

MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA, LESSON TWELVE

Bearing One Another's Burdens, Mason and the Cow

Lesson Purpose: To review the different ministries highlighted in *Mission Explorers Kenya* and to show how they are helping the people of Kenya to bear their burdens.

Lesson Objectives:

- To illustrate one of the burdens that the people of Kenya carry – the lack of clean drinking water.
- To help children understand what it means to bear one another's burdens.
- To remind them to pray for the missionaries they met in the videos.
- To encourage children to respond to the need for laborers in God's harvest.

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

The video for Lesson 12 is a review of all the ministries that Jesse and Carey visited on their trip to Kenya. Contact information for each ministry is included in the video and is also listed at the end of this lesson. We encourage you to pray about getting involved with the ministries presented in Mission Explorers Kenya.

Jesse introduces us to Mason, a boy he met at Rift Valley Academy. Mason was visiting an orphanage in Kenya with his missionary parents. While playing with the children, he noticed that their cow looked sick and was about to die. He decided to do something about it. Mason started making and selling cookies to raise money to buy a new cow for the orphanage. He raised \$700 and bought them a cow, which they named Faith. Faith later had a calf, and the people at the orphanage named him Mason.

Let's go on a safari!

PLAY VIDEO NOW (17:06)

STOP 1

Lesson Objective: To illustrate one of the burdens that the people of Kenya carry – the lack of clean drinking water.

Use this time to remind the children of the difficulty Kenyans have in obtaining clean drinking water and the work it takes for them to collect water on a daily basis. Play the game Kucusanya Maji from Lesson 1/STOP 3 or the illustration of carrying water from Lesson 11/STOP 1. Both are explained below.

OPTION 1

GAME: Kukusanya Maji (“Gather Water” in Swahili)

Materials: Two small baskets or buckets, two 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 its players complete the task first wins. Play as many rounds as needed.

OPTION 2

Materials needed: Two one-gallon sized jugs of water

In Mission Explorers Kenya, we have learned a lot about how hard it is for families to get clean water in Africa. We learned in our very first lesson that some people carry large buckets of water on their heads and walk several miles (or kilometers) to take it to their homes. In the video last week we saw a young boy who collected water for his family and had to walk a long way home with it.

When you want clean water to drink, where do you go? When you brush your teeth, where do you get clean water? When you need to take a bath, where do you get clean water? Many people in Kenya and other places in Africa have to work very hard to get just enough water to use every day.

We are going to see what it would be like if you had to carry water to your family.

Let the children take turns carrying both jugs of water. Some may not be able to carry two. Talk to them about how some people have to walk several miles (or kilometers) to get water.

This is why it is so helpful when ministries provide wells in villages. The people have clean water without having to walk very far.

After doing either Option 1 or Option 2, talk to the children about some of the missionaries and ministries we have seen help Kenyans get clean water, such as Crossway International and Real 4 Christ digging wells and Pastor Timothy in Kibera collecting rain water in big water tanks donated to his ministry.

A burden is often something that is too heavy to carry or something that is too hard to do by yourself. It is something that you need help with. Kenyans need help getting clean water. We are thankful for the missionaries who help Kenyans get clean water.

STOP 2

Lesson Objective: To help children understand what it means to bear one another's burdens.

Materials needed: Pictures printed from the end of this lesson illustrating clean water, good food to eat, school supplies, and medical care

In the video, Jesse mentioned Galatians 6:2. Let's read that now.

Read Galatians 6:2:

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (NKJV)

What does it mean to bear a burden? Bear means to carry. A burden is often something that is too heavy for you to carry. In the video we saw people carrying lots of things in lots of different ways. What are some of the things we saw people carrying and how were they carrying them? *Let the children talk about what they remember. You can prompt them with examples such as carrying sticks tied together on their backs or on motorcycles, carrying containers of water on their heads, etc.*

When this Bible verse says that we are to help others carry their burdens, it isn't talking about actually carrying things like we saw people doing in the video. In this verse, burdens are problems or difficult situations that are hard for us to handle on our own. Burdens are things for which we need help. What are some burdens that we have seen for which Kenyans need help? *Hold up each picture to prompt discussion about Kenyans' need for clean water, good food to eat, school supplies and medical care. Feel free to let them share other examples that they remember. Another option is to use the Egg Carton Illustration from Lesson 10.*

All of these things are burdens that the people of Kenya need help to carry. That is why the missionaries we saw are there in Kenya. They are helping Kenyans bear (or carry) their burdens, like God tells us to do in the Bible.

