

HIGH SCHOOL MISSIONS LESSON PLAN

OUTLINE OF LESSONS FOR TEACHERS (WITH POWERPOINT)

The lesson is complete in a PowerPoint presentation and Script for the slides. A separate text has been prepared for you if you do not have the necessary equipment for a visual presentation.

Theme: Sharing Our Faith

Scripture:

- Scriptures: “As the Father sent me, even so I also send you.” (John 20:21) and “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15: 11-12.)

Focus Region: Turkana, Northwestern Kenya

OBJECTIVES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Introduction – The Theme – Sharing Our Faith

Today is Mission Sunday and we’ll explore how the Orthodox Christian Mission Center strives to spread the Orthodox faith worldwide. They achieve this by sending missionaries or by providing financial support for mission work. Our lesson is about the Turkana people in Kenya, who first received Christ in 2007 and are now sharing their faith with others who have not heard the message of God’s love and mercy.

Pre-Discussion Questions:

Use the pre-lesson discussion questions to introduce the topic of “faith” and our responsibility as Orthodox Christians to share our faith with others.

When do you feel closest to God in your life? (nature, accepted/valued, comforted, mystery, etc)

1. Jesus is compared to tangible necessities: light of the world, bread of life, and living water. Describe the spiritual needs that Jesus meets by comparing them to the physical needs, in importance, urgency, etc.



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2. What is the Orthodox Christian's responsibility to share spiritual light, bread, and water with the world?
3. *Possible responses:* It's best if teens think of it themselves, but you could offer some examples to get them started.
 - a. nature, feeling accepted and valued, feeling comforted, experiencing the "mystery", etc.
 - b. Jesus is light because without faith in Him, we can be in a "dark" world with no purpose or direction.
 - c. We have the knowledge of Christ and the Orthodox Christian faith, so we are called to share it with those who don't have it.

Teach the Scripture lessons

Read the Scripture passages and explain that Jesus intends for us to share our faith with others.

- Sharing our faith with the world is done in love to bring the fullness of life to others. It is central to living the Christian life. Scripture clearly calls Christians to share the Gospel message they have received, to make it available to the world.
- When we are baptized in Christ, we become part of the Body of Christ and become participants in Christ's mission of redemption of the whole world. As faithful servants of Christ, we are called to expand His earthly ministry to the ends of the earth.
- Redemption refers supremely to the work of Christ on our behalf, whereby He purchases us, He ransoms us, at the price of His own life, securing our deliverance from the bondage and condemnation of sin.

Illustrate

Show how mission work is happening around the world by sharing the story of the Turkana people in the lesson. If possible, play the 2:37 minute video available in the PowerPoint slidedeck.

Discuss the elements of the story

After introducing the mission work in Turkana, continue to ask questions to engage your students and connect their faith experience with the teaching in the Scripture verses and the story of the Turkana people. Discuss missionary efforts today and how we can fulfill Christ's commandment to share our faith and to "love one another." Expand the circle of "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29).



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Possible answers

Who is my neighbor? All people everywhere. Share the good news with them, give them the opportunity to believe, support those who go as missionaries, go ourselves.

Challenge / Call to Action

How can we share our faith with others? Use the provided examples to help the children find ways to make sharing their faith a part of their life and growth in Christ.



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SCRIPT FOR HIGH SCHOOL POWERPOINT

Slide 1 Title Slide

Slide 2 Prayer:

God of truth and love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear our prayer for those who do not know You. Make us witnesses of Your goodness, full of love, strength, and faith—for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Amen.

Slide 3 Introduce Theme: Sharing Our Faith, Mission Sunday, and OCMC

Today is Mission Sunday and we will explore how the Orthodox Christian Mission Center strives to spread the Orthodox faith worldwide. They achieve this by sending missionaries or by providing financial support for mission work. Our lesson is about the Turkana people in Kenya, who first received Christ in 2007 and are now sharing their faith with others who have not heard the message of God's love and mercy.

Slide 4 Pre-lesson questions, discussion or survey on paper: share responses

1. When do you feel closest to God in your life? (nature, accepted/valued, comforted, mystery, etc.)
2. Jesus is compared to tangible necessities: light of the world, bread of life, and living water. Describe the spiritual needs that Jesus meets by comparing them to the physical needs, in importance, urgency, etc. (Ex: Jesus is light because without faith in Him, we can be in a "dark" world with no purpose or direction.)
3. What is the Orthodox Christian's responsibility to share spiritual light, bread, and water with the world? *Possible responses:* It is best if teens think of it themselves, but you could offer some examples to get them started.
 - nature, feeling accepted and valued, feeling comforted, experiencing the "mystery," etc.).
 - Jesus is light because without faith in Him, we can be in a "dark" world with no purpose or direction.
 - We have the knowledge of Christ and the Orthodox Christian faith, so we are called to share it with those who do not have it.

