



Welcome to Gospel Adventures!

We're excited to take you on a globe-spanning adventure, exploring Kenya's culture, customs, and color! Video stories of Kenyan kids and their families let your class see what it's like to live in the land of "harambee," which is the national Swahili motto of cooperation and unity. Games, object lessons, and snacks allow kids to experience—and taste—a bit of daily life in different parts of Kenya. It's our goal that kids' eyes and hearts are opened to what God is doing in this faraway place, his love for people there, and how we can pray for and support God's family across the world.

We know that every school uses Gospel Adventures in a unique setting, so we've made this resource more flexible than ever. Short activity blocks allow you to customize the lesson to your classroom. Pick and choose which options best suit your class dynamics, time frame, space, and situation. Or use all of them—starting with Option 1 and moving through the last one. It's up to you! Plus, each day's lesson highlights part of Psalm 8, integrating faith with real life—here *and* in Kenya.



DAY 1

Bible Point: God's creation is awesome.

You'll need:

- Bible
- "Where's Kenya?" video clip
- globe (optional)

Easy prep:

- Download the "Where's Kenya?" video clip.
- Look online to find out how long a flight is from your nearest airport to Nairobi, Kenya.



OPTION 1

VIDEO

Jambo!

Give kids a sneak peek of Kenya.

Say: **Jambo!** That means "hello" in Swahili, a language spoken in a country called Kenya. This week we're going to explore more about what life is like for kids living there! In fact, our program is called "Wild About Kenya." That makes me wonder...



What's something you're wild about? Why?

You may want to have kids share in pairs so everyone gets to contribute. Then take a few responses from the group.

Say: **We're wild about things like** [some of the things kids shared] **because we like them. We think they're awesome or amazing. They're fun, or they bring us joy.**



Why might I want you to be wild about Kenya?

Say: **This week we get to learn more about Kenyan kids, their culture, and what it's like to live in this country that's so far from** [name of your community]. **We're not learning this just to learn facts. The more we learn and understand, the more we can have a heart of care and compassion for people there. I hope we all start to see these kids in Kenya as our friends—brothers and sisters in God's family.**

Let's start by finding out just where this cool country is! If you have a globe, you can point to your city and to Kenya, to show kids where it is. **If we packed our bags and caught a flight to Kenya, we'd be sitting for a long, long, long time. In fact, our flight would be** [number of hours a typical flight would be]. **That's like watching** [approximate number of movies kids would watch in that time frame].

Whew! I'd need a good stretch after that! But once we landed—wow! There's so much cool stuff to see—way better than a movie. As we watch this short video, keep your eyes open for one thing you'd be wild about in Kenya.



Show the "Where's Kenya?" video clip.



Call out some of thing things you're wild about in the video.

Say: Those are things we think are amazing or cool or seem fun. Hold up a Bible. **And as we read the Bible, we can see that God is wild about us! Listen!**

Read aloud Psalm 8:3-5.

“When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor” (Psalm 8:3-5).

? What does this tell you about God?

Say: As we learn more about life in Kenya, it’s good for us to keep in mind that God loves kids there just as much as he loves kids here in [name of your community]. **And we can be praying that those kids will grow up knowing that God—who created the moon and stars—is wild about them!**



OPTION 2

GAME

Kenyan Counting

Swahili Numbers

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 moja (MOH-jah) | 8 nane (NAH-nay) |
| 2 mbili (m-BEE-lee) | 9 tisa (TEE-sah) |
| 3 tatu (TAH-too) | 10 kumi (KOO-mee) |
| 4 nne (N-neh) | 11 kumi na moja (KOO-mee nah MOH-jah) |
| 5 tano (TAH-noh) | 12 kumi na mbili (KOO-mee nah m-BEE-lee) |
| 6 sita (SEE-tah) | |
| 7 saba (SAH-bah) | |

Say: Think back a few grades to when you first started school or even preschool.

? What were some of the first things you learned back then?