Do you remember meeting Mason in the video? What burden did he help someone carry? He visited an orphanage, which is a place for children who do not have parents. As he was playing with the children, he noticed that their cow was very sick. A cow is very important because it provides milk. Without a cow, the children would not have milk to drink. What did Mason do? He made cookies and sold them to earn money. He took the money and bought them a cow. Mason helped them with a burden that they had.

What are some burdens that the people around us need help carrying? How can we help them? *Help the children think through this and consider people that they know such as people in their family or in your church who need help and ways they can help. Examples could include helping a younger sibling or friend with homework, doing chores for an older neighbor, or helping prepare and take a meal to someone who is sick.*

STOP 3

Lesson Objective: To remind them to pray for the missionaries they met in the videos.

Materials needed: A world map or globe, crosses printed on card stock and cut out (from template at the end of this lesson), old maps or map scrapbooking paper (link below), Matthew 9:38 printed out (from template at the end of this lesson) and cut into 2 inch circles (link for circle cutter below), scissors, glue, yarn, hole punch

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

Find your home on the map or globe and then find Kenya. Talk about how far away they are. Find some of the other countries on the map where missionaries in the video were from, such as Texas (USA), North Carolina (USA), England, Scotland, and Germany. Show on the map or globe how far they traveled to be a missionary in Kenya.

Do you like to go on a trip? Where is your favorite place to go? How long does it take to get there? *Let the children answer but be prepared to rein them in.* It is fun to travel somewhere new, isn't it? Many of the missionaries in the video traveled far from home to go to Kenya, but they did not go on vacation. They went to Kenya to live.

We want to be sure to remember to pray for them. We are going to make a bookmark to help us remember to pray for them. You can put the bookmark in your Bible or you can hang it up to remind you to pray for the missionaries we met in the videos.

To make the map bookmark, print the crosses from the template at the end of this lesson onto cardstock and cut out. Using the template, trace and cut crosses from an old map. (If using scrapbook paper, you can trim the paper to fit into your printer and print the crosses directly onto the map paper.) Glue the map cross onto the cardstock cross. Glue the circle with Matthew 9:38 onto the center of the cross. Make a tassel with the yarn. Slip an 8" piece of yarn through the end of the tassel. Put the two ends of yarn together and make a knot. Punch a hole at the top of the crosses which have been glued together. Put the knotted end of the yarn through the hole. Open the yarn just below the knot, slip the tassel through the opening, and pull the tassel through until the knot slips down and secures it to the bookmark.



Cross Bookmark

FINAL DESTINATION

Lesson Objective: To encourage children to respond to the need for laborers in God's harvest.

In the video we saw Travis and his family from Straight Up Missions. He said that they desperately need more missionary families to go to other countries to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A few weeks ago (*Lesson 9*), we talked about that. Let's read again the verse we read in the lesson a few weeks ago.

Read Matthew 9:37:

"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'" (NKJV)

This is the Bible verse that Travis was quoting. We talked about this verse a few weeks ago. Remember we talked about what a harvest is? It is when the farmer picks the crops. Jesus is saying that there are a whole lot of crops to pick. Laborers are workers. There are not enough workers to tell all the people that need to hear the gospel.

Isn't that sad? Yes, it is sad that there are so many people waiting to hear about Jesus and not enough people to tell them. But there is something that we can do about that! Let's read the next verse.

Read Matthew 9:38:

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

This Bible verse says that God is the Lord of the harvest, and we need to pray and ask Him for more workers. We also need to pray for the missionaries that we know who are already working to tell people around the world about Jesus.

