christ.

God promised to clean up the mess created by our sin. Jesus will return to establish His kingdom on this Earth. When he returns, he will rule over a new people living on a new Earth. His kingdom will be glorious and will remain forever (Revelation 11:15). Abraham will finally see and live in that glorious city which he never saw during his lifetime (Hebrews 11:10). When the New Jerusalem comes to Earth from heaven, Jesus will dwell with his people (Revelation 21:2).

Read Acts 4:12:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (NKJV)

This tells us that the only name that will save is Jesus. No one else. Believing in Abraham will not save a person. To be saved, a person must believe in the God in whom Abraham believed. The only way to be saved like Abraham is the same for every person – even Muslims. You must believe in Jesus.

Go over the Memory Verse:

Acts 4:12:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (NKJV)

ADDITIONAL CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

Giraffe Coloring Page for Younger Children – <http://coloritbynumbers.com/coloring-games/animals/giraffe>

Giraffe Coloring Page for Older Children – <http://wagashiya.net/giraffe-adult-coloring-pages.html/adult-coloring-pages-animal-patterns-giraffe-free-remarkable/>

Paper Plate Heart Sewing Craft



Materials: Small paper plates (9" and 7" plates were used in the photo), yarn, child-safe lacing needles (optional), tape, Heart Template (at the end of this lesson)

Links to supplies for this craft can be found at our website www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/supplies.

Remind the class: Remember at the Ark School that they teach women how to sew? The women make purses and other things to sell to help support their families. The people at the Ark School help these women because of God's love in their hearts. We are going to learn to sew just like the women at the Ark School. We are going to sew a heart to remind us that when we have God's love in our hearts, we will have a desire to help others.

Using the heart template at the end of this lesson, cut a heart shape out of the center of a 6" round paper plate. Punch holes at ½" intervals between the outer edge of the heart and the rim of the plate. Secure one end of the yarn on the back of the plate with tape or by tying a knot. Sew by crossing the yarn randomly from one side of the heart to other. Child-safe plastic needles can be used for the yarn or a piece of tape around the end also works well to get the yarn easily through the holes. When finished, secure the end of the yarn either with tape or a knot.

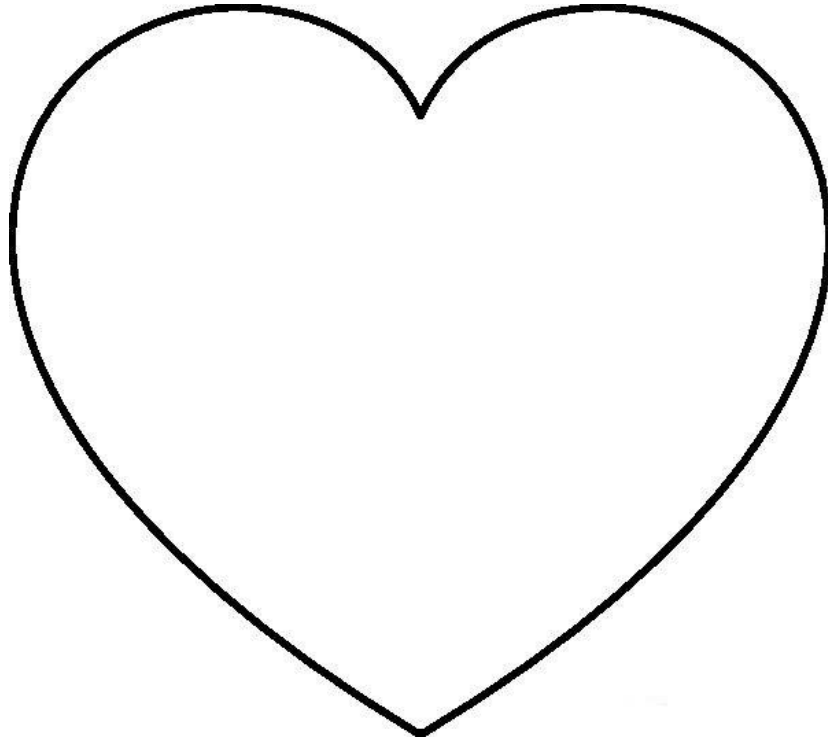
**It is recommended that the teacher have the hearts cut out, the holes punched, and pre-cut lengths of yarn prepared before class.*

MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

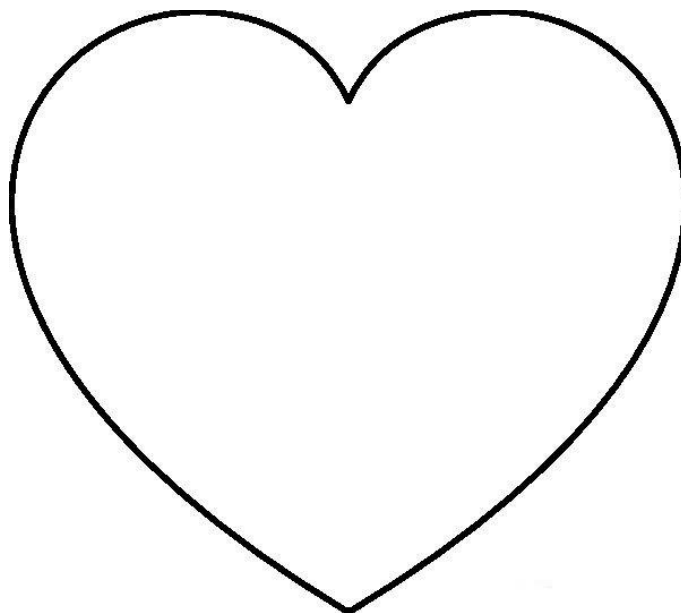
The Ark School
arkschoolk@gmail.com

HEART TEMPLATES

LARGE HEART



SMALL HEART



Dear Parent,

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

- that there are many religions in the world, but none of them will save you. You must be born again
- that we should help people in need because of God's love in our hearts
- to appreciate those who seek to rescue and protect giraffes that are in danger of extinction
- that Abraham was saved through faith in Christ which is the way every person must be saved
- the Swahili words for teacher (mwalimu) and giraffe (twiga).

This week's Memory Verse is Acts 4:12:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (NKJV)

This week's ministry is The Ark School. Find out more about their work by emailing arkschoolk@gmail.com.

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