You’ll need:

- pair of dice
- whiteboard and marker
- copies of the “Kenyan Counting” handout (p. 8) (optional)

Easy prep:

- Write the Swahili numbers (from the box to the left) on a whiteboard so all kids can see them clearly.
- The cues on the whiteboard should be adequate, but you may want to photocopy the “Kenyan Counting” handout and give one to each student. Kids can use these at their seats for the game or take them home to keep learning!

Say: Kenyan kids aren't that different from you! When they're really little, some of the first things they learn are their alphabet, reading, and numbers. One difference is that kids in Kenya learn several languages, not just one or two like we do.

Most kids learn Swahili and English, plus another local dialect, depending on where they live. Wow—that's a lot of language! Let's see how well you'd do in a Kenyan classroom learning some numbers.

Go over the pronunciation of numbers 1-6. Hold up your fingers or have that number of kids stand, then lead kids in saying the number in Swahili. Give kids a bit of practice so they start to get comfortable with those six numbers.

Say: Now let's try something to see how quickly you can come up with the number in Swahili!

- Form two groups. Choose one person from each group to come to the front of the class, and have them face each other with a desk or table between them.
- Roll one die on the table or desk so the two "contestants" can see where it lands.
- The first person to say the number on the die in Swahili gets a point for his or her group.
- Then have two more contestants come up and play. Continue until everyone has had a turn being a contestant.
- If you have older kids, take the game to the next level and teach kids the numbers 7-12. Then add a second die and play the game again.

Celebrate the group with the most points, then have everyone sit down.

Say: Kids in Kenya learn a lot of words! Hold up three fingers. They'd need to learn this in English as *three*, in Swahili as *tatu*, and in another local dialect as something else.

? What would you like about knowing so many languages? What would be a challenge?

Say: Even though we speak a different language from our friends in Kenya, God hears and understands all of us! Our Bible verse from Psalm 8 reminds us that God cares about people—all people. People who live here and people across the ocean in Kenya. God loves and listens to us, no matter what language we speak!





OPTION 3

GAME & VIDEO

Join a Birthday Bash

Meet Eileen, then have fun serving each other a snack.

Say: As we get wild about Kenya, we're going to meet some Kenyan kids to learn about daily life for them. You may see some things that look familiar and some things that look really different. Today we're going to spend a Sunday with a girl named Eileen.

? What types of things does your family do on Sunday?

Say: Lots of families go to church on Sunday.

? Describe what happens when you go to church. What do you do?

Say: Let's check out a really *special* Sunday for Eileen. Look for things that might be like—or very different from—what you and your family do.

▶ Show the “Eileen: A Sunday Fun Day” video clip.

? How was Eileen's church like yours? How was it different?

Say: Lots of people follow Jesus in Kenya. That's pretty awesome! There are churches all over the country, with people following God just like we do. Their church services may look or sound different from ours, but we all worship the same God. God's family is everywhere! That's why we can pray for and celebrate with our brothers and sisters in God's family. Speaking of celebrations, it was fun to join Eileen's birthday party.

? What things do kids in [name of your community] do for birthday parties?

? What are some different things you saw in the way Eileen celebrated her birthday?

Say: In Kenya, the birthday person serves family and friends birthday cake before eating any.

? Why do you think that is? What might that tell you about what they value or find important?

Say: Serving and honoring others is important in Kenya. Let's see how you'd do at serving someone a snack. We'll try this—with a twist!

You'll need:

- “Eileen: A Sunday Fun Day” video clip
- plastic spoons
- cups
- mini marshmallows
- blindfolds (optional)

Easy prep:

- Download the “Eileen: A Sunday Fun Day” video clip.

