

KIDS FOR CAMELS

A free missional Sunday school lesson
about the Horn of Africa



INTRODUCTION

About a year ago, I heard about an initiative in the Horn of Africa where camels are used to bring the gospel to people and places where there are no known Jesus followers. It excited me, and I envisioned children and families around the world getting involved with this ministry.

This lesson is made for churches, children's clubs and schools to help children discover that not everyone has the same opportunities to learn to read, access books or the Bible or to know someone who can share the gospel with them. Through this lesson, participants will learn about other cultures, people and places, discover scriptural truths and explore how they can get involved.

This resource was developed by Operation Mobilisation (OM) in collaboration with a local partner in the Horn of Africa. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this resource in any way and I would like to thank you for your willingness to share this with the children in your community.

I pray that this resource will bless you and impact the children and families you work with and that this will eventually result in more people being reached and transformed by the good news.

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LESSON TIMETABLE

60-90 min lesson

Welcome and introduction	2 min
Game	10 min
Learn about the Horn of Africa	8 min
Praise and worship	5-10 min
Bible story	10-15 min
Memory verse	5-15 min
Craft	10-15 min
Prayer	5-15 min
Challenge	5 min

The times listed in this lesson timetable are guidelines. The actual time spent on each activity will depend on the size and average age of the group, and the optional activities you choose. We trust that you know your group best and know the time you have available for the lesson. Feel free to adapt where needed to make this lesson work for your setting. You can find additional activities and materials in the appendixes.

Room decoration

Decorating the room will grab the children's attention from the start. It will help build anticipation, excitement and shows children that today will be a special lesson. It also makes life in the Horn of Africa a bit more visual. We understand that the amount of decorating you can do depends on the place you meet, preparation time and access to resources. Therefore, these are just suggestions! Feel free to adapt them or use only a few. Be creative with what you have available and what is possible.

Consider making a traditional nomad dome-like house out of cardboard — it would be helpful to do research on these traditional houses to have an idea of what they look like.

Steps for making a nomad house

Materials

Large cardboard boxes (appliance boxes work best)
Scissors or box cutter (for adults to use)
Masking tape or duct tape
Markers
Colourful (African) fabric or reed mats



Steps

1. Cut cardboard

- > Cut cardboard into long strips:
 - Width: 5-8 cm
 - Length: ~1-1.2 m
- > You'll need ~20-30 strips.

2. Create the base circle

- > Lay strips end-to-end in a rough circle on the floor.
- > Use a hot glue gun or tape the ends together to hold shape.

3. Build the dome

- > Pick 6 strips and tape one end evenly around the circle.
- > Bend them upward so they meet in the middle.
- > Use a hot glue gun or tape all tops together like a crown.

4. Fill the gaps

- > Add more strips crossing diagonally between base and top.
- > Use a hot glue gun or tape wherever strips intersect.
- > Leave one area for a round door.

5. Finish

- > Cover the structure with fabric or reed mats. You don't need to cover all the gaps.

More ideas

Here are some more ideas for simple and quick room decoration:

- > World map or globe. This is also be useful for some of the lesson. If you cannot find a map, draw a world map on an old white sheet with a permanent marker.
- > Printed pictures from the Horn of Africa. For example, the desert, camel caravan, goats, animal horn, people in traditional clothing, local housing, tourist attractions from the area, food, etc. If you have access to a screen, you can make a slideshow with these pictures or play a video about the area.
- > Flags from countries in the Horn of Africa. You can make them yourself from paper, print them or use real flags. Sometimes you can buy flag bunting. Even if the flags of the Horn of Africa are not on those, it can show children that they will learn about a country.
- > Cardboard camels. Make them as big as you can. One camel can have a fabric satchel around the body area. Use rope or string to make a halter. These cardboard camels will also be useful during the prayer session.
- > Use cardboard or brown wrapping paper to make dune shapes and attach them to the wall to create a desert. If you're outside, use a box or basin with builder's sand or play sand in which children can press their feet into to make footprints.
- > Colourful (African) fabrics or a colourful (African/Middle Eastern) carpet.
- > Any food or objects from the Horn of Africa that you might have access to would also be a great way to engage the children from the start.



LESSON OUTLINE

Welcome and introduction

Before you start, make sure there is a picture or miniature of a goat and camel somewhere in the room that the children will be able to find when they look around. You can also stick pictures under the chairs and ask them to find out the topic by looking under their chairs.

Welcome the children and open with prayer.

Today we are learning about an area in Africa where many people travel from place to place to find water and food for their animals. Now look around the room. What animals do you think they keep? Yes, they keep camels, and they also keep goats.

Game

Camels walk around in caravans, a line of several camels in a row. So today we are playing caravan tag.

This game is played like ordinary tag. One 'camel' starts and tries to tag someone to make a caravan. When you are tagged, hold the hand of the 'camel'. Now you are a caravan of two.

Keep tagging others until you are a caravan of four. When you tag the fourth person you split in two smaller caravans of two and continue tagging (demonstrate the split). The game ends when everyone is tagged or when the teacher says it is time to stop. Who would like to start as the 'camel'?

Play the game one or two times and then gather the children together in the area where you usually teach.



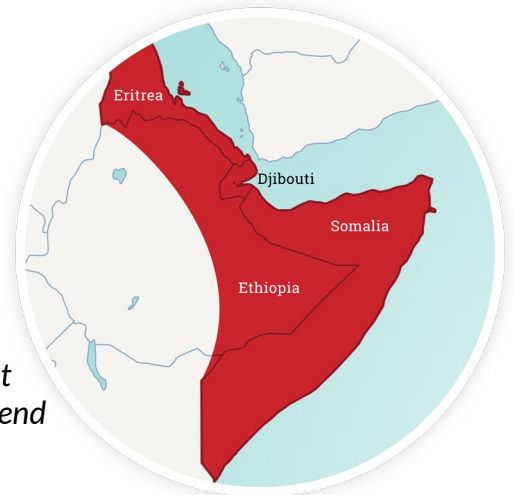
TIP: At the end of this booklet, there are more game ideas that can be used for smaller settings or to extend the lesson.



