

# Children's Leaders Lesson Plans



YWEA.09

hope for the hopeless

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dispair  
abused  
crying

abandoned  
assaulted  
terrorized  
alone  
forgotten

Every  
14 seconds  
a child in  
Africa  
becomes an  
orphan





# **“Hope for the Hopeless”**

**Children’s Lessons**

**YWEA 2009**

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# “Hope for the Hopeless” Children’s Lessons

YWEA 2009

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## Introduction

Because the 2009 YWEA project focuses on ministries to hurting children, it is an ideal opportunity for children's ministry leaders to get their kids involved in world missions.

The four lessons in this booklet use the word HOPELESS as an acrostic to show how kids in your church can reach out to needy children in Kenya and Rwanda:

They need . . .

**L**ove

**E**ducation

**S**alvation

**S**afety

We can help through our . . .

**H**ear

**O**fferings

**P**rayers

**E**ncouragement

## Acknowledgments

On behalf of the children's ministry leaders who participated in the development of these YWEA 2009 lesson plans, I express my deepest appreciation. These lessons and corresponding resources are designed to help you teach and lead your students into a successful missions experience.

Lance Colkmire is the editor of these materials. The individuals who helped him write the lessons are Eric Barnes, Eric Jackson, and Monica Moses. In addition, Tony Lane, Desmond Wellington, and Brian Stockton served on a planning committee to help originate this project.

If you have any questions about these materials, please contact us at [www.ycechurchofgod.org](http://www.ycechurchofgod.org) or email us at [dray@churchofgod.org](mailto:dray@churchofgod.org). Our office number is 423-478-7232. Thanks in advance for your support and involvement in the 2009 YWEA project.

David W. Ray, YWEA Coordinator  
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Cleveland, TN



# YWEA 2009: Hope for the Hopeless

## Lesson 1

### They need Love; we need a Hearth to help

#### SKIT: Wheel of Misfortune

*Items needed:* The letters *H* and *L*, each 18 inches tall, made from poster board or foam board; thumbtacks or masking tape to attach these letters to the wall; briefcase

**Pat:** I am Pat Saysmack, but everyone here probably already knew that, since you watch my TV show, “Wheel of Misfortune,” which has been on the air since your grandparents were little.

**Leader:** Welcome, Pat. We’re honored to have you here today. But *why* are you here?

**Pat:** I heard you need some letters.

**Leader:** Some letters?

**Pat:** Exactly. (*He opens the briefcase and takes out the two letters.*)

**Leader:** An *H* and an *L*.

**Pat:** Just what you needed, right?

**Leader:** But how did you know?

**Pat:** It doesn’t matter. I just asked my assistant, Vanilla White, if I could borrow an *H* and an *L* from the “Wheel of Misfortune” board, and she smiled, like she always does, and gave me the letters.

**Leader:** Thanks, Pat.

**Pat:** No need to say thanks. I'm on my way to make episode number 17,237 of  
"Wheel of Misfortune." (*He exits.*)

*(Leader displays the letters H and L on the wall. There should be enough space  
between those letters to add three more letters in the coming weeks.)*

**Leader:** The letter *L* stands for *love*. There are some boys and girls living thousands of  
miles from here who desperately need to know they are loved. The letter *H*  
stands for *heart*. Today we are going to ask God to give us a heart to help  
those children.

### **BIBLE STORY: The Loving God (Acts 14:8-18)\***

*Items needed:* Marker board, marker, eraser

Paul and Barnabas were the first missionaries. They traveled from place to place telling  
people about the love of God. As they traveled, they found people worshiping all sorts of  
false gods. In some places people worshiped gods that the Greeks had invented. In other  
places people worshiped gods that the Romans had made up.

*On the marker board, draw a cloud with a lightning bolt. Write "Zeus" next to it.*

Zeus was believed to be the god of the weather. He was the chief Greek god. They  
thought he controlled wind, rain, snow, lightning, heat, and cold.

*Draw a microphone. Write "Hermes" next to it.*

Hermes was the messenger of the gods. The Greeks believed he communicated the  
messages of the gods to the people. They thought he wore shoes with wings so he could  
fly very fast.

*Draw several stars and the moon. Write "Uranus."*

Uranus was believed to be the god of the sky.

*Draw a heart. Write “Aphrodite” inside it.*

The Greeks believed Aphrodite was the goddess of love, with the power to make humans fall in love with each other.

*Draw a few waves. Write “Poseidon.”*

Poseidon was believed to be the powerful god who ruled the oceans.

*Draw a spear. Write “Ares” beneath it.*

Ares was the Greek god of war.

*Draw a stalk of wheat. Write “Saturn.”*

Saturn was the Roman god of agriculture. The Romans thought he made things grow.

In their missionary travels, Paul and Barnabas came to a town called Lystra, where the people worshiped the various Greek gods. Listen to the experience they had one day.

*Have a boy or girl read Acts 14:8-10, which describes how God used Paul to heal a man who had been crippled from birth.*

Because the crippled man believed Paul’s message as he taught the crowd about the God who loves them, God healed him.

