

DAY

1



Welcome to Mission Kid!

We're going to take some time together to focus on how God PRUNES us to help us grow! Who knows what the word, "prunes," means?

[Time for kids to answer]

In gardening, "pruning" means taking away certain parts of a plant – like the branches, leaves, or roots. When you prune something, you remove the dead and dying parts to allow room for new growth. Pruning also helps keep away pests like bugs and animals and promotes the healthiest growth for a plant.

In a similar way, God "prunes" us throughout our lives. Because He loves us so much and knows every part of us, He helps take away the yucky parts (like selfishness, pride, hate, or anger) to help the good parts of our lives grow (like love, service, patience, compassion, and joy).

We learn about Jesus and we read the Bible, and then we see that God asks us to go and tell other people about what we've learned. We work on this task, or MISSION, together – telling others about His love and care for each and every one of us – and all the ways He prunes us so He can use us to do good works.

We also get to help people by doing what Jesus asks. What are some things that Jesus specifically asks us to do to help others and show them His love?

[Time for kids to answer]

These are great answers! Jesus calls us to help people in many ways. Together, we are going to focus on how Jesus calls us to care for kids – kids all around the world that need to know about Jesus and His love. Do you think you can join this mission to share the love of Jesus with kids around the world?

Let the kids shout "YES" as loud as they can

Great!!

There are many people who have started this mission already, and they will be SO glad to know you've joined them! One place that is a part of this mission is Lifeline Children's Services.

Lifeline helps Christians around the world share the love of Jesus to kids. Lifeline wants to teach Christians about children that live in their city or in faraway places that do not have a mom and dad. Kids who don't have a mom and dad are called "orphans."

Orphans live all over the world. Some may be in our city, but there are many across the world too. Many of these kids are living in really difficult situations. And, we know God tells us in the Bible that we are supposed to care for orphans.

It may be hard to imagine how you can help an orphan on the other side of the world but that's why we are here in Mission Kid! Thanks to Lifeline and other organizations, Jesus' love is already being shared to kids in so many places and this week we're going to learn about one of these places – Liberia! Can you say, "Liberia"?

Have the kids repeat it a few times. Say it a few times loud and a few times soft and have the kids match your tone.

First, do you know where Liberia is located?

Allow time for kids to respond.

It is on the continent of Africa, and it's on the west side (or left side). Not too big – about the size of Tennessee. There are almost 5 million people in Liberia, and they get to live along the beach or the rolling hills of the rainforest! It's humid all-year round. In the rainforest there are monkeys, antelopes, and anteaters! And lots of reptiles like snakes and crocodiles!

Which of these animals would you most want to see if you were visiting Liberia?

[Time for kids to answer]

Now, who can guess what language is spoken in Liberia?

[Time for kids to guess]

English is the official language! But there are also about 24 other languages spoken there.

These are all fun facts about the country, but it also has some sad parts to its history – war, poor health care, and a weak economy. Many moms and dads do not have a job and are not able to care for their family. They may not be able to provide meals, medicines, or other basic things kids need.

Even if children are left without a mom or a dad to care for them, we know God still loves them because He made them!

In Psalm 139:13-14 it says, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

In the video today we met Martha-Lyn, remember? She’s an orphan that was taken care of by Lifeline’s friends in Liberia. Remember the name of the camp?

[Allow kids time to answer]

REAP! That’s right! Let’s say it together “REAP!”

This camp is important because it helps kids, just like you, learn many skills and receive meals and a safe place to stay.

Remember the skill Martha-Lyn learned at camp this year?

[Allow time for kids to answer]

That’s right, sewing! Sewing is important to learn because it helps Martha-Lyn be prepared to find a job and provide for herself as an adult when she leaves her home called an “orphanage.” Not only this, at camp, Martha-Lyn learns about the love of God and how she can be a child of God. Isn’t that wonderful!?

****If you’re choosing to give your missions collection to Mission Kid –**

One way we can serve children in Liberia is through sending a child to camp. It costs \$350 to send one child to camp – that’s a lot for one person to raise. But together with your friends and family, you can help! Let’s think about some ways we may be able to raise money.

[Allow time for kids to answer]

Those are some great ideas!

[Offer other suggestions your church may have and allow for time and place for kids to give donation]

Next time we’ll meet Evans! He’s another kid at camp that’s learning a new skill and all about God!

Before we go, will you pray with me for all the orphans in Liberia? We want to pray that they know Christ as their Savior and how He cares about every little detail in their lives.

Have the kids get in a circle to show that we all work together and that we need each other to work toward Jesus’ mission. Then lead them in prayer.

Day 1 Activity Options

1) Individual Option – Liberia Worksheet

- a. Using the next page of this PDF, print and photocopy the free worksheet that contains facts about Liberia and help kids remember where it is on the map. This is a great tool that children can take home to their parents to share what they learned at Mission Kid.

2) Group Option – Mission Together Banner

- a. Using a drop cloth, table cloth, or other large fabric, write “Mission Together” in big letters and have the kids use finger paints to make their handprints on the cloth. Remind them that we need everyone for this mission. They can make their handprints with washable finger paint or trace their hands with washable markers and then decorate the inside of their prints.

LIBERIA

Liberia (officially the Republic of Liberia), is a country on the western African coast. It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its northwest, Guinea to its north, Ivory Coast to its east, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south. It has a population of around 4,900,000 people. English is the official language, but over 20 indigenous languages are also spoken. The country's capital and largest city is Monrovia.

Liberia was the first African republic to proclaim its independence, and is Africa's first and oldest modern republic. The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S.



For the Parents!
Take a closer look at what we learned today!



What is the capital city of Liberia? _____

What country borders Liberia to the north? _____

What country borders Liberia to the east? _____

What country borders Liberia to the northwest? _____

Liberia's western coast is on which ocean? _____

On which continent is Liberia located? _____