About the Horn of Africa

The area we will learn about is called the Horn of Africa. Is there anyone who would like to come forward and point out this area on the map?

The Horn of Africa is far away from us and it might be hard to imagine how it is to live there. We asked one of the children living there to share about her life. While you listen to her story, can you spot a few things that might be different from your life? Can you spot something that is the same? Listen well and remember them. At the end of the story, you will get a chance to share them.



“My name is Ayaan. I am a 12-year-old girl, and most days I wake up before the sun, when the air is still cool and quiet. My mother gently shakes me, and I hear the soft bells of the two camels that always stay outside. One camel is used to carry things, and the other for milk. The rest of the camels roam far away. That is how our morning begins. We are always moving. My father says we follow life; where there is grass, there is hope. Our home is a small collapsible hut we build and take down again.

I have two younger brothers. The smallest one still cries when I leave with the goats. I am a goat herder. I did not choose it; it is simply what I am.

Some days feel very long. The sun blazes, and the land seems to stretch forever. I talk to the goats sometimes, just to hear a voice. I used to wonder what it would be like to go to school, like the children we sometimes hear about, but that felt like a story from another world. Then one afternoon, everything changed. We saw a camel coming, but it was different. It carried boxes. The two people with it smiled a lot and spoke kindly. They called us closer. I felt shy, but also curious.



TIP: Ask an older child or teen to read (or memorise) the story. They could wear cultural clothing or a scarf around their head to show they are acting.

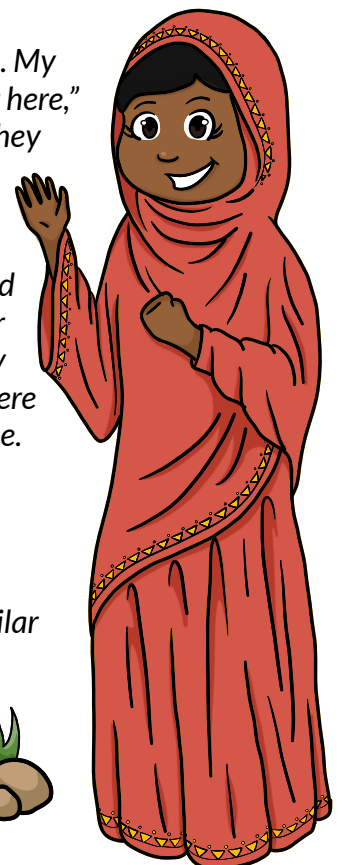
They opened the boxes, and inside were books. I had never touched a book before. My hands felt dusty, and I was afraid to hold them. But they showed me gently. “Start here,” they said, pointing to the letters. At first, the marks meant nothing. Then slowly, they became sounds... and then words. I remember the first time I read my name, Ayaan. I could not stop smiling. My name means “lucky.” I am so lucky.

They also shared stories about God who sees us, even here in the dry places. A God who loves, forgives and brings peace. I kept thinking about those stories long after they left. Now, when I walk with the animals, I write letters in the sand. I teach my little brother in the evenings. Sometimes, I close my eyes and imagine a future where I can read many books and maybe, one day, share them with other children like me.

The land hasn’t changed, but I have. The camel library visits us often, and we are grateful.”

Think back on the story. What did you hear from the story from Ayaan that is similar in your life? What is different? Give a few children the chance to respond.

Credit: Dr. Aweis Ali



Praise and worship

Praise and worship are an essential part of every children's service. They help children connect with God, one another and with scripture.

A great way to introduce children to global mission is to teach them or expose them to Christian songs from other countries. The words below come from a chorus of a well-known Somalian hymn. You can choose to teach this song to the children or play it in the background.

Ayaan was so happy that God saw her and loves her. This song comes from the area where Ayaan lives. Listen to the song and try to sing along.

Haye Aan Ammaanno

*Haye aan ammaanno (Let us praise Him)
Haye aan ammaanno (Let us praise Him)
Ilaahii na uuntay (The God who created us)
Haye aan ammaanno (Let us praise Him)*

© 2023 Codka Noloshu Cusub. Haye Aan Ammaanno ("Let Us Praise Him"), from Codadka Iftiinka ("Voices of the Light"), Maandeeq Publishing, Jigjiga, Ethiopia; Somali Bible Society, Mogadishu, Somalia. English translation © 2023 Aweis A. Ali. Licensed under CC BY 4.0



Scan or click for
chorus only



Scan or click to
download the
whole song

Download the song.

You might also consider using, adapting or writing a song that works to help children remember the memory verse. You can use this example from a colleague in Zambia.

*Go and tell, go and tell
What you know about Jesus
Go and tell*



Scan or click

Download the song.

As this resource is used in many different denominations, cultures and languages, we encourage you to find some songs about God's Word and missions that work well for your context.



Bible time

Ask the following question and give a few children the opportunity to answer:

What is your favourite book?

Wow, so many different books and titles. Everyone has their favourite book or maybe even an author they like. There is one book written for everyone in the world, given to us by a special author. One day, a man was reading this special book and did not understand what it was saying so he asked for help.

Bible story: Philip and the Ethiopian

This is a role-play, drama-style method of storytelling. Teachers can choose to narrate the story or ask one or two children who feel comfortable reading to help narrate the story. Be sensitive to children who struggle to read or cannot read by directing them what they need to act.