When the crowd saw the crippled man walking, they shouted, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” (v. 11). They called Barnabas “Zeus,” and they called Paul “Hermes”!

Verse 13 says “the priest of Zeus . . . brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.”

When Paul and Barnabas realized what was happening, they rushed into the crowd shouting, “Why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are

bringing you the good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God” (v. 15).

Paul told the crowd that the gods they were worshiping were not living beings but were “worthless things.” There is only one living God, he said. You can follow along in verses 15-17 to see what Paul said about the one true God who loves people and wants to help them. Just as God used Paul and Barnabas to spread the good news of God’s love, so God wants each of us to spread this message.

Verse 15: God controls the heavens (*erase the word Uranus*), the earth (*erase Ares*), and the sea (*erase Poseidon*). *Erase these words, but not the pictures.*

Verse 17: God testifies about Himself (*erase Hermes*), sends the rains (*erase Zeus*), causes crops to grow (*erase Saturn*), and fills people’s hearts with joy (*erase Aphrodite*). *Erase these words, but not the pictures.*

*Write THE LORD GOD at the top of the board.*

There were many false gods when Paul lived on earth, just as there are many false gods today, but there is only one living God. The God of the Bible is the Lord over everything. And we should help people know about God and His love for them.

### **OBJECT LESSON 1: Thirsty for Love**

*Items needed:* Two large, clear glasses of ice water

*Show the first glass of water and ask if anyone is thirsty.*

Everyone on earth needs water to survive. The average time a person can live without drinking any water is no more than seven days.

God created every person with a strong need for water, and He also created enough water for everyone on earth to have enough to live.

*Take a big drink of water. Talk about how good that drink was and how much you needed it.*

The water in this glass is kind of like love. We all have a strong need for love. Our bodies may be able to go on living for a long time without love, but our spirit needs the love of God more than we need water! The good news is that God has more than enough love for everyone who has ever lived, and His love will never dry up or go away.

*Get out the second glass. Who would like a glass of water? Call one child forward and let him or her take a drink.*

God wants you and me to share His love with people just as I shared my water with this person.

Jesus said the most important commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ . . . Second . . . ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31 NLT).

God is more interested in sharing His love with the world than anything else because we all need love so much! As Christians, it is our duty to share God’s love with the world any way we can because people need love.

*\* This Bible lesson is adapted from Kid Konnection 3 “Divine Adventures” (Pathway Press).*

## **OBJECT LESSON 2: Mail Call (A Heart to Help)**

*Items needed:* A large mailbox or a cardboard box that is decorated to look like a mailbox, index cards, envelopes, colored pencils, stickers (such as hearts, smiley faces, etc.), a Bible, and various types of mail: a bill, an advertisement, and a personal card.

You also need a bowl in which you will place slips of paper containing the name of each boy and girl present today.

*The pieces of mail and the Bible should be inside the mailbox.*

A mailbox is where I send and receive mail. I don't know what you usually get in the mail, but let me check my mail and see what I received today.

*Bring out the bill and the advertisement and discuss them. Next, pull out the card and say, Now here is a piece of mail that I get excited about. It is from (name). Wow, I love to get letters from that person because in their letters they tell me how much they love me! I always look forward to their letters.*

How many of you like to get mail? Well, I am going to give you an opportunity to send and receive a piece of mail. But first, everyone must draw a name out of the bowl. That is the person you are going to write.

*Have each child draw a name from the bowl. Next, have them write a short letter in which they must say something nice about the person they have chosen—he or she has a happy smile, is generous, says kind things, and so on. The kids can decorate their letters with the stickers and drawings.*

*Have everyone put their letter in an envelope, write the name of the addressee, and place it in the mailbox. Next, have someone deliver the mail. Give everyone a couple of minutes to read their mail.*

How does it feel to get a letter that says nice things about you?

God made each one of us, and He put the desire to love and be loved inside our heart. That is why we like showing our love to others and receiving that love from others.

Did you know that God wrote each of you a love letter? *Open the mailbox and pull out the Bible.* In this Book, God says how much He loves each of you. But this letter is not just for you and me, but for children all over the world.

Sadly, some children have not received this letter from God. They have never been taught Bible stories or Bible verses, and no one has given them a Bible to read. Many of these children cannot read.

God wants us to have a heart for these children. He wants us to do what we can to help them know about His love for them.

### **OBJECT LESSON 3: A Place Called Kibera**

*Items needed:* Two pieces of paper: write “Kibera” on one piece and the name of your church on the other.

*Display the paper with your church’s name on it. Explain that this represents all the kids in your church. Talk about all the good things your children have in their lives like food, shelter, clothes, people who love them and take care of them, a good church, transportation, and clean water. Explain that even though they may think they have it bad, they really don’t if they have those basic needs met. Tell them that they are represented by a perfect piece of paper because their life would look perfect to many people who live in Kibera.*

*Show the paper with “Kibera” written on it. This paper represents all the people who live in Kibera, which is the largest slum in Africa. It is located in the country of Kenya. These people don’t always have shelter from the weather, good food or water, or even people to show them love. In fact, many of them die because of diseases. Sometimes parents will die of disease and their children will have to live on the streets.*

*Crumble up that piece of paper and compare it with the perfect paper.* I crumbled up this paper to represent the bad conditions these people live in compared with the good conditions in which we live.