- Give each person a cup of mini marshmallows and a spoon. Direct kids *not* to touch the marshmallows or put the spoons in their mouths, as those will be for someone else.
- Form pairs, and have partners face each other, at least 3 feet apart.
- Have one person close his or her eyes, or blindfold one partner if kids can't keep their eyes closed.
- On your signal, the people who can't see will scoop up a spoonful of mini marshmallows and try to feed them to their partners. Kids should leave any marshmallows that fall on the floor.
- Have kids switch roles and play again.
- Have kids sit down, leaving the marshmallows on the floor.

? **Looking at the marshmallows on the floor, how did we do in feeding our friends?**

Say: **The blindfolds made it pretty tricky to feed our friends! Sometimes we may find it tricky to serve and honor people in our lives. But when we put others first and do our best to serve them, we're showing God's awesome love for people. Right now you can serve others by helping clean up these marshmallows together!**

Lead kids in quickly cleaning up any spilled marshmallows.

You'll need:

- sheets of paper
- snack or prize for each person (optional)
- clean, empty wide-mouthed bottles
- copies of the animal patterns (pp. 9-12)
- scissors
- permanent markers
- tape
- craft foam or construction paper (optional)
- glue

Easy prep:

- Make a sample bank to show kids.

OPTION 4 CRAFT

Coins for Kenya

Create banks for saving coins to donate to Global Kids Fund.

Say: **Kenya is a country with lots of wide-open spaces for exploring. And many of those places are protected. That means you can only go in certain spots, as a way to keep animals—and people—safe. Let's try something to see if you can find a path across the countryside!**

- Gather kids at one side of the room. You may want to put a prize or snack at the opposite side of the room.
- Hand each person a sheet of paper.
- Tell kids their goal is to get across the room, but they can stand on only their one sheet of paper (a little like the game The Floor Is Lava). Explain that their whole foot needs to fit on the sheet of paper.
- Let kids try to cross the room (they won't get far!).

? Why was it hard to accomplish the goal?

Say: You didn't have what you needed! Let's think about our friends in Kenya. Lots of them know, love, and follow Jesus—that's amazing and wonderful! But sometimes they don't have what they need to easily grow in friendship with Jesus.

? What helps you grow in friendship with Jesus? Lead kids to think of things like time at church, reading or hearing God's Word, Christian music, and books about God.

Say: Let's try something new with our papers. I wonder what would happen if we all put our papers together. Try that now and see what happens.

Guide kids to use all the papers to make a path that stretches across the room. When everyone has crossed the room, give a round of high-fives and then sit down.

? What can this help us understand about working together?

Say: We have the chance to help kids in Kenya grow in friendship with God. If one of us tried to do that, it might feel like a big or impossible job. But when we all work together, and even have help from an organization called Global Kids Fund, we can help kids grow closer to Jesus.

Getting things like Bibles or helping set up a church takes time, people, and money. Global Kids Fund can use money we give to do those big and important jobs in faraway places! Today we'll make some fun banks to collect our coins in. Later, you'll bring in your full banks, and we can put all our coins together and send them to Global Kids Fund!

- Set out the supplies, and let kids choose an animal print to use. Kids can also cut strips from several patterns to make their banks reflect lots of African animals!
- Show kids how to wrap the printed paper around the bottle to measure it.
- You may want to provide Bibles and let kids write part of Psalm 8 on the animal prints before they wrap the papers around the bottles and tape them in place.
- You can also set out craft foam or construction paper. Let kids cut out an animal paw or hoofprint and glue it to the lid of the bottle bank.

Say: Add any spare change or donations from friends and family members to your bank. We know that God is wild about Kenya, and we want our friends in Kenya to be wild about God! Our donations will give kids across the ocean what they need to grow in friendship with God.



