

# LIBERIA

**Lessons for Mission Minded Kids**

**Lesson 8**

The E.C. Church of Liberia



## **Liberia**

### **The E.C. Church of Liberia**

#### **Goals for Lesson 8:**

- Students will be able to recite Psalm 25:4-5 with minimal prompts
- Students will understand that God's direction, hope and light for a country is often spread through His people and His church.
- Students will practice being missionaries at home through the act of prayer.

#### **Verse for Liberia:**

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25: 4-5

#### **Before Class:**

- Read through lesson and decide how you will use the material, according to your age group and time allotted.
- Prepare all pictures as powerpoint slides or print them and back them with card stock for stability.
- Make a copy of the Bassa book of John page for each student, or mount it on a piece of construction paper to be passed among the students.
- Make a copy of the Bassa Alphabet page for each student.
- Decide which maze is more appropriate for your students, and make a copy for each one. Gather pencils for use with the maze and the alphabet page.
- "Write" the verse on the board, or a large piece of paper, using only blanks with the first letter of each word written. (S\_\_\_\_ m\_\_ y\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_, O\_\_ L\_\_\_\_,.....etc.)
- Gather the stars from the Lesson 2 Prayer Walk. Plan how you will use this activity and gather sticky tack if needed.

## Lesson Plan:

- Open your time together with a welcome, announcements and a brief prayer. (5 min.)
- With the Verse Poster Board hidden, ask if any of your students would like to try to say the verse using the first letter prompts on the board. Give each student a turn if they want to try. (5-8 min.)
- Give each student a maze appropriate for their ability and give them a few minutes to complete it. Explain that trying to rebuild a country after a war can seem a little like a maze. It is God's wisdom and direction that can show the way, and He often uses His people and His church to lead lost people to the light and hope He offers. Sing the verse together as a class and remind students that it is the Love of Jesus that can change Liberia. (8-10 min.)
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, showing the pictures as directed and explaining or discussing as necessary. (15-20 min.)
- Show the students the copy of the page from John in the Bassa language and point out John 3:16. Recite the verse in English as they look at the verse in Bassa. Note the different letters. (5 min.)
- Give each student a copy of the Bassa Alphabet page and examine the different sounds that are not even present in the English language. Complete the activities individually, or pair older students with younger ones to help them. (12-15 min.)
- Remind the students that one way to help the people of Liberia and be missionaries right at home is to pray. Using the stars from the Prayer Walk in Lesson 2, lay the stack of stars on the table and ask volunteers to come take a star, say a short prayer for that item, and then stick the star on a wall or board, using sticky tack. When all stars are stuck up, encourage the students to continue to pray for the country of Liberia. You may leave the stars up for several weeks and use them to continue to pray as a class if you use that room for Sunday School or other group meetings. You could also allow each child to take one or more stars home to continue praying about that item at home. (10-12 min.)

## **Story for Lesson 8: The E.C. Churches of Liberia**

Did you know that Liberia's main religion is Christianity? Our church denomination has many churches that are established in Liberia. The E.C. church of Liberia is made up of about 32 established congregations, and over 60 church plants that are spread out in four counties: Monrovia, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, and Nimba. Even through the hardships of war many of these churches still met and ministered to those around them. One church that was severely damaged during the war continued to meet under a temporary shelter of palm branches. If it's raining, they move the service inside but the building is too small to fit all the people. Can you imagine if our church had no building, but just some trees to sit under?

Sadly, during the war, many members and even some leaders of the Liberian churches were killed or had to leave their homes and move to other places. Despite that, the Liberians still wanted to help and minister to their neighbors. They even sent out witnessing teams to hold what they called crusades, or what we would think of as a short term missions trip. They went out to three different areas: Clayashland, which is 30 miles outside Monrovia, Rivercess County, located in southern Liberia, and Bomi County which is in western Liberia. The church members and leaders were so concerned about the people that lived in Rivercess County, that they made a canoe. You see, Rivercess County is across the Cestos River and there are no bridges in that area, so they made a canoe so they could reach the people and witness to them. During that year of travel, 285 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and 700 people rededicated their lives to Him! What is really amazing is that a lot of those people were Muslims who previously had rejected Christ as nothing more than a man in history and not the Son of God. Many of these areas now have small new church plants that are growing into established E.C.Churches.