*Rip the Kibera paper in half to represent the difference in adults and children.* Just as I have torn this paper in half, it reminds me that about half of the people in Kibera are children. There are two million people in Kibera, and some 900,000 of the people are children.

*Rip one of the Kibera papers in half again.* About half of the 900,000 children in Kibera (that's around 450,000 kids) are orphans. An orphan is a child whose parents are dead or who has been abandoned by their parents.

All the children in Kibera need our help, but especially those who are orphaned and have nothing at all. We need a heart to help them!

### **GAME: Sour Faces**

*Items needed:* A very sour candy such as Warheads®

*Divide the kids into pairs. One partner will begin sucking a piece of candy while the other person tries to mimic his or her facial expression. Then the kids should switch roles.*

When something sour happens in a friend's life, God wants you to be there to weep with him or her. Then, when something sour happens in your life, God wants you to have a friend who will weep or cry with you.

You and I may never personally meet any of the suffering children in Kibera, but God still wants us to have a heart for them. Their sadness should make us sad. And more than just feeling sad, we should do whatever we can to help them.

## **PRAYER**

Just as Paul and Barnabas had a heart to help people in different parts of the world, so God wants you and me and to have a heart to help people who are different than us. Today we are thinking about the children who live in the Kibera slum in Kenya. Let's ask God to give us a heart to help them.

*Lead the children in prayer. Explain that in three weeks, you will be collecting a special offering to help these children. Urge children to put aside money to assist with this offering. Announce any fund-raising projects you have in mind.*



# YWEA 2009: Hope for the Hopeless

## Lesson 2

### They need Education; our Offerings can help

#### SKIT: Wheel of Misfortune

*Items needed:* The letters *E* and *O*, each 18 inches tall, made from poster board or foam board; thumbtacks or masking tape to attach these letters to the wall; briefcase

**Pat:** Welcome to “Wheel of Misfortune.” I am Pat Saysmack, your host, and it’s time to play our game. And here’s my lovely assistant, Vanilla—

**Leader:** Uh, hi, Pat.

**Pat:** You’re not my lovely assistant.

**Leader:** I know. And this is not “Wheel of Misfortune.”

**Pat:** Then what am I doing here in front of this studio audience?

**Leader:** This is not a studio audience. This is church.

**Pat:** Oh, yeah, *now* I know where I am. After making 17,237 episodes of “Wheel of Misfortune,” it feels like I’m always making another show.

**Leader:** Did Vanilla White send us some more letters?

**Pat:** I’ve got them right here! (*He opens the briefcase and pulls out the E and O.*)

**Leader:** Then I’ll put them where they belong.

**Pat:** And I think I’ll go take a nap! (*He exits.*)

(*Leader displays the letters with the ones used last week so they read as shown below.*)

## H O \_ \_ L E \_ \_

**Leader:** The letter *E* stands for *education*, and the letter *O* stands for *offerings*. There are children in Kenya and Rwanda who desperately need an education, and our offerings can help them to have that opportunity.

### **OBJECT LESSON 1: The Need to Read**

*Items Needed:* A Bible and a stack of books

*Struggle to carry in a large stack of books, showing how heavy they are, and set them down. Talk about how many books you just carried, counting them, and ask the children how much they think the books weigh.*

*Next, tell the kids you can carry 66 books in one hand, and ask if they would like to see you do it. Now pick up the Bible and walk around with it.*

See, I can carry 66 books all at the same time! The Bible is such an awesome Book—66 books in one! Let's talk about how amazing it is.

Tell them a few interesting Bible facts:

1. The Bible is 66 books written during a period of about 1,500 years.
2. The Bible was originally written in three different languages by about 40 different authors.
3. The Bible has now been translated into hundreds of different languages so many people all over the world can read the Bible in their own language.

*Have a volunteer read 2 Timothy 3:16 from their Bible: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (KJV).*

God chose the people who could read and write to record exactly what He wanted them to say so the Bible would be His message to us.

What would have happened if the people God chose to write the Bible had never learned to read and write? They wouldn't have been able to write all the awesome things we have in the Bible today!

In 2 Timothy 3:15, the Bible tells us it is so important to study His Word so we can be ready when God needs us. It is so important to learn all we can, but also to help others, like the children in Kenya and Rwanda, learn to read and write so they can help others where they live.

### **BIBLE STORY: A Giving Church (Acts 16:6-12; 2 Corinthians 8:2-3; 9:7)**

*Items needed:* An octagon-shape poster with "STOP" written on it, a circle poster with "GO" written on it, and a marker

Last week we learned about the first two missionaries. Do you remember their names? (Paul and Barnabas)

Today's story is about another missionary trip Paul took, but this time his main helper was named Silas. When Paul and Silas tried to go to Asia to spread the good news about Jesus, something happened. Acts 16:6 says they were "forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia" (NKJV).

*Have a boy or girl come forward and hold the stop sign.*

The Bible does not say *how* the Holy Spirit stopped Paul and Silas from going into Asia; it just says that He did.