Slide 5 OCMC responds to the scriptural calls for mission:

1. As the Father sent me, so I also send you. (John 20:21)
Scripture clearly calls Christians to share the Gospel message they have received, to make it available to the world.



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When we are baptized in Christ, we become part of the Body of Christ and become participants in Christ's mission of redemption of the entire world. As faithful servants of Christ, we are called to expand His earthly ministry to the ends of the earth.

2. "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:11-12).
 - Sharing our faith with the world is done in love to bring the fullness of life to others. It is central to living the Christian life. Scripture clearly calls Christians to share the Gospel message they have received, to make it available to the world.
 - When we are baptized in Christ, we become part of the Body of Christ and become participants in Christ's mission of redemption of the entire world. As faithful servants of Christ, we are called to expand His earthly ministry to the ends of the earth.

Redemption refers supremely to the work of Christ on our behalf, whereby he purchases us, he ransoms us, at the price of his own life, securing our deliverance from the bondage and condemnation of sin.

Slide 6 The Turkana: A story of introduction to and acceptance of the Christian message.

Introduction: The Turkana people of northwest Kenya are pastoral, nomadic, moving in search of water and grazing land for their herds. Most had not heard of Jesus or the Christian message until the growing Orthodox Church of Kenya reached out to them. OCMC was invited to send a mission outreach team in 2010.

Slide 7 Video:

As you watch, look for these key details:

- water as a key part of the Turkana's openness to the Gospel message
- the shaman's (spiritual leader of the village) openness to the Gospel message

Turkana short: Play the 2:37 minute video available on the PowerPoint slide.

Discussion

1. After the video, discuss the two details above. How did God use water and the shaman to bring the Gospel message to the Turkana people?
2. The lack of water is a real problem for Turkana. When the riverbed filled overnight, they saw it as a sign of God's blessing.



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3. The shaman received a message that the visitors had crossed the river (he did not think they would do that) and he went to meet them. The water was a sign that their message was good.

Slide 8 Discuss:

Given that Jesus Christ is the “light, bread, water”, how has the life of the Turkana people changed? Spiritually? Physically? *Possible responses:* Spiritual: hope, faith in a loving, caring God, salvation. Physical: education, water (wells), etc.

Slide 9

First ordination in Turkana, with His Grace Neofitos of Eldoret and Northern Kenya and an OCMC team. Fr. Vladimir, who oversees four new Orthodox communities in Turkana, co-celebrated along with four other priests from Turkana. A deacon was ordained as part of the celebration. *Background information:* A small group from the Mission Center and faithful traveled to Kenya in October of 2024 and celebrated with the Turkana people the ordination of a new deacon. They held the liturgy outdoors, under a large tree, because there was no church. His Grace Bishop Neofitos was elevated to the newly created Diocese of Eldoret just one year earlier.

Slide 10 Bishop Neofitos, quote about Dn. Gabriel

Slide 11

- They are sharing the Gospel with 10 villages that had not heard the Good News; they are learning now with appointed catechists and traveling priests. There is an urgent need for missionaries who can train more catechists in a year-long program.
- They have ordained Deacon Gabriel within the Turkana community, and God-willing other young Turkana men will answer the call.
- The Turkana were drawn to the Christian faith through the Holy Spirit, but someone needed to bring the message to them.

Slide 12. OCMC mission teams...

Slide 13

What is our duty as Orthodox Christians? Share the good news with them, give them the opportunity to believe, support those who go as missionaries, go ourselves. Expand the circle of “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). Discuss.

Slide 14 Where OCMC is active worldwide.



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Slide 15 Call to Action:

What can you do to share your Faith?

Actions:

- Support the work of Mission like Turkana with the OCMC coin boxes to support the work of Missions.
- Host a Kenyan meal for a Fellowship Hour as a fundraiser for the work in Turkana.
- Help with a local mission project, i.e., Local soup kitchen.
- Bring a friend to church (share your faith with your neighbor).
- Welcome visitors. Many new people are coming to our Church.
- What other way can you think of to share your faith?



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