Unfortunately many Liberians had to move far from their homes because of the fighting and some are still living far away from their homes. Some left and went to live in other parts of Liberia and others left the country of Liberia altogether. People who leave their homes because of war or natural disaster and live somewhere else are called refugees. Sometimes the government of a country will set up a place for these refugees to live called a refugee camp. These refugee camps can be difficult places to live and often there is not enough water, food, or shelter for all of the people. It is a difficult place for people to live especially if they are sick or injured, because often there is not any medical help, and many people get worse or die. Many Liberians lived in these refugee camps and many others had moved out of Liberia altogether to live in the country of Ghana.

When church leaders learned of some of their members living in Ghana, they sent out more missionaries to reach out to them. One missionary, Rev. Richard Bannie, helped the Liberians living there. When Rev. Bannie arrived in Ghana, he saw that a

small group of people had been meeting in someone's home. Eventually the group grew to be about 75 people and the newly established church was still growing and made arrangements to start meeting in one of the local schools.

Knowing what we learned about the hardships that the Liberians have gone through, do you think their worship services are sad? No, they're not. The Liberian worship services are very lively and joyful. Even though the Liberians have gone through great hardships and have suffered a lot, they are still able to see God at work in their lives and praise Him. How encouraging for us to know that as Christians we have the same joy in our hearts, that no matter what hard times we are going through, we are still God's children and have a reason to celebrate and be joyful.

**(Show picture of ladies at church.)** Liberians usually sit with the ladies and young children on one side of the church and the men and boys on the other side. Families don't sit all together. They usually start their worship services with an hour of singing and dancing. People even raise their hands during the service and share about what God has done for them. The Liberians also use all sorts of instruments in their worship services. What sorts of instruments do you think they use? They use instruments like drums that are homemade and covered with wallpaper, accordions, and gourds that are used as a type of rattle. **(Show picture of underside of drum.)** This is the underside of a drum this man made and uses to worship God in his church services. The translation of one of their choruses is "When God's children dance, the devil runs in fear!" Liberian church services are filled with praise and joy. Do you think you would enjoy a worship service like that?

Since Liberians are often very poor, they usually try to find building materials that grow naturally around them. **(Show picture of church with woven walls.)** This is St. George E.C. Church. They wove palm fronds together to make walls for their church. **(Show inside of woven church.)** This is the inside of that church. There are no windows or doors, and the breeze could flow right through the walls. **(Show picture of church from the Lesson Cover.)** Some churches don't even have any walls. This is St. Matthew E.C. Church. Can you imagine going to church in this kind of building?

**(Show picture of Scanlin E.C. Church)** Some churches might have a little more money, or maybe their building survived the war and they didn't have to rebuild it. This church was named after one of our American E.C. Leaders many years ago, Rev. Scanlin. It is a larger and nicer building than some of the other churches, but all of the people there just worship God in the same way the other Liberians do. It doesn't really matter what our building looks like, or even if it has walls or a roof. When we gather together to worship and praise God, we bring joy and encouragement to each other and glory to God, no matter where we are, how large our group is, or even if there is a building around us. God just wants us to show our love for Him and for each other by joining together any way we can.