Let's see what happened next. *Have a volunteer read aloud the last part of verse 7:* "They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them" (NKJV).

Again, we don't know *how* the Holy Spirit stopped Paul and Silas from going where they hoped to go; we just know that He did.

After Paul and Silas reached a town called Troas, when Paul was sleeping one night, God gave him a vision. In this vision he saw a man saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (v. 9). Paul knew this was a message from the Holy Spirit.

*Have the helper put down the stop sign and hold up the go sign.*

As soon as they could, Paul and Silas got on a boat heading for Macedonia. It took them to Philippi, one of the main cities in Macedonia. Right away they began telling people the good news that Jesus loves them. From Philippi they went to the city of Thessalonica, and from Thessalonica to the city of Berea. It was not easy, because the enemies of Jesus did everything they could to stop Paul and Silas, telling lies about them and stirring up crowds against them. Still, because God had given them a go sign, many people in Macedonia became followers of Jesus.

Later, Paul was able to make another missionary trip to Macedonia; and later, probably a third trip. He taught the Macedonians that even though they were facing hard times, it was important for them to give to help people who had greater needs than they did.

*On the back of the stop sign, write “OTHERS.” Have the helper hold this sign instead of the go sign.*

Paul taught the Macedonians to stop and think about others. There were many poor Christians in the city of Jerusalem who needed help, and Paul asked Christians everywhere—including the Macedonians—to help them.

*Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 8:2-3 aloud from their Bible: “They are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will” (NLT).*

In his second letter to the Corinthian church, Paul bragged about how the Macedonians gave to help needy people. He wanted the Corinthians to stop and think about this excellent example, and then to follow their example. And we should do the same thing.

*On the back of the go sign, draw a smiley face. Have the volunteer hold this sign instead of the stop sign. Have everyone read the last five words of 2 Corinthians 9:7 together: “God loves a cheerful giver.”*

God wants us to give, and He wants to give cheerfully! It is a special privilege to give offerings to help people learn about Jesus Christ.

We should not give *tearfully*, hating to let go of some of our money. And we should not give *fearfully*, worrying we won't have enough money to spend on ourselves. We should give *cheerfully*, happy to give to God by giving to others.

### **GAME: Alphabet Zoo**

*Items needed:* Dry-erase board; 21 cards, each with one of the letters of the alphabet written on it (do not make cards for the letters *q, u, v, x, and z*), and a bowl

*Place all of the alphabet cards in the bowl.*

God has many wonderful things to say to us through the Bible. For instance, the first chapter of the Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth, light and darkness, grass and seeds, the sun, moon and stars, and people. It also says He created various kinds of animals, so many that we are still discovering new species of animals today.

We are going to have a contest to see how many animals we can name in a short amount of time. Someone will come forward and draw a letter from the bowl, and then

we will name all of the fish, birds, insects, mammals, and reptiles we can that start with that letter.

*Let one of the children randomly choose a letter. Give the kids 30 seconds to see how many creatures they can name beginning with that letter.*

*After the 30 seconds, announce the number of animals the kids were able to name, and write it on the board. Congratulate them on a job well done, and then move to the next letter.*

The Bible contains much more than just the story of Creation. The Bible is a guide that tells us how we are to live our lives. But we have to read the Bible to know these things. Just as it is important to do your best to in school to learn all you can, it is more important to study and learn God's Word.

Sadly, there are many boys and girls in parts of our world who cannot go to school, so they cannot read and write. It is very difficult for them to know God's Word because they cannot read or write. By giving to YWEA, you and I can help children in Rwanda and Kenya get an education so they can go to school.

## **OBJECT LESSON 2: Soak and Squeeze**

*Items needed:* Sponge, empty bowl, bowl of water

When you think about it, anything you give to the Lord actually came from Him in the first place. He's the One who provided your family with the ability and the opportunity to earn money. So giving to God is really just giving *back* to God *some* of what He has given you. Without Him you can give nothing!

It's like this dry sponge. *Hold the sponge over the empty bowl and squeeze it.* This sponge has nothing to give in itself. The sponge must first receive water before it can give water. *Soak the sponge in the bowl of water.*

Because of God's blessings, we have something to give. *Hold the sponge over the empty bowl and squeeze some of the water out of it.* Without Him we can give nothing.

### **OBJECT LESSON 3: A Place Called Rwanda**

*Items needed:* Chair

Rwanda is one of Africa's most beautiful countries. It is filled with mountains and valleys, rivers, and lakes. However, the country had a terrible civil war in the 1990s. The Church of God in Rwanda suffered a lot during the war. Today there are only 11 Church of God churches in a nation of 10 million people. Some men who are pastors today saw their family members murdered.

Another terrible result from the civil war is the huge number of orphans in Rwanda.

*Have an older girl take a seat by herself in a front corner of the room.* What would it be like to be left alone without a mom or dad? It is estimated that there are more than a million orphans in Rwanda.

*Have a younger girl and a younger boy stand beside the girl in the corner.* Tens of thousands of these orphans have younger brothers and sisters whom they are caring for since their parents have died.

