

PRIMARY SCHOOL MISSIONS LESSON PLAN

OUTLINE OF LESSONS

Theme: Sharing Our Faith

Scripture: “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

OUTLINE OF LESSONS

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. Let’s think of it as God’s House and our family home—just as we invite others into our homes, God wants us to help fill His house. This is the purpose behind Jesus being sent into the world and why we are called to share our faith with those who don’t yet know Him.

Teach the Scripture Lessons

Read the Scripture passages and explain that these are the words Jesus spoke. Emphasize that by listening to and obeying His words, we can experience joy, faith, and a life filled with God’s goodness. Explain that Jesus encourages us to share our faith with others.

Explanation

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) sends missionaries from the United States to countries like Kenya. These missionaries work within local Churches worldwide, sharing messages of God’s love and forgiveness. Thanks to their dedication, children like Ekai and his friend, Fr. Zechariah, learn about God and are welcomed into His Church and House.

Illustrate

Show how mission work is happening around the world by sharing the story of the Turkana people through the eyes of Ekai, a young boy from a Turkana village.



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Discuss the elements of the story.

- What is one thing you have in common with Ekai?
- What is one thing that is different between you and Ekai?
- Imagine what it would be like to move to a different place every summer or winter.

Challenge / Call to Action

LESSON

Ask the question:

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.

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."

Lesson

Each of us is part of a family, right? What does a family feel like? Does it feel safe and loving? God is our Father, and He desires for all of us to live with Him forever. In a passage from St. John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that God the Father sent Him into the world. Why? Because we belong in God's House with Him. However, sin and death kept us out of God's House. Jesus came to show us love and to give His life for us. Through His love and sacrifice, He opened the door to God's House, allowing us to enter. God's House on earth is the Church, and it will endure even after death. God wants His House to be full, and He calls us to help Him fill it. God sent Jesus to share the Good News of His love with all people around the world, and Jesus sends us to assist in this mission.

Story

We have a story to share with you. It's about a boy who lives in a country called Kenya.

In a land of bright sun and little rain, there lives a boy named Ekai. His people, the Turkana, are nomadic, meaning that they live in simple huts and move from place to place as the seasons and needs of their cattle and goats change. Ekai is the oldest of four children. His sister helps his mother by watching his baby brother while she prepares their meals. There is no school in their village, so he and the other boys go hunting to try to find food to help their families. One of Ekai's favorite things to do is to race his friends.

There is something new happening in Ekai's village. One of his older friends, Zechariah, has come back from a special school, called a seminary, and this friend is now an Orthodox Christian priest. Ekai has never met a priest before. He is curious about the things his friend has to say about the Christian God.



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[**Note:** Here, the short [1:30 minute video](#) about the mission in Turkana can be played on a laptop or TV screen.]

The people from Ekai's village have a special place under a tree where they gather, and Fr. Zechariah teaches about God. Ekai goes here to listen to his friend's words. He learns that God is the Creator and Lover of Mankind. He learns that God's Son, Jesus, became a man, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. He also learns that God wants Ekai to grow close to Him in love and holiness. One day, when they are alone, he talks to his friend and asks how he can follow God. Fr. Zechariah tells Ekai that everyone who is baptized becomes a son or daughter of God and a new creation. Guess what? Ekai wants to be baptized! One day the river near their village miraculously began to fill with water. Ekai and other people from his village go down to the riverbank, and Fr. Zechariah baptizes Ekai and several others. Over the next several months, the new Christians begin to build a church where they can worship and pray together in the Divine Liturgy and other services.

Discussion questions:

- What is one thing you have in common with Ekai?
- What is one thing that is different between you and Ekai?
- What do you think it would be like to move to a different place every summer or winter?
- What do you think will happen next to Ekai?

Activity Sheets—memory matching game

Challenge / Call to Action

Any one of you might be called to be a missionary one day! God works through ordinary adults and children to spread His love across the world. You can start by inviting your friends to church. If you don't already have a missionary on your family's prayer list at home, consider adding one today. You can also include the people who are part of the Church in different places, like Turkana, in your prayers. You and your family can pray for missions and put money in the OCMC coin boxes. This will help support the work of missions in places like Kenya. Ask God to reveal His plans for you and to give you the strength to do His will.

Extra Resource, the children can learn the short song, "We Are Christ's Ambassadors" that they heard in the Turkana video.



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WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS LYRICS

First verse is in Kiswahili:

Alleluya, tu mabalozi wa Yesu
Alleluya, tu mabalozi wa Yesu
Alleluya, tu mabalozi wa Yesu
Tu mabalozi wa Yesu nchini.

Second verse is in Kikuyu:

Wateulay, ne mabalozi wa Jesu
Wateulay, ne mabalozi wa Jesu
Wateulay, ne mabalozi wa Jesu
Ne mabalozi wa Jesu nchini.

English Verse:

O, Praise the Lord, we are Christ's ambassadors.
O, Praise the Lord, we are Christ's ambassadors.
O, Praise the Lord, we are Christ's ambassadors.
We are Christ's ambassadors in this World.



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PICTURE MATCHING ACTIVITY FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Make two copies of the pictures so that there are enough for each child and cut them out. Pass out the pictures and ask the children to find the other person(s) who has the same picture. Discuss what they see in the pictures.



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PRIMARY SCHOOL MISSIONS LESSON PLAN

PICTURE ACTIVITY FOR THE OLDER CHILDREN

The pictures and riddles are mixed up. Ask the children to connect the correct picture to the riddle it matches by drawing a line.



Here we worship,
set apart
Not in a building,
but in the heart

God's
commandments we
have heard
From the lips of
God's own Word

Here your family may stay
Keeping dust and wind at bay



Colors and
shapes that
represent
Our rich
culture, past
and present

Can you find us? Look and
see.
Kenya is the name of our
country.

Drink from the cup and eat
the Bread
Receive life from Jesus as He
said

Answer Key: Picture 1 goes with caption 3, 2 with 5, 3 with 6, 4 with 2, 5 with 4, and 6 with 1.



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