There is another thing that you can do. **You** can be a missionary! Yes, you can be a missionary when you grow up, but you can also be one right now. You can tell people about Jesus right now. A great way to do that is the paper-folding evangelism tool that we learned how to do. *(Complete instructions can be found in Lesson 2 and also at gocrossway.org/paper.)*

If you think that God may want you to be a missionary when you grow up, what should you be doing to prepare for that? In the video, we heard several of the missionaries give some good advice. They said that you need to be faithful to God right now by attending church regularly, memorizing Bible verses and trusting God.

Can you do that? Let's ask God to help us. *Lead the children in a prayer something like this:*

Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that someone told me about You. Please help me to tell others about You. If you call me to be a worker in Your harvest on this mission field, then I will go. Amen.

Go over Memory Verse:

Matthew 9:38:

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: The Newspaper as a Mission Field

Here's something concrete that kids can do to help get the gospel out in your community. *Mission Explorers Kenya* producer/director Carey Kinsolving also writes a weekly newspaper column called *Kids Talk About God*. He gives it away for free to any newspaper that wants to publish it. We think if your local newspaper editor received a letter from your class OR a whole stack of letters handwritten by each student requesting that the newspaper run the *Kids Talk About God* column, it would be hard for that editor to ignore. This column is all about kids answering questions about God and the Bible.

STEP 1: Obtain the name and address of the editor of your local newspaper. Find out what the newspaper's circulation is (how many readers).

STEP 2: Visit www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/archive and read a few of the past columns in class so the kids will have something specific they can say about it.

STEP 3: Write to the editor. You can either discuss in class what to say in the letter, and write it as a group effort with everybody signing it. Or you can have each child write their own individual letter in their own handwriting.

STEP 4: Be sure to provide in the letter(s) these links where the editor can find out more, read some previous columns and sign up for the column to be emailed to them each Thursday:

Find Out More: www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/editor

Read Some Columns: www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/archive

Sign Up: www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/column

STEP 5: Mail off the letter(s) and see what happens!

STEP 6: If the editor decides to start running the column, be sure to bring the newspaper to class and show the kids the fruit of their efforts. Having found out the circulation of the paper (see Step 1), you can tell the class how many people could be reading about God and the Bible now that they wrote to the editor. Remind them that we don't have to go to a foreign country to be missionaries.

STEP 7: We are also accepting applications from churches and Christian schools that wish to have their students ages 5-12 participate in answering questions for future *Kids Talk About God* columns. (Must have at least 50 children to participate.)

(Do a web page with inquiry form for adding them to an Aweber list.)

ADDITIONAL CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

Matthew 9:38 Coloring Page – http://akidsheart.com/bible/verses/mt9_38color.html

Matthew 9:38 Word Search – http://akidsheart.com/bible/verses/mt9_3738ws.html

Matthew 9:38 Activity Page – http://akidsheart.com/bible/verses/mt9_38act.html

Galatians 6:2 Coloring Page –

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/85/1f/0b/851f0be84b4bd082254982b1a83da94d.jpg>

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTED IN MISSION EXPLORERS KENYA

LESSON 1	Crossway International GoCrossway.org
LESSON 2	Mt. Kenya Bible Baptist Fellowship JerryDaniels.org a2africa.com
LESSON 3	A Rocha Kenya assets-kenya.org Care of Creation careofcreationkenya.org
LESSON 4	Kijabe Hospital friendsofkijabe.org
LESSON 5	Rift Valley Academy rva.org
LESSON 6	Straight Up Missions straightupmissions.com
LESSON 8	The Ark School arkschoolk@gmail.com
LESSON 9	Diguna diguna.de Ageless Music dominic.khaemba@gmail.com Kids Talk About God kidstalkaboutgod.org/news
LESSON 10	Calvary Church and School, Kibera calvaryfamilykenya@gmail.com +254720513764
LESSON 11	Real 4 Christ Ministries Real4Christ.com