Here are two ways the 2009 YWEA project will help children in Rwanda:

- Build an orphans' and vulnerable children's center, where kids will be loved, have safe place to go, and get an education.
- Provide training for widows and older orphans to help them get jobs.

## **PRAYER**

Two weeks from today we will be receiving a special offering to support the 2009 YWEA project. Our money will help children in Rwanda and Kenya. The letters *E* and *O* remind us that these children need an *education*, and our *offerings* can help. Let us pray right now that God will help the Church of God to establish a center for orphans and other needy children in Rwanda.

*Lead the children in a time of prayer.*

# YWEA 2009: Hope for the Hopeless

## Lesson 3

### They need Salvation; our Prayers can help

#### SKIT: Wheel of Misfortune

*Items needed:* The letters *P* and *S*, each 18 inches tall, made from poster board or foam board; thumbtacks or masking tape to attach these letters to the wall; briefcase

**Pat:** This is a very exciting day!

**Leader:** You're right—it's the third day we're learning about how we can be involved in the 2009 YWEA project.

**Pat:** *Y-W-E-A*. Hey, we use those letters a lot on "Wheel of Misfortune." But those are not the letters I'm excited about today.

**Leader:** So which letters are you excited about?

**Pat:** The two letters I have in my briefcase. They're my favorite letters in the whole alphabet.

**Leader:** Let me see them.

*(Pat pulls out the P and S.)*

**Pat:** Can you guess why these two letters are so special to me?

**Leader:** Because they're you're favorite letters?

**Pat:** I already told you that. But can you guess *why* they are my favorite?

**Leader:** Because you like the curves in the *S* and the hump on the *P*?

**Pat:** No. Listen carefully to me. My name is *Pat Saysmack* (*emphasizes the p and s sounds*).

**Leader:** I get it! It's because those are the first letters in your name: *P* in "Pat" and *S* in "Saysmack."

**Pat:** That's it.

**Leader:** But Pat, those letters don't stand for "Pat" and "Saysmack" in today's service.

**Pat:** They don't! Then I guess I'll go find Vanilla White and get my own *P* and *S*.

*(Pat leaves, and the leader adds the letters P and S to the display as shown below.)*

**Leader:** Today we'll be learning that there are people who need *salvation*, which is the *S* word, and that our prayers can help. "*Prayer* is the *P* word.

**H O P \_\_ L E S \_\_**

### **BIBLE STORY: Praying for Change (Acts 16:16-18)**

*Items needed:* A container of bleach, a carton of milk, and a cup

Last week we heard how God led the missionary Paul to take the good news to Macedonia. The first city he stopped in was Philippi. There he and Silas found the place where God's people would gather for prayer—it was apparently at a riverside.

When Paul and Silas were heading to the place of prayer one day, they were met by a slave girl who made predictions about the future. The men who owned this girl made a lot of money from people who paid for their fortunes to be read. This girl started following Paul and Silas, yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved!" (v. 17). This happened day after day.

This does not sound bad, does it? What the girl was saying was true. However, Paul knew there was something wrong with this situation. Let me illustrate the problem.

*Display the bottle of bleach.* This bottle has a warning label because it is dangerous to drink. It is a poison that can burn your insides and make you very sick.

*Display the milk carton.* This carton does not have a warning label because it is safe for you to drink. In fact, milk contains nutrients that are good for you.

Wouldn't it be strange if I mixed some milk with some bleach and asked you to drink it? *Pour some milk and bleach into the cup.* This would be dangerous and confusing!

The girl in the Bible story was also confusing. The Bible says it is wrong for someone to tell fortunes; this is called witchcraft. It is dangerous, just like the bleach.

Yet, this girl who kept doing evil things was saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God," which was a true, healthy message. Her "milk" words did not match her "bleach" fortune-telling. And if she kept following Paul and Silas around, this would be confusing to people. They might think Paul and Silas were fortune-tellers and that "the Most High God" was the power behind fortune-telling.

Paul finally realized this girl was under the control of an evil spirit. So one day when she began following him again, he stopped and prayed for her. He prayed that the evil spirit would come out of her, and God answered his prayer immediately! She was no longer under the devil's power!

The owners of the girl were furious, for they cared nothing about the girl—all they cared about was the money they would lose because she would no longer be telling fortunes. But the girl's life was changed forever. She could now choose to follow the Most High God.

Boys and girls, it is important that we pray for children in places like Rwanda and Kenya. Many of them have had their lives poisoned by the death of their parents, by not having enough food, and by having a terrible disease like AIDS. But just like God heard Paul's prayer for the slave girl, God hears our prayers for suffering boys and girls today.