TIP: To keep younger audiences engaged during the story, add actions the children can do for certain words.

People needed for the role-play:

- > Narrators (teachers or children who can read confidently)
- > Angel
- > Philip
- > Ethiopian officer
- > The driver

Objects / space needed:

- > Chariot – use chairs or chairs with a cloth or cardboard around it to make it look more like a chariot of biblical times
- > Scroll – Bible opened at Isaiah 53:7–8 or you can write the script on paper and roll it like an ancient scroll
- > Water – blue cloth or some blue paper
- > Road – a pathway/road where Philip and the officer meet

The script is based on Acts 8:26–40.

All quoted passages are from the International Children's Bible (ICB). You are welcome to read from a translation that is used in your church.



Actions are marked in Italics.

Narrator 1: Our story starts with Philip. *Philip sits on stage.*

Philip was one of Jesus' followers and saw how Jesus died and rose again! Philip wanted to go and tell people the good news, which is called the gospel, about Jesus – so they could tell others too.

One day, an angel appeared to Philip, and told him,

Angel comes on stage. Philip looks at the angel and listens while the angel pretends to speak and points to where Philip should go.

Narrator 2: The angel said “Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem – the desert road.”

Angel walks off stage and Philip starts to walk slowly in place or walks from one point to another in front of the audience.

Narrator 1: Philip had to go to a desert road, where many people traveled south from Jerusalem back to their hometowns. That road must have been very dusty!

As Philip was walking along the road, The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and said: “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Philip looks towards the chariot containing the driver and the officer and runs in slow motion towards it.

Narrator 1: Sitting in the chariot was an Ethiopian officer. An officer was an important leader at that time. The Bible tells us he had gone to Jerusalem to worship God.

On his way home, the officer was sitting in his chariot reading from a scroll. A scroll is like a rolled-up book. He was reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The officer sits in the chariot acting like he is reading the Bible/scroll open to Isaiah 53:7-8.

Narrator 1: This was the chariot the Holy Spirit told Philip to go to and stay near.

Philip continues running to the chariot and when he is near, he puts a hand next to his ear to show he is listening.

Narrator 2: The officer was reading:

“He was like a sheep being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut. He said nothing. He was shamed and was treated unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. His life on earth has ended.”

Narrator 1: Philip asked if the officer understood what he was reading.

Narrator 2: “How can I understand?” said the officer. “I need someone to explain it to me!”



Narrator 1: The officer then invited Philip to climb into the chariot and sit with him.

Officer motions for Philip to join him.

Philip climbs into the chariot and sits next to the officer.

Narrator 2: The officer asked: "Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself, or about someone else?"

Narrator 1: Philip began to explain the scriptures and told the officer the good news about Jesus.

While the narrator talks, Philip and the officer interact. Philip uses hand motions, pointing to the Bible as he explains. While the officer nods his head, showing understanding.

Narrator 1: As they travelled along the dirt road, they came to a place with water.

The officer points to the water.

Narrator 1: The officer then asked Philip if there was anything that would be against him being baptized. And Philip told him that he needed to believe with all his heart.

Narrator 2: The officer said with a voice: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Narrator 1: The officer ordered the chariot to stop.

The officer motions to the driver to stop. Philip and the officer stand on the blue cloth and the officer goes on his knees in the water and pretends to go under the water. While he is under, Philip quickly leaves the stage, and when the officer comes up and looks around, he can't see him.

Narrator 1: Both of them got out and went down into the water, and Philip baptised the officer. When they came out of the water, the Holy Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The officer did not see him again.

The officer continued his journey home, and the Bible says he was filled with joy!

The officer gets back into his chariot and motions the driver to keep going.

Philip was now in a city called Azotus. There he continued to share the gospel to the people.



Memory verse



Optional interaction questions for longer lessons or smaller groups. This could be used as an introduction for this section.

- > Has someone ever given you an important message to tell someone else?
- > What was the message?
- > Who were you supposed to tell the message?

Philip had an important message to share with the Ethiopian, and he was so thankful that he could hear it!

Today's memory verse comes from Mark 16:15. Let's find it in the Bible. This verse is also about a special message. Try to find out what the message is and to whom we are to tell.

Read the verse 2-3 times or ask some children to read it out loud. If needed, take time to explain the difficult words in the verse or ask the children to say what it means using their own words.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
— Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

Optional activity: Memory Verse Camel Relay-Race

Materials needed:

- > 2 sets of memory verse word camels
(each word printed or written on a cut-out paper camel)
- > Two tables/surfaces
- > Two containers to hold the camels

Place each set of the paper camels in a container — one for each team — on a table/surface.

Make two teams of up to 13 children.

Each team lines up about 15-20 metres from the table.

One at a time, a child from each team runs to the table, picks a random camel from the container, places it on the table, runs back to their team and high-fives the next person in line to go. As each word is added, the child can rearrange the camels to what they think the correct order is. The first team to correctly arrange the word camels in the order of the verse wins.



At the end, have all the children say the verse by heart without seeing it.

Ask: *Whom are you going to share this verse with?* (let the children make commitments)

TIP: Memorise the Bible verse through a song, actions or using images. Consider using local sign language signs from your country to learn the verse.

Jesus gave this command to the disciples, but when we follow Jesus, it counts for us too! So, what do we need to tell? And who do we need to tell it to? (Give the children time to respond)

The following activities can be done in small groups to allow for more interaction between the leaders and the children or with the whole group.

Craft

Use one of the activity pages in Appendix 1 or let the children make their own camels.

Here are some simple ideas to make a camel:

- > Use a toilet roll and cardboard paper (or old boxes). Cut four legs and a head out of the cardboard and connect them to the toilet roll with glue. Decorate the camel with paint or make a beautiful saddle using coloured paper.
- > With brown paint or mud make a handprint on a piece of paper with four fingers down and the thumb pointing up. With one finger, add a head to the camel on the end of the thumb. Wait until it is dry. Then draw the eyes, mouth, ears, tail and anything else you'd like to decorate it with.