<sup>16</sup> Sepódeceñ, Gèdèpòò zì bódó-kpàà mú dèbèèn mí jé, c tò ma c Dyúgàà dyuàqò, bè nyòòn sèen ìhù c hwiqin tabaah wée, ké se me, kee wa ke se-naah-sèe tée bedé. <sup>17</sup> Sepódeceñ, Gèdèpòò se má c Dyúgàà bódó-kpàà kò tò, bè c Dyúgàà ké ma bódó-kpàà nyo bè zaa kpòòhèn. Kee c tòe ma, bè bódó-kpàà nyo bè ké ma pó, dyiin dé c Dyúgàà mú. <sup>18</sup> Gèdèpòò ní kpòòhèn nyo bè bè wa taba c Dyúgàà hwiqilee, zaa. Nyo bè se c hwiqiti taba kee, zaa dà wa kpò nò, sepódeceñ, wa se Gèdèpòò Dyúgàà dyuàqòò hwiqiti taba. <sup>19</sup> Kà zaa nyo nyòòn kpòò kee, c kàà ké. Cèò dà bódó-kpàà kò dyi, kee nyòòn dèbè tie-kpòò mú mí, ké c zì cèò dyi, sepódeceñ, wa nyo de gba bè. <sup>20</sup> Ké nyòòn sèen bè bè wa nyo de gba kee, nyé cèò mú, ké wa se cèò dyi dyie béén, sepódeceñ, wa se mó bè nyòòn ké wa de gba bèò dyédéi hwòòhèn. <sup>21</sup> Kee nyo mò nyo bè c nyo de mò jàà kee, dyi cèò dyi, bè c ké nyo, bè nyòòn kée dyé kà bè de bè bè c nyuà kee, Gèdèpòò mò nyo cèe c gbo, ké c nyue kee.

### Jizè kè J35

<sup>22</sup> Ti de nà kee dà ma dyi zize, Jizè kè c deen-nà-nyò béc mu ma de Júqità-bòqòò kò. C kè wa nyo ma de ti goon, ké c nì ma nyo bè nì poen. <sup>23</sup> J35 mòòn nì ma nyòòn nì poen dé Ìnò, bè c xwèèn ma kà de Sedè dyie, sepódeceñ, ní pàdà nì ma de. Nyòòn bè mu ma de, ké c po ma wa nì. <sup>24</sup> (Wa sèe ma J35 jéè po ke.)

<sup>25</sup> J35 deen-nà-nyò béc diè bè, c kè Juù bèò dò dù ma dòèèn zà kpàai bó bùin-dèdè jè. <sup>26</sup> Wa dyi ma J35 gbo, ké wa cèe ma c gbo, ké wa dà, "Nyo de-témèèn-nyò, gaa bè ìn kèò ké nì ma kà de Jòniò deen, nyo kò je ìn cè ma kà kee, c nì nyòòn nì poen kààn, ké nyòòn sèen nì de c gbo muen." <sup>27</sup> J35 zà ma de wuqu, ké c dà, "Nyo dò se de dò bédée béén, Gèdèpòò nyie dyé hwè. <sup>28</sup> Bè mìòòn mò ní zàse kà bè ìn cèe ma, ké ìn dà, M se Kédéétiò, kee ìn mò c dyuà-nyò ke. <sup>29</sup> Nyòòn-bàò mò nyo kò nyòòn. Nyòòn-bàò bàtoò nyàà bó dyi, ké c tò dùu. Ké c dyi nyòòn-bàò wuqu wóòhèn, c kpà muààn. Kàà ní muàò nyo kàà gbo hwè. <sup>30</sup> C jè bédée bè c ké de kpà mì, kee ní jè se bédée bè c ké de kpà."

### Nyo bè c sò de dyoon wé

<sup>31</sup> Nyo bè c sà de dyilee, c kpa de, ké c zì nyòòn sèen dyi. Nyo bè c sò bódó-kpàò kò, mò bódó-kpàà nyo, ké c cè de bá bódó-kpàà dyilee, jè. Nyo bè c sà de dyoon wée, nì nyòòn sèen kòhèn. <sup>32</sup> C cè de kò je c dà dyé, c kè c dà wóò, kee nyo dò se de bè c cèa kee, dyi kpò. <sup>33</sup> Nyo kpò de bè c cè kee, dyilee, témèèn nyòòn dyi de de nà kee mú, kà Gèdèpòò mò jàà-nyò ke. <sup>34</sup> Nyo bè Gèdèpòò diboà kee, cè de bè Gèdèpòò cèe, sepódeceñ, Gèdèpòò nyie c Zùù gàà cá. <sup>35</sup> Bàò dèbè c Dyùò mú, ké c dà de sèen xwa nyi. <sup>36</sup> Nyo mò nyo bè c taba Dyúgàà hwiqilee, bédé se-naah-sèe fèè. Nyo mò nyo bè c se Dyúgàà wuqu nyuùn wée, se fèè bédée mu fò. Kee Gèdèpòò dyoqò mu c kò nìn kààà pù.

### Jizè kè Sémédia-màò

<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup> Fàdàsù béc wóò ma kà bè nyo bè bè Jizè nyo c deen-nà-nyò bè mú, ké c po ma wa nì kee, vò ma dyi, ké wa zì ma J35 nìin bèò dyie. <sup>2</sup> (Kee Jizè mìòòn se ma nyo bèò nì po. C deen-nà-nyò bèò mò nyo po ma wa nì.) <sup>3</sup> Ti Jizè wó de nyo bèò nì ma kà cèen nyee, c sò ma de Júqità dyi, ké c mu ma de Gádàdù de. <sup>4</sup> Ti c nì ma de muen nyee, c bédée bè c ké ma de Sémédia zìin. <sup>5</sup> C nyini ma hwoqò dò kò kò nyénè mò Sàkà, bè c nì ma de Sémédia kee, mú. C xwèèn ma de pá bè Jékò nyi zòò kà c dyù Jòsé kee, dyi. <sup>6</sup> Jékòò wé-dè-biò nì ma de. Jizè dà ma nà-nà dyi sa. C kò je, c kò ma bó wé-dè-biò wuùn dyi. C béèn ma dyóqò kò dù hwie jèe.

<sup>7</sup> Ké Sémédia-màò dò dyi ma ní piniin. Jizè cèe ma c gbo, ké c dà, "Nyiiin ní, bè ìn kèe ná." <sup>8</sup> Jizè deen-nà-nyò bèò dà ma de hwoqòò mú mu, bè wa ké ma di-dè dō. <sup>9</sup> Ké Sémédia-màò cèe ma Jizè gbo, ké c dà, "M mò Juù, ké ìn mò Sémédia-nyò. Xwè ìn béèn ìn ní zòhèn nyue ké?" (Sepódeceñ, Juù bèò kè Sémédia-nyò bèò se gbo-kpòòhèn-kpòòhèn bedé.) <sup>10</sup> Jizè zà ma de wuqu, ké c dà, "M dyiò de bè Gèdèpòò nyi nyòòn wée, c kè nyo mò nyo nà ìn ní zòhèn nyee, dyi dyuò mí, nì, nì muò má c de zòhèn, ké c muò má ìn ní bédée fèè kee, nyiin." <sup>11</sup> Maaò cèe ma c gbo, ké c

## Bassa Alphabet

### Used to write:

Bassa, a Kru language spoken mainly in Liberia by about 300,000 people.

### Bassa alphabet

33	∩^	tz	↗	ss	σσ	ss	ʃʃ	ʒʒ	↘
ehni	kah	say	fah	mbe	yeeay	gah	dii	kpah	jauh
n	k	s	f	mb	ɛ, ɲ	g	d	kp	j
ʃʃ	↗	ɔɔ	ɔɔ	ɣɣ	zz	ʋʋ	ʌʌ	↘	ll
whah	wah	zau	gbu	udau	chay	uwuu	tau	bah	vu
hw/xw	w	z	gb	ɲd	c	hw	t	b	v
ɛɛ	ʒʒ	ʌʌ	nn	ʋʋ	oo	uo	ɛɛ	<<	ʃʃ
yaayin	pah	uwada	ah	auh	oh	uuh	aay	eh	iih
h	p	rɪ	a	ɔ	o	u	e	ɛ	i

Try saying each sound in the Bassa alphabet.

Write the letter that says "gbu" \_\_\_\_\_

Write the letter that is like our letter "t" \_\_\_\_\_

Write the Bassa letters for our English word "Jesus".

\_\_\_\_\_