Kenyan Counting

- 1 **moja** (MOH-jah)
- 2 **mbili** (m-BEE-lee)
- 3 **tatu** (TAH-too)
- 4 **nne** (N-neh)
- 5 **tano** (TAH-noh)
- 6 **sita** (SEE-tah)
- 7 **saba** (SAH-bah)
- 8 **nane** (NAH-nay)
- 9 **tisa** (TEE-sah)
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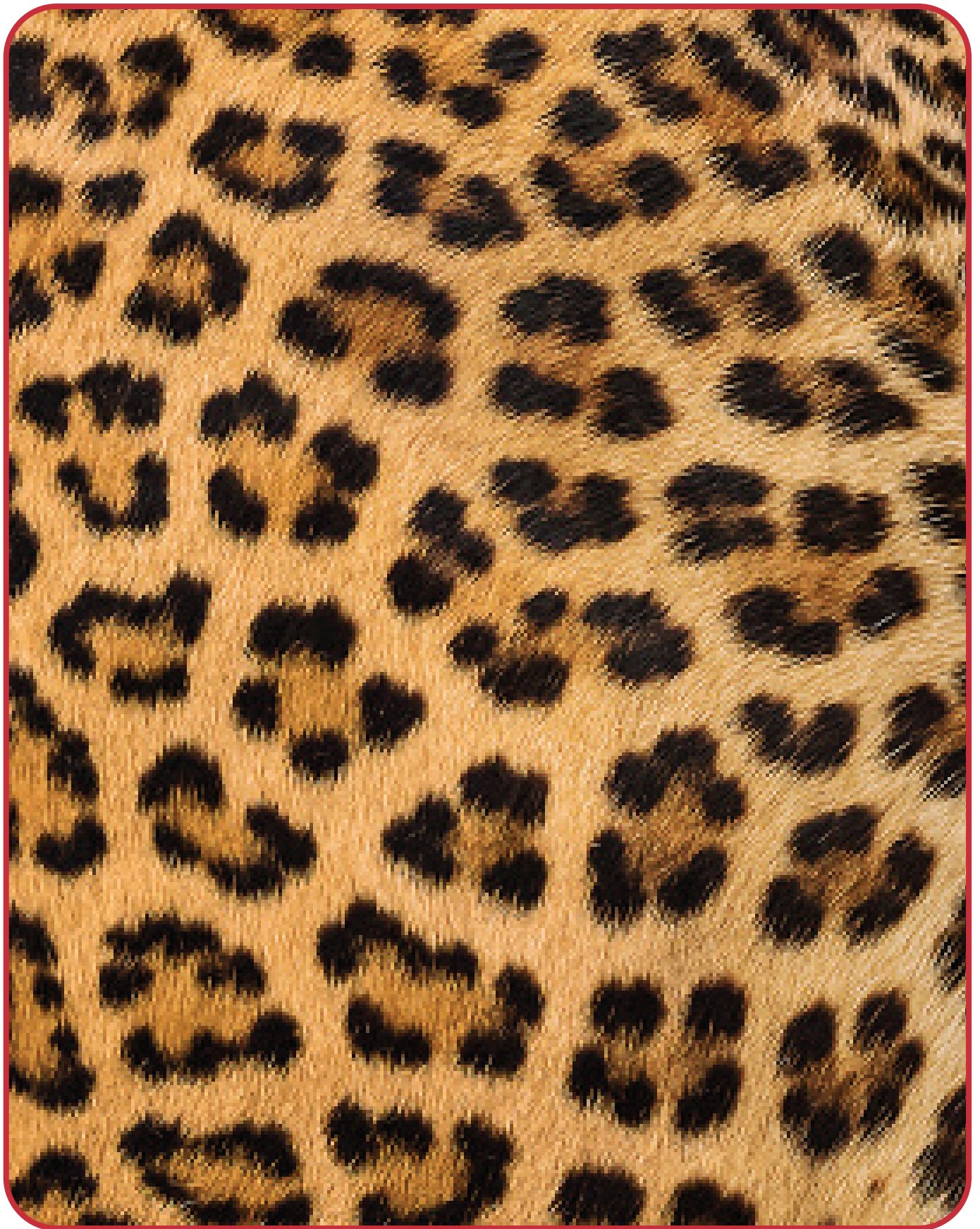
Kenyan Animal Prints



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