



Mission Explorers Kenya



Curriculum

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A KidsTalkAboutGod.org Production

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Foreword to *Mission Explorers Kenya*

Mission Explorers Kenya has been an amazing journey of faith. The Lord has provided exactly what we needed for each step of this journey. Lisa, my beloved wife, has been a critical part of this journey from day one when I challenged her to write a children's musical based on the Africa segment of the original *Mission Explorers* series. That is how we found Jesse Patete, the amazing boy who is featured in *Mission Explorers Kenya*.

Although Jesse had a small speaking part in *Mission Explorers Africa: The Musical* performed at Asheville Christian Academy, we noticed that he spoke with clarity and inflection. Because we had several talented kids who auditioned for the feature role in *Mission Explorers Kenya*, it proved to be a difficult decision. After working with Jesse and his highly supportive mom, Christine, Lisa and I are convinced that Jesse is the Lord's choice. So many times, Jesse exceeded our expectations, which made our work easier and gave us reasons to smile every day.

During the post production, we must have sent Jesse into the recording studio at World Magazine four or five times to record voiceovers for the narration of *Mission Explorers Kenya*. Again, Lisa did an amazing job in her script-writing to help Jesse tell the story of Kenya missionaries, animals, customs and culture through his experience. Jesse and Christine showed amazing patience and a true sense of adventure throughout the entire process. Thank you Jesse and Christine Patete! Also, many thanks to sound engineer Danielle Builtta at World Magazine.

Making a documentary on the fly is not like shooting a movie where every detail is planned beforehand. When we're shooting video on location, we don't know what we're going to use in the final product. We shoot a lot and use a little. Several times in Kenya, stories appeared that we had not planned to shoot. This requires a lot of patience, flexibility and endurance. Thank you Jake Newby for directing the photography and for your many helpful suggestions! It also required hundreds of hours in the editing process (and prayer!) to review all the footage and select the appropriate clips that would tell each story best.

Mission Explorers Kenya would not have been possible without the cooperation of the missionaries featured in this documentary. We felt like we were being passed from one guardian angel to another as we moved about in a completely unfamiliar country. These are truly amazing people that the Lord is using in a variety of ways. There is one missionary who consulted with me for many hours about possible stories and security concerns. Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe Hospital and Diguna all made it into *Mission Explorers Kenya* because of my conversations with missionary Travis Sawyer. Once you see how many of the video segments he appears in, you will begin to realize how connected he is in Kenya. A big thanks to Travis Sawyer for making many things happen!

Finally, I come to the writer of this curriculum, Kari Dent. I have never met Kari face to face, but I feel like I've known her all my life. When I sent an email looking for curriculum writers to

people who had used the original *Mission Explorers* series in their churches, three people responded. At first, it wasn't obvious to me the talent and patience Kari possessed. By God's grace, she emerged as a curriculum writer who has amazing vision and passion for children and missions. The church where her husband serves as pastor functioned as an incubator and test site for her curriculum ideas and activities as well as a short video where the excitement of teachers and kids was captured. Many thanks to Kari and Three Rivers Church in St. Marys, Georgia!

Carey Kinsolving
Mission Explorers Kenya Director and Co-producer

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Teacher, you are about to begin a 12-week (or more*) safari with your students. The Mission Explorers Kenya curriculum is designed for a wide range of ages. Within a wide age range are multiple levels of understanding. Teacher, we believe that you know your class best, and we encourage you to adapt the material in this curriculum to meet the needs of your students. Some suggestions on how to do that are below.

We look forward to hearing reports from you on how God has used this curriculum in your ministry!

SAFARI FACTS –Provides information about the geographical location of the ministries and organizations visited in the video. Maps are included whenever appropriate. Teachers are encouraged to have a world map or globe available to show locations and help students visualize where Kenya, Africa, is in relation to where they live.

LESSON PURPOSE – Main theme of the lesson

LESSON OBJECTIVES – Biblical concepts taught in each **STOP** and **FINAL DESTINATION**

VIDEO INTRODUCTION – Overview of the video for that lesson. The Video Introduction is to remind the teacher of the content of the video. It can also be used to introduce the video to the class before showing the video.

STOPS and **FINAL DESTINATION** – Each lesson is a safari of its own. As with a real safari, there are multiple stops along the way. Each lesson has three **STOPS** and a **FINAL DESTINATION**. Each **STOP** is a mini-lesson drawn from the video and builds upon the **LESSON PURPOSE** as well as teaches the **LESSON OBJECTIVES**. The **FINAL DESTINATION** brings the lesson to a close with a practical application and a memory verse.

Each **STOP** and **FINAL DESTINATION** can be adjusted to meet the learning level and length of your class. Most of them have more information than can be presented in a one-hour class. Therefore, you have the freedom to condense the information in each section. The most important thing is that the **Lesson Objective** stated at the beginning of each section is conveyed.

ADDITIONAL CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES – These are optional crafts and/or activities that can be used during your class depending on how much time you have. They can also be substituted for other crafts within the lesson.

*Lesson seven is different from the other lessons in this curriculum. This lesson focuses on the many animals that Jesse encountered in Kenya. We call it “Animal Theology.” We have made a connection between a primary trait of each of the featured animals and principles from God’s Word. There are twelve animals featured in the video and the lesson. We believe that these animal lessons will be unforgettable as the animals serve as reminders of biblical truths.

You may decide to break this lesson into more than one. That is up to you and what works best for your class. The animals are presented in the lesson in the same order that they appear in the video. You can either start the video at the beginning and stop it after the animal for that week is shown OR you can watch the entire video each week. This will provide the opportunity for a weekly review of the animals your class has studied in previous weeks before learning about a new animal.

Several options for dividing Lesson 7 are listed below.

1. One lesson with 12 animals. This would make your entire Mission Explorers Kenya safari 12 weeks.
2. Two lessons with six animals in each one. This would expand your Mission Explorers Kenya safari to 13 weeks.
3. Four lessons with three animals in each one. This would expand your Mission Explorers Kenya safari to 15 weeks. In testing the curriculum, this option worked well.
4. Twelve lessons with one animal in each one. This would expand your Mission Explorers Kenya safari to 23 weeks.

This gives you the option to make your Mission Explorers Kenya safari last a total of 12, 13, 15 or 23 weeks.

MISSION EXPLORERS AFRICA: THE MUSICAL

Kids Talk About God has created a children's musical based on the true story of an 11-year-old girl who travels to Africa to begin her global journey reporting on the work of real missionaries. Because this musical focuses on Africa, we asked one of Africa's top music arrangers and producers to record all eight songs in his Kenyan studio. The result is a genuine African sound that makes children want to dance and sing! For more information on how your church, Christian school, or local theater group can perform *Mission Explorers Africa: The Musical* or to listen to the soundtrack, visit KidsTalkAboutGod.org/africa. We recommend playing the soundtrack at the beginning of class as students arrive and at the end of class as parents pick them up.

KIDS TALK ABOUT GOD

KidsTalkAboutGod.org provides lots of opportunities for kids to have a real voice in sharing the gospel around the world. Jesse connected with them when his school performed their musical, *Mission Explorers Africa: The Musical*. Later, he got to go with them to Kenya and be in their documentary called *Mission Explorers Kenya*. Other kids have won dude ranch vacations by creating material for the *Kids Color Me Bible Gospel of John*. In fact, all the free materials on the KidsTalkAboutGod.org website are full of children's artwork, writing and speaking that glorifies God and encourages people to get to know Jesus as their Savior. If you want to find out about any upcoming opportunities for your kids to participate, sign up for the newsletter at KidsTalkAboutGod.org/news.