For more ideas, check out these websites:

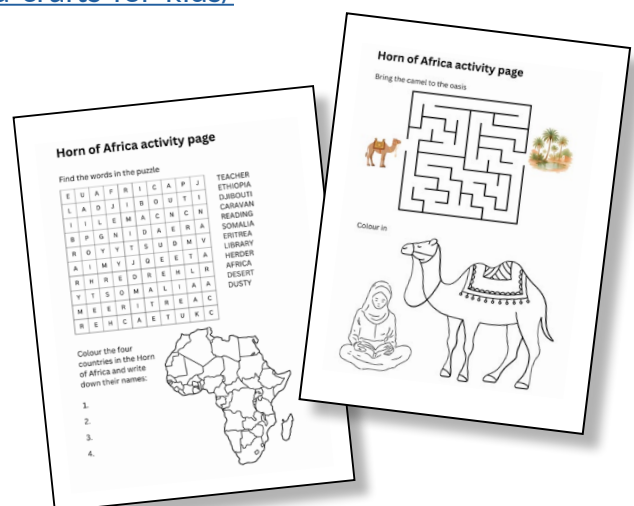
<https://coolkidscrafts.com/camel-crafts/>

<https://www.kidsartncraft.com/camel-cardboard-crafts-for-kids/>



Alternative for small spaces:

Two children from each team (or randomly) can stand by the table and arrange the verse as their teammates cheer them on, as they all repeat the verse from the visual. When they finish, two others can arrange the verse.



Prayer

Camel prayer cards

Material needed:

- > Cardboard cutout of a camel
- > Cloth satchel with a pocket (or a plastic bag/folder)
- > Glue or tape (if using a bag/folder)



Make a cardboard cutout of a camel. If possible, make a satchel of cloth with a pocket hanging from the side. Alternatively, glue or tape a plastic folder to the camel's side. Print the prayer cards from the appendix and cut them out. Place the prayer cards in the satchel. Make sure there is one prayer card per child.

Invite the children to come and see what the camel has brought them. Take out the prayer cards and hand one to each child.

The Bible teaches us to pray for all people because God wants everyone to know Him (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We pray that all the people living in the Horn of Africa will hear the gospel.

The Bible also teaches us to pray for the people who go and tell others the gospel (Matthew 9:37-38). We pray for the camel herders who go and share the good news.

Demonstrate to the children how a camel goes down on its knees when it wants to rest or sleep. Ask the children to also go down on their knees like a camel and pray for the people on the cards they received from the camel's bag. They can take the prayer cards home and continue to pray.

If you have split into small groups, return to a big group for a closing challenge.



Challenge

It was so special to see you all pray together. We know that God hears and answers our prayers and that they will bring change. Today, we want to challenge you to help bless many children like Ayana with a very special gift: a camel that will bring books and Bibles to them. Through these camel libraries people will learn to read, and have the opportunity to read the Bible – God's precious book.

A camel library is expensive, and we might not be able to do this alone. But we can do it together with other children around the world. Everyone who participates will be part of the Kids for Camels Club. Together, we can make a difference and give children like Ayaan the opportunity to learn to read!

Tips for teachers:

The main aim of this section is to give children the opportunity to be generous and make an impact in the lives of other children. If raising money is a challenge in your community, think of other ways that will help the children learn about generosity. Maybe they can do something special for the teachers who helped them read, or support a few younger children in their community by helping them with their reading.

Creative ideas for child participation:

- > Agree as a group on a (realistic) total amount you would like to raise for the Kids for Camels Club and come up with fundraising ideas that work in your culture and setting.
- > Ask the children to make or decorate a collection box for the raised funds.
- > Create a board to monitor the fundraising progress. For example, for each \$1 USD raised, the children can colour in one step. Another option is to have a line marked with different amounts with a camel that can move. Every time you gather, or when funds come in, count the amount with the children. The camel is then moved to the new amount. Each gathering the camel is moved until the full amount has been raised.

**More information about fundraising and donating can be found in Appendix 1 and 2.*



APPENDIX 1:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About OM

In 1957, George Verwer and two friends took a mission trip to Mexico. What began with three men who deeply desired to share God's love with those around the world who did not know it, multiplied into a global movement of believers with the same passion.

Today, more than 4,500 OM workers representing 125 nationalities are serving or in partnership in over 147 countries, in addition to on board OM's two ships.

God has used us to take the gospel around the globe, and we won't stop now. Today over 2 billion people in the world have not had the good news of Jesus presented in a way they could hear and understand. OM teams are actively working to establish vibrant communities of Jesus followers among these least-reached communities. As George Verwer himself said: "We will press forward until every creature has heard the gospel...the world is our goal!"

About the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa is a region located in the northeastern corner of the African continent and consists of Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Approximately 140.7 million people live in the area and around 60 per cent of them are under the age of 25, making it one of the youngest populations globally. The Horn of Africa is considered one of the least-reached areas worldwide with Islam being the primary religion in most countries, except for Ethiopia which has a long Christian history. This region is characterised by a rich cultural heritage, diverse ethnic groups and a complex religious landscape. However, it also faces significant challenges, including poverty, conflict and environmental issues such as droughts. The United Nations reports that across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, 22 million people are currently facing a severe hunger crisis after four consecutive failed rainy seasons.

Watch a short information video here.



Scan or click



About the camel library project

In the Horn of Africa, a unique ministry brings more than just literacy to a nomadic people group. Libraries, carried on the backs of camels, bring the gospel to communities while also demonstrating the love of Christ.