## **OBJECT LESSON 1: Salvation Needed**

*Items needed:* Wrapping-paper tubes or yardsticks, several pieces of yarn about 2 to 3 feet in length, several horseshoe magnets, aluminum foil, kiddie pool, large plastic bag, construction paper, large metal paper clips, marker, tape, scissors

*Attach the yarn to the tubes or yardsticks with a piece of tape, and tie a horseshoe magnet on the other end. Decorate the magnet with aluminum foil to make a shiny “lure.”*

*Make fish out of construction paper, putting a smiley face on one side and a sad face on the other of each fish. Attach a paper clip to each fish. Place all the fish in the inflated kiddie pool with the sad sides up.*

How many of you have ever been fishing? *Allow a few kids to tell their fishing stories.* Well, today we are going to go magnet fishing. In our “pond” are the fish we are going to try to catch. If you look carefully at each of these fish, you will see they are unhappy. The reason is that the pool they live in has recently become contaminated by harmful bacteria that will eventually kill them. Our goal is to catch all these fish and place them in the safety bag so I can deliver them to a pond where they will be able to live.

*Divide the kids into small teams, with each team receiving a fishing pole. Have enough fish in the pond so that each child will be able to catch a couple of fish. The goal will be to catch all the fish. Have a competition to see which team can catch the most fish. Once the teams have caught all the fish and placed them into the bag, have the kids sit back down.*

Thank you to everyone for catching all these fish so we can transport them to a pond with clean water so they will live and not die. By the way, did you know Jesus talked about fishing in the Bible? In Matthew 4:19 he told Peter and Andrew to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men.

Jesus taught His disciples to “catch” the lost people of this world who were dying because of their sin so Jesus could give them eternal life. Did you know you too can help win the lost people of this world to Jesus? YThere are children in Kenya and Rwanda whom you can help by praying that Jesus will come into their lives. Let’s pray that God will send more people to go “fishing” in Kenya and Rwanda to help those children.

### **GAME: Prayer Splashes**

*Items needed:* Masking tape, a sign reading “Africa” and another one with the name of your church, a kiddie pool with a little bit of water, towels

*Tape the “Africa” sign on one side of the room, and tape the other sign on the opposite wall. Place the pool in the middle of the room.*

*Have four boys kneel in a circle beneath the wall where your church’s name is posted. Have a fifth boy stand in the middle of the circle.*

Let’s imagine that the four boys who are kneeling are praying for needy children in Africa. As the sign says, these praying boys attend our church. They are specifically praying that kids in Kenya and Rwanda will accept Jesus as their Savior.

The person standing represents the children’s prayers. The kiddie pool in the middle represents the Atlantic Ocean, which separates the United States from Africa.

On the count of “3,” the boy who is standing will hop from the prayer circle, through the “Atlantic Ocean,” and stop in “Africa.” I’ll time him to see how fast he can make it. By the way, he should take off his socks and shoes first!

*Count “1, 2, 3,” and see how long it takes for the “prayers” to reach Africa. It took \_\_\_\_\_ seconds for those four boys’ prayers to reach Africa. I wonder if our prayers really travel that fast?*

*Now have five girls come forward and repeat the game with them, announcing their time as well. You might choose to continue this game with other kids playing.*

When we pray with faith for the salvation of children in Africa, God instantly hears our prayers. Through our prayers, God speaks to the hearts of children who need to accept Jesus. Through our prayers, God helps missionaries to effectively tell these children about Jesus. Praying is the most powerful thing we can do for other people, so we must never quit praying for them.

## **OBJECT LESSON 2: Shooting in the Dark\***

*Item needed: Foam ball*

*Display the ball.*

*Who can hit the target? Allow for responses, and select a girl who raises her hand.*

*OK, you’ve got three throws to hit the target. When she asks you to identify the target, tell her, “Just go for it.”*

*Come on! Three shots, let’s go. Hurry up. Keep encouraging her until she throws the ball.*

Sorry, but you missed, even though you were so sure of yourself. Why are you having such a hard time hitting the target? *Get her to say it's because she doesn't know what the target is.*

Kids, this volunteer is helping me make an important point. When some people pray, they have no idea what they want or what they're aiming for. They are just like our friend, trying to throw the ball at a target, but not knowing what the target is.

Choose a target—a specific target—in your prayers. Don't just say, "Lord, bless the children in Rwanda," when you can pray, "Lord, please help many children in Rwanda accept You as their Savior."

Saying something like, "Lord, bless the kids in Kenya" isn't a specific target. Instead, pray specifically, like, "Lord, help all the children who live in Kenya's Kibera slum learn about You so they can be saved."

Let's pray with a target in mind. Let's pray for many children in Rwanda and Kenya to be saved.

*\* This object lesson is adapted from Mighty Acts kids church curriculum (Pathway Press).*

### **OBJECT LESSON 3: Beautiful Feet**

I need everyone to take off one of your shoes. Go ahead, take it off. And if you're wearing a sock, take it off too. Now look at your foot and think of one word that best describes it. Tell the person next to you what that word is.

Did anybody say you have a beautiful foot? The Bible says there are a group of people who have beautiful feet. Let's find out who they are.

*Read the last part of Romans 10:15: “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” (NLT).*

The good news this verse is talking about is the message that Jesus Christ wants all people to be saved from their sin.

*Have everyone put their shoes back on.*

When we pray for children in Kenya and Rwanda to be saved, our prayer should include asking God to send messengers to spread the good news. For, as Romans 10:14 says, “How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” (NLT).

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a three-part prayer.