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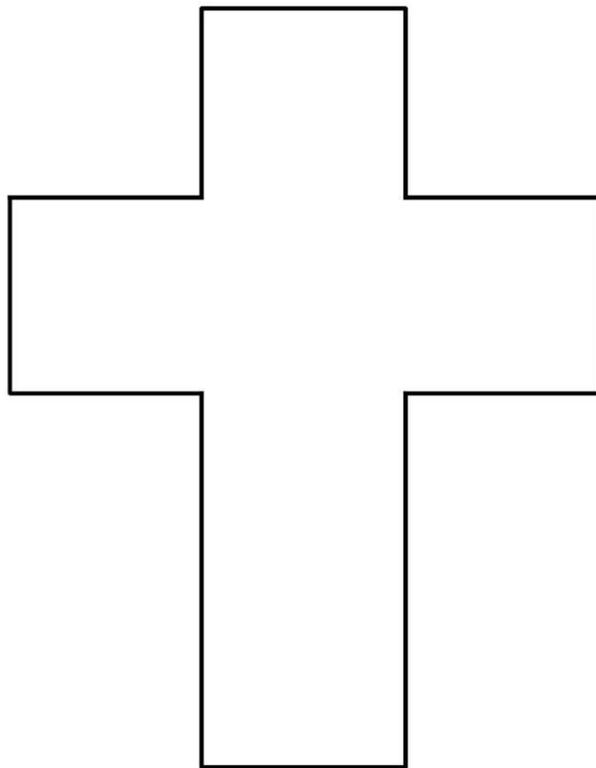
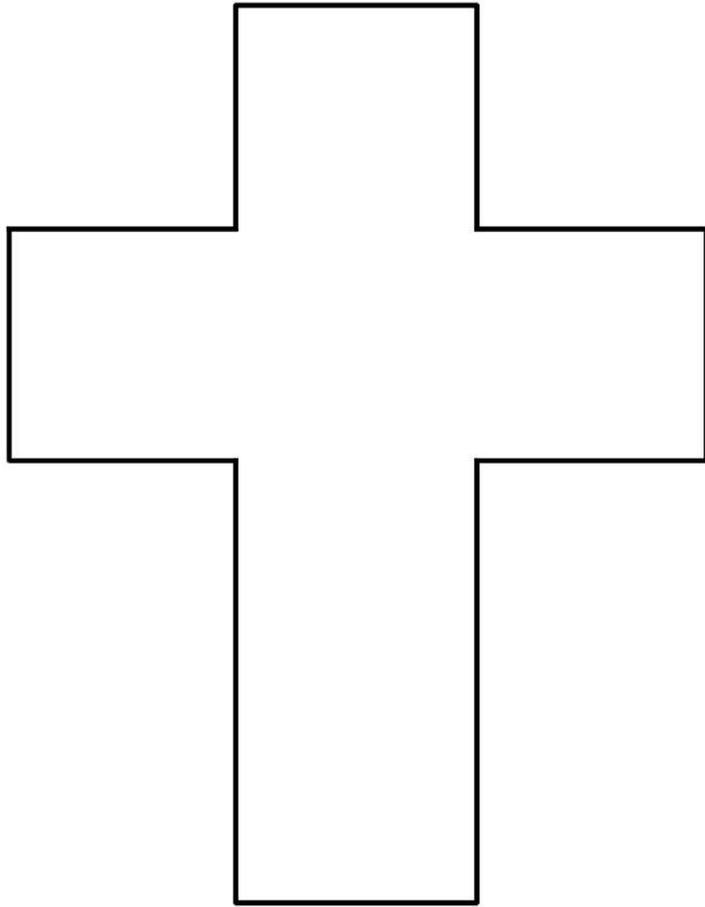
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Dear Parent,

Today we ended our safari to Kenya! Today we learned:

- one of the burdens that the people of Kenya carry is the lack of clean drinking water
- what it means to bear one another's burdens
- to remember to pray for the missionaries we met on our safari
- about the need for laborers in God's harvest
- the Swahili word for burden (mzigo).

This week's Memory Verse is Matthew 9:38:

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

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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