In the Horn of Africa, camels are just as important to people's livelihoods as they have been for millennia. "Many are nomadic camel herders," says Rev. Aaden, a leader of a partner ministry in the Horn of Africa. "They treasure camels very much." Their lives centre around the animal, selling its milk, meat and hide.

Nomadic camel herders are also one of the most neglected communities in terms of being reached with the gospel. This is because the herders travel throughout the Horn, following the rains in order to graze their herds. Since there is no set pattern to their travels, it is almost impossible to find a specific group a second time.

"Several years ago, a group of believers agreed that something needed to be done," shares Rev. Aaden, who was part of the group. "That's how the idea for the camel library came to be." Rev. Aaden shares that the literacy rate among camel herders is very low. The camel library is twofold, states Rev. Aaden: "One, to increase the literacy rate by teaching camel herders how to read and write. Two, we have found in this culture that people who can read and write are more likely to follow Jesus than those who can't. So, our camel evangelists set out to find these communities in the desert in order to teach camel herders how to read."

"Camel herders themselves don't have enmity with the gospel," explains Rev. Aaden. "There is no hatred; in fact, there is interest. It's amazing how they respond as they consider the cost. They have questions on what it means to follow Jesus and if they have to give up their lives as camel herders. "We say that you can still follow Jesus and be a nomad. In fact, a nomad makes a great evangelist, because they are always on the move and live sustainably: camels produce well so numbers increase annually, and they can sell milk to survive."

The ministry behind the camel libraries is partnering with OM to purchase both camels and library books so that many people will have the opportunity to hear the good news and follow Jesus.



How to get involved

We trust that this resource inspired you to be part of the global movement to share the good news with everyone everywhere. Here are some small steps you can take individually, with your church, family or with a group of children.

Continue to pray! OM provides several resources you can use to keep praying. Download the Prayer Reach app, read our YouVersion plans or contact us to receive our other resources for children's programmes. Visit: <https://www.om.org/int/inspiration/prayer>.

Consider giving towards the camel library through your local OM office or visit www.om.org/int/give. Please make sure to use "Kids for Camels (1802731)" as reference when giving towards this project. **One camel library is \$1,500 USD.** We would love to see children and families around the world joining the Kids for Camels Club. Together, through everyone's contributions, we can purchase a camel — or several! We hope you will join us!

Maybe you want more information on how to get involved locally or globally in God's mission. Perhaps you just want to share how God has used this resource in your church, class or club. We would love to hear from you! Email ichnos@om.org for any questions or feedback regarding this resource.

One camel
library is
\$1,500 USD



APPENDIX 2:

EXTRA ACTIVITIES FOR LONGER GATHERINGS

Here are some more ideas to extend your children's programme.

Group discussions

In small groups, reflect on the Bible story and the story of Ayaan. Ask some of the following questions:

- > Do you have a Bible?
- > Who helps you understand the Bible?
- > How would you feel if you did not have a Bible or if you could not read?
- > What was the response of the Ethiopian after Philip explained what the Bible verses meant?
- > How did Ayaan feel when she learnt to read and heard about God?
- > If you had to explain to someone what Jesus has done for the world, what would you tell them?*
- > How do you think Philip felt after sharing with the Ethiopian? Have you ever told your friends about Jesus? How did you feel?
- > What can you do with what you have learnt today?

** This could also be a great opportunity to share the gospel message and give the children an opportunity to respond to by choosing to follow and obey Christ like the Ethiopian did.*

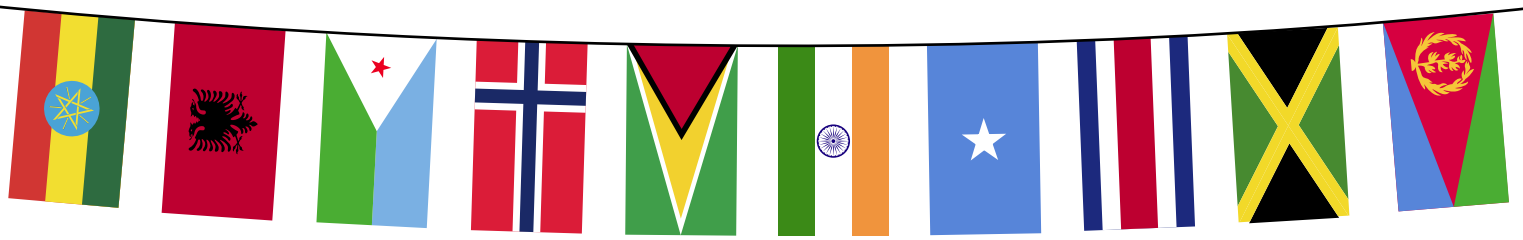
More ideas for games and activities

Fill the library

Have two or more teams play against each other. On one side there is a stack of books. On the other side an empty box with a sign saying 'camel library'. The books need to move from the depot to the camel library. Each team must decide the best strategy to move all the books the fastest, while only moving one book at a time. The books must be treated with care and cannot be damaged in the move.

(Use old books, magazines or blocks with a picture of a book as the books could be slightly damaged in the game)





Pin the tail

A variation on the well-known 'pin the tail on the donkey' game. Have a picture of a camel without its tail. One at a time, each child is blindfolded and tries to pin the tail in the correct place. To make it a bit harder, spin the child around to disorient them. You can either use a real pin with a tail on it or use something like adhesive tack to make the tail stick on the camel.