1. Pray for the people who are already in Kenya and Rwanda spreading the good news.
2. Pray for God to send more people to Kenya and Rwanda to tell children the good news.
3. Pray that many children in Kenya—especially those in Kibera—and Rwanda will be saved.

# YWEA 2009: Hope for the Hopeless

## Lesson 4

### They need Safety; our Encouragement can help

#### SKIT: Wheel of Misfortune

*Items needed:* The letters *E* and *S*, each 18 inches tall, made from poster board or foam board; thumbtacks or masking tape to attach these letters to the wall; briefcase

**Pat:** Here I am again, everyone’s favorite game-show host, Pat Saysmack, with the final two letters you’ve ordered. And it was tough getting here today!

**Leader:** What happened?

**Pat:** Well, my assistant, Vanilla White—you know, the woman who turns all the letters around on “Wheel of Misfortune”—

**Leader:** Yes, I know who you’re talking about—the lady who never stops smiling.

**Pat:** Well, Vanilla wasn’t smiling today! She didn’t want me to take away any more of her letters, so I had to sneak them out of the studio.

**Leader:** Pat, this is the last day we’ll need the letters. Our puzzle will be finished today.

**Pat:** (*Pat notices the posted letters for the first time.*) I see—you’re trying to get your studio audience to solve a puzzle just like we do on “Wheel of Misfortune”! Wait a minute—are you trying to replace “Wheel of Misfortune” with your *own* game show?

**Leader:** No, Pat. This is not a game show, and this is not a studio audience. These letters are helping us learn something very important.

**Pat:** Learn something, huh? (*whispering loudly to leader*) These kids really do need some help learning! They've been stuck on that same puzzle for four weeks! On "Wheel of Misfortune," my contestants solve four or five puzzles every show!

**Leader:** The reason we've taken four weeks on this one puzzle is because the lessons we've been learning are so important. Can I have this week's letters now?

(*Pat pulls out the E and S.*)

**Pat:** If you put the *S* in the first blank and the *E* in the second one, you'll have the word *hopslese*. We've never had that word on "Wheel of Misfortune."

(*Leader correctly places the E and S to spell hopeless.*)

**Pat:** *Hopeless*. What a sad word! So for a month you've been teaching these kids how to be hopeless?

**Leader:** No way! We're learning how to bring *hope* to the *hopeless*.

**Pat:** That's important! Almost as important as giving away big prizes on "Wheel of Misfortune"—and it's nearly time for today's show. (*Pat rushes out.*)

**Leader:** Today, the letter *E* stands for *encouragement*, and the letter *S* stands for *safety*. The children in Kenya and Rwanda need safety, and our encouragement can help them.

### **BIBLE STORY: Surviving a Storm (Acts 26:32—28:6)**

*Items needed:* Large box fan, two spray bottles with water, rubber snake, CD with storm sounds, CD player, chairs

In the previous three Bible stories, we've heard about someone's missionary travels. What was his name? (Paul) Do you remember the names of two missionaries who traveled with him? (Silas and Barnabas)

In today's lesson Paul is on another trip, but this time things are very different. Neither Silas nor Barnabas is with him. Paul's enemies, who did not believe Jesus is God's Son, had made up lies about Paul, and he had been arrested by the Roman government. He had been in jail for two years. At least this kept him safe from his enemies, who wanted to kill him.

Because Paul was a Roman citizen, he requested that his case be heard by the most powerful man in the world—the Caesar in Rome. So, Paul the prisoner was taken aboard a ship with 275 other people and left for Rome.

*Create an outline of a boat with chairs. Have the kids "climb on board" the boat by sitting in the middle of the chairs on the floor.*

Paul had long wanted to go to Rome to tell people there about Jesus, but he did not know he would go there as a prisoner. But that was okay with him—he would be a witness about Jesus anyway that he could.

*Have a student read Acts 27:14-15: "Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the 'northeaster,' swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along."*

*As these verses are read, turn the fan on medium speed and lightly spray the water bottles.*

*Now have verses 18-20 read: "We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's*

tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.”

*As those verses are read, turn the fan on high, have someone begin flicking the lights off and on, spray with the bottles more rapidly, and play the storm sound effects.*

When everyone else on the ship thought they could never be saved, listen to what Paul said: “Keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island” (vv. 22-26).

And that is just what happened! When the ship wrecked, all 276 people on board made it safely to the island of Malta. *Turn off the fan, leave the lights on, quit spraying the water, and stop the sound effects.*

Once they reached the island of Malta, everyone was soaking wet, but alive! It was rainy and cold, but the people of Malta were friendly, and built a fire.

*Pick up the rubber snake.* As Paul was collecting some brushwood to add to the fire, a poisonous snake bit him, and all the people of Malta thought he would die. But Paul shook the snake off of himself into the fire, and Paul was not even sick. *Throw the snake down.*

Once again, God had kept Paul safe! Just as God cared for Paul’s safety, so He cares about the safety of the children in Rwanda and Kenya. You and I can do things to help them be safer.