Oasis

This game is a variation of 'fruit salad'. Make a big circle with chairs for every child. As the teacher, start standing in the middle of the circle. Before beginning, each child chooses to be one of these three animals: camel, goat or cow. You can also assign the animals to make even groupings. When you call an animal, all the children who are that animal need to exchange places. So, if you call 'camel', all the camels switch chairs, while the goats and cows remain seated. Do this a few times with different animals. Then add a new word. If you call 'oasis' everyone needs to change places. Participants cannot return to their same seat, and cannot change with the person sitting next to them. Practice one or two times. Now, you will start playing. Share that you will also join the game and will try to sit at any empty seat when everyone switches. Whoever does not have a seat after everyone else has switched is now the person who calls out the names of the animals or the word oasis. Play this a few times.

Note: This game can become very competitive with older children. They might run to chairs, or two people might end up on the same chair. Keep an eye on the competitiveness of the children to make sure that no one gets hurt and provide extra guidance where needed for safety.

Quiz

Put together a simple quiz that includes information about the Horn of Africa that suits the age and level of the children in your group. For example:

- > Use a photo or a part of a photo and let the children guess what they see. This could be a (small part of) a camel, a desert, oasis, book, grass, goat, a goat's bell, etc.
- > Ask more geographical or general knowledge questions (older children). This could start globally and end in the Horn of Africa. For example: In what country do people eat pizza? Which country borders (your country)? What is the smallest country in the world? What is the biggest ocean of the world? What is the longest river? What is a desert? In which continent is Ethiopia? Etc. You can find some more ideas here: <https://digitaljoy.media/geography-trivia-questions-for-different-age-groups/>
- > Do a flag quiz with flags from different areas in the world. End with one or two of the flags from the Horn of Africa.

More prayer ideas

Make a prayer chain

This activity helps children visualise how prayer unites us, furthers the Kingdom and is beautiful. It also helps children be actively involved even if they do not pray out loud.

Materials needed:

- > Coloured paper cut vertically into strips (around 3cm thick)
- > Scissors
- > A stapler or tape

Each child receives a strip of paper. Different coloured paper may be used. The children can write a short prayer for the Horn of Africa, or write the words, *"I pray for the Horn of Africa."* Each child takes their strip of paper, loops it through the previous paper loop and staples or tapes it together to link it into a chain.

Make sure the first paper loop is prepared in advance or displayed so the children know where to begin. After the chain has been looped and stapled together, ask two or three children if they would like to pray. Close the time together in prayer.

Another option is to begin by praying together in smaller groups. Form groups of three or four children and encourage each group to pray for the Horn of Africa. Once the groups have finished praying, the children can come and staple their strips to link with the first loop started by the teacher.

If helpers, volunteers or parents are available, invite them to help facilitate the small groups and pray through the prayer points together.

Example:



God's Land Claimed Back (older children/preteens)

Find a large world map, making sure that the countries of the Horn of Africa are visible. If a large enough map is not available, or the group is very large, consider using more than one map.

Ask if anyone can locate the Horn of Africa on the world map. Guide them if they are unsure. Invite one or two children to point out the countries and remind them of any countries they forget.

Invite the children to place their hands on the world map. Explain that, after hearing about this area, they are going to claim it for God. This means speaking words that they believe God wants to see happen in these communities. Ask what God's desire might be for the 140 million people living in the Horn of Africa. Encourage the children to think of words they believe are on God's heart for these communities.

Give them the opportunity to speak their word or phrase out loud. Examples include PEACE, LOVE, GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED, MORE CAMEL LIBRARIES and similar ideas. Ask everyone to close their eyes and allow anyone to speak a word as it comes to them. After several words have been spoken, ask if anyone would like to pray at that moment, and allow them to do so. Close the time together in prayer.



Horn of Africa activity page

Find the words in the puzzle

E	U	A	F	R	I	C	A	P	J
L	A	D	J	I	B	O	U	T	I
I	I	L	E	M	A	C	N	C	N
B	P	G	N	I	D	A	E	R	A
R	O	Y	Y	T	S	U	D	M	V
A	I	M	Y	J	Q	E	E	T	A
R	H	R	E	D	R	E	H	L	R
Y	T	S	O	M	A	L	I	A	A
M	E	E	R	I	T	R	E	A	C
R	E	H	C	A	E	T	U	K	C

TEACHER
ETHIOPIA
DJIBOUTI
CARAVAN
READING
SOMALIA
ERITREA
LIBRARY
HERDER
AFRICA
DESERT
DUSTY

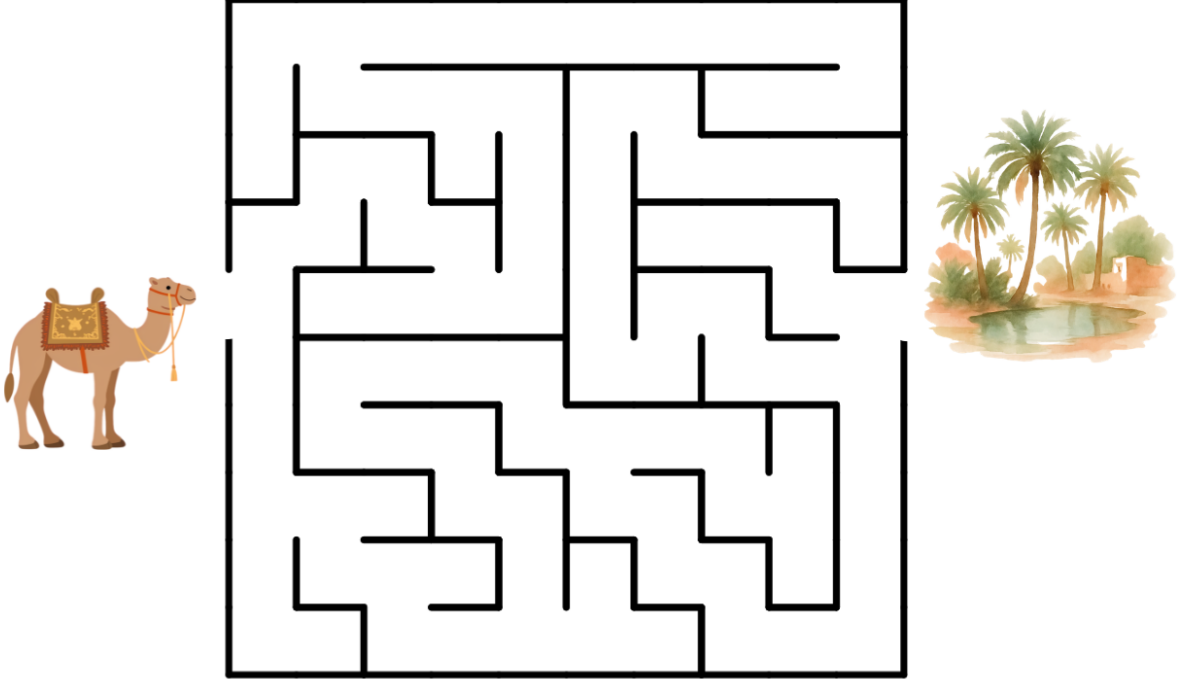
Colour the four countries in the Horn of Africa and write down their names:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



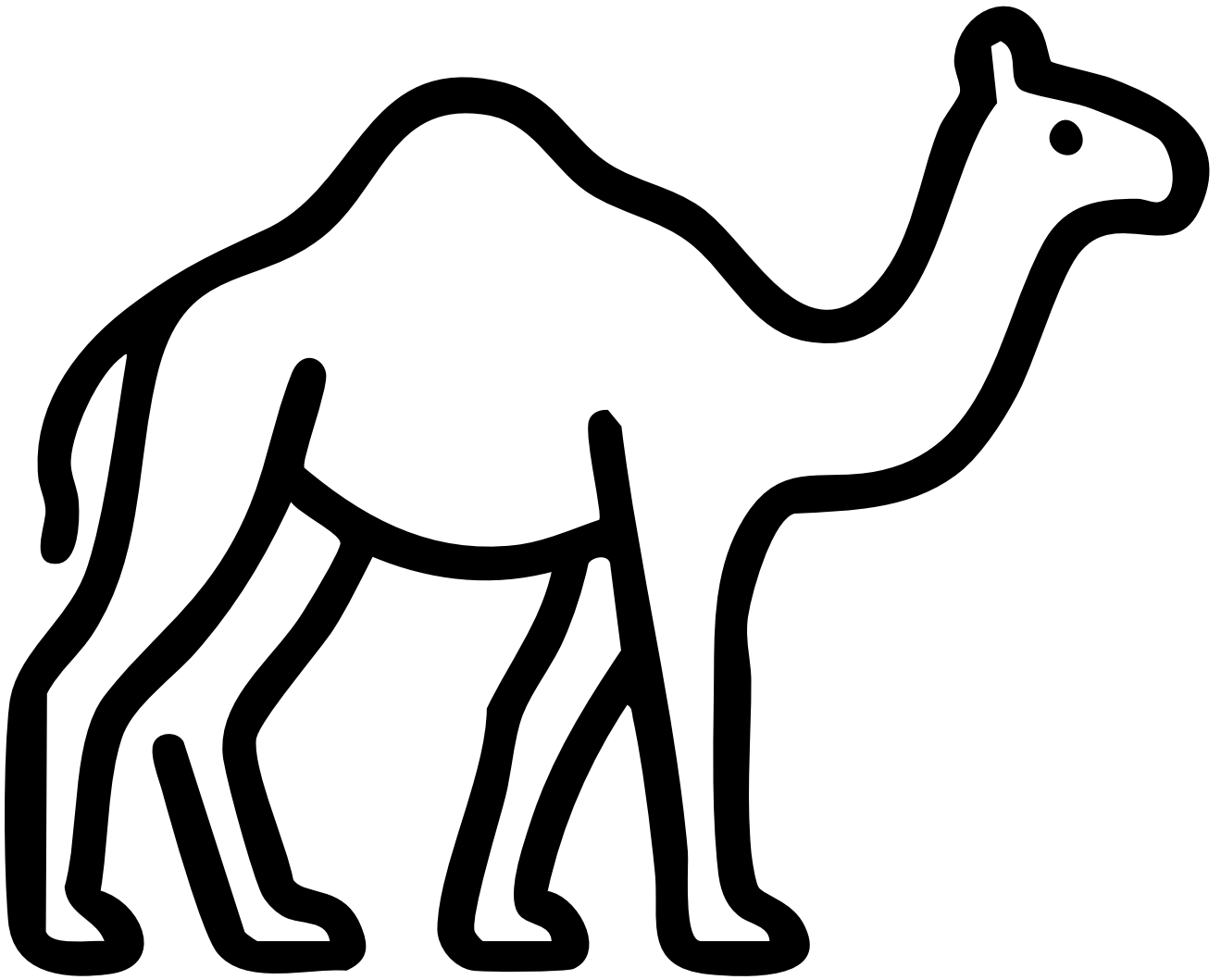
Horn of Africa activity page

Bring the camel to the oasis



Colour in





Prayer cards to print



Pray for children in the Horn of Africa. Pray that they will learn to read so that they can read the Bible.



Pray for women in the Horn of Africa. That they will hear about Jesus, follow him and become mothers that teach their children to love and obey God.



Pray for girls in the Horn of Africa. Pray that they will not be forced to get married young, but that they can go to school.



Pray for old people in the Horn of Africa. Old people are highly respected. Pray that they will meet Jesus and share it with their whole family.



Pray for camel herders in the Horn of Africa. Pray that they will hear about Good Shepherd and choose to follow him.