## **OBJECT LESSON 1: Praying for Safety**

*Items needed:* Spoonful of salt and a cup of water

In Isaiah 41:13, God speaks about how He can help us when we are afraid. *Have a boy or girl read this verse:* “For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

What are some things that make you fearful? *Let the kids give several answers.* There are boys and girls living in the country of Rwanda who are sometimes afraid of the same things, and they also have other fears we may not know about.

*Hold up the spoonful of salt.*

Let’s pretend this spoonful of salt represents one of the fears you mentioned. Now, I want each of you, one by one, to begin calling out those fears to God. As you do, I will slowly pour the salt into the water and see what happens.

*After all the salt is poured into the water, stir it, and the salt should dissolve.*

Just as I poured the salt into the water, so you and I can pour our fears on God. When we do so, He can help our fears to dissolve as we realize how powerful He is. Since God is with us, we do not have to fear. Just as God sent an angel to protect Paul, God can also comfort us and protect us when we are fearful.

The children in Rwanda and Kenya have experienced some very frightening things. We need to pray for them and give to YWEA so people can help them know how to pour their fears on the Lord.

## **GAME: Sticker Shock**

*Items needed:* Lots of stickers (such as those circle stickers used for garage sales)

*Give everyone 10 stickers.*

The object of the game is to be the first one to get rid of your stickers. But you must get rid of them in the right way—by putting them on other people’s backs. But wait—before you get started, there are two rules you must follow.

1. Each sticker must be placed on a different person.
2. When you put the sticker on someone’s back, you must say something encouraging to them, like “You’re a good friend” or “Thank you for praying for me” or “You are kind to others.”

Ready? . . . Set? . . . Go!

*After the game, say:* It is easy to encourage each other in our church, because we are here together. However, the children in this year’s YWEA project—kids living thousands of miles away in Kenya and Rwanda—also need our encouragement. While we cannot put stickers on their backs, we can encourage children who live there through our giving and prayers.

## **OBJECT LESSON 2: Giving God Our Best**

*Items needed:* TV remote control, fast-food bag, small fan, picture of a house, bank

What would you be willing to give up for God and the people who need to hear about God?

*Display the remote control.* Would you be willing to give up television?

*Display the bag.* Would you be willing to give up fast food?

*Display the fan.* Would you be willing to give up air-conditioning?

*Display the house picture.* Would you be willing to give up your home?

*Display the bank.* Would you be willing to give up your money?

*Have a child stand beside you.* Would you be willing to give up friends?

Did you know there are thousands of people all over the world who have given up some or all of these things to become missionaries? They have given up many of life's pleasures and comforts to help spread the good news of Jesus.

Sure they miss fast food and their homes and their friends . . . but they love God so much they've sacrificed those things for His cause.

Jim and Debora Womble have been working as missionaries in Kenya for 14 years. They are the leaders of the Kibera Children's Center, reaching out to the children who live in Africa's largest slum. Let's pray for them right now. They need the encouragement our prayers can give them. *Have a boy or girl lead everyone in prayer.*

Boys and girls, even if you never become a missionary, there are things you will have to sacrifice if you want to follow God. *Hold the remote control.* For instance, there are many TV shows God's children should not watch; you need to give them up.

*Put your hand on the shoulder of the boy or girl you brought forward.* You may have a friendship you have to give up because that person is such a bad influence on you.

*Hold the bank.* At times you should give a generous offering to help a missionary or an orphanage or a poor person.

In Matthew 19:29, Jesus said, "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

### **OBJECT LESSON 3: Letter Review**

*Items needed:* The letters spelling *HOPELESS*

Let's review all the important things we have talked about over the last few weeks. The word *HOPELESS* reminds us that thousands of children in Kenya and Rwanda have less hope than you do, but there are things you can do to bring them hope.

*Remove the letter L.* What did we say is the first thing they need? (Love)

*Remove the H.* The letter *H* reminds us what we need to help them find love. What is it? (A heart to help)

*Remove the first E.* The letter *E* tells us of something else the kids in Africa need. What is it? (Education)

*Remove the O.* The letter *O* tells us of something we can give to help them have an education. What is it? (Offerings)

*Remove the first S.* This *S* stands for the most important need of all people, including these lost children. What is it? (Salvation)

*Remove the letter P.* What can we give them to help them be saved from their sins? (Prayers)

*Remove the second S.* Today we've talked about another need of these children. What is it? (Safety)

*Remove the second E.* This letter reminds us that our encouragement can strengthen them.

## **PRAYER**

Let's pray for these four big needs of children in Rwanda and Kenya. Please pray these words after me.

*Dear God, send many people to give love to the orphans in Rwanda and Kenya.*

*Help more and more of these children to get an education.*

*Give these children safe places to live.*

*Dear Jesus, may thousands of these children be saved from their sins.*

## **OFFERING**

*Place the letters spelling HOPE on the wall.*

The prayers we have been praying and the offering we are giving today will help bring hope to the hopeless!

*Have a boy or girl lead in prayer, and then receive the offering.*



# KidMission

## EMPHASIS SUNDAY

Kids On a Mission to Change **Kibera**

# March 29, 2009

*Change to Change the World*



YWEA.09  
**hope**  
for the **hopeless**

[www.kidmission.org](http://www.kidmission.org)