Some areas in the Horn of Africa are not safe. People flee their home to find a safe place. Pray for peace and for God to provide a new home for these families.



Pray for Somalia, the second most dangerous place in the world to follow Jesus. Pray for believers to be bold and faithful even though it is dangerous.



Pray for Djibouti which only has a small group of Christians. Pray that God will raise up believers who can teach the Bible and make disciples.



Pray for Eritrea with a plant in the flag. Pray that when people share the good news (seed) that it will grow like a plant that bears fruit (see Mark 4:14-20).



Pray for the church in Ethiopia to become a light that shows the love of Jesus to the people in countries around them. (see Matthew 5:14-16)



Pray that more people will go into all the world to preach the good news to all creation so that everyone has a chance to hear about Jesus (see Mark 16:15)



Maybe you also have friends or family who do not know Jesus yet. Pray that God will work in their hearts and send someone to them to explain the gospel.



The Horn of Africa has some of the best fishing areas in the world. Pray that they will follow Jesus and 'fish for people' just as Jesus told the disciples (Matt 4:19)



The Horn of Africa has some really nice food, but extreme weather and climate change bring challenges. Pray for God to provide food for people who are hungry.

Fundraising ideas

Children can of course bring some of their pocket money or ask their parents for a contribution. But there are other ways that could help them raise money and allows them to participate or give more actively.

- > Organise a book sale. Children bring their old books and sell them for a small price.
- > Craft auction. Make cards, paintings or other crafts and invite parents, grandparents and other family members to an auction or market where you sell the crafts for charity.
- > Kids for Camel Club Sponsor Run. The children run or walk a number of laps in a time frame and ask friends and family members to sponsor them for each lap they run or for a set amount if they compete. You can combine this with the sale of snacks and drinks at the same for the audience that comes to cheer the children on.

NOTE: Make sure to discuss the project with your pastor or leader before sharing this with the children. We also advice providing a letter to the parents to inform them of the project. A sample letter is included in Appendix 4.



APPENDIX 3:

USING THIS MATERIAL FOR A FAMILY PRAYER EVENT

Another great way to help children grow an awareness for mission is within the family. A great way to mobilise the whole family for mission is by organising a family prayer event. Below are some ideas you could use from this resource and some things you could add for the experience.

Programme

Optional start - invite all families for a meal that is common in the Horn of Africa.

1. Welcome

Prayer and introduction of the event.

2. Ice breaker

Depending on the average age of the children in the group, you could choose the pin the tail game or a quiz.

3. Country information

Read the story of Ayaan and some background information about the Horn of Africa.

4. Memory verse

Link the memory verse (Mark 16:15) to the story of Ayaan. Challenge the families to come up with a way to help them memorise it such as making a rap, singing it or coming up with actions. Depending on the size of the group, either let each family share or ask a few families to share.

In family groups, discuss what the verse means to them as a family. How can they take part in sharing the gospel with everyone?

5. Prayer

Use one of the prayer activities from this resource. Another option is to make prayer stations for each country in the Horn of Africa with some information about the country, the flag, some pictures, objects (if possible) and some prayer points and let the families move from station to station.



6. Challenge or take away

Reflect with the families on what they did today. What did they like? What was new to them? Ask them to discuss with their family one thing they want to start doing at home.

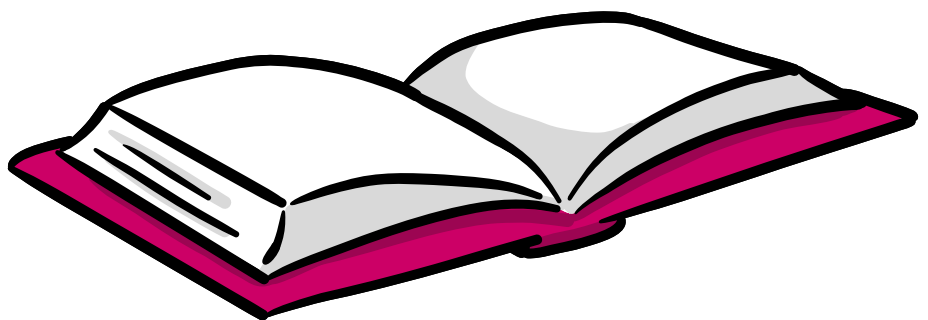
Challenge them with the information and opportunity to give towards the camel project. As a family, they can discuss how they can give. Perhaps they can decide to do something together to raise money, or give up something that they normally do and use that money to support the project (For example, no family outing or special treats for a week).

Extra activity

Before or after the memory verse, you could also include the Bible story about Philip and the Ethiopian using the Discovery Bible Study method. You will need a Bible for each person or at least one for each family.

Follow these steps:

1. Someone in the family reads the story from a Bible.
2. Read it again (either from another version, or each person reads a verse).
3. Ask someone in the family to retell the story in their own words without looking at the Bible. Others can help by filling in the things that are missed. Note: this is not a summary but retelling the story as accurately as possible. You can use creative ways to do this. For example, asking the families to draw pictures of scenes of the story which they then use to retell the story, or letting them act out the story.
4. Then ask some questions for discovery:
 - > What did this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit?
 - > How did God use Philip and what was the response of the Ethiopian?
5. Then ask some questions for response:
 - > What did this passage teach us about obeying God? Each family member then finishes the following phrase individually: This week I will obey God by... (linking to this passage).
 - > Who can I share this passage with? Each family member then commits to sharing by saying: In the next week I will share this passage with (name).
6. Pray together.



APPENDIX 4:

SAMPLE LETTER FOR PARENTS

Dear parent(s)/caregiver(s),

Today's Bible passage and memory verse: Acts 8:26-40 and Mark 16:15

Today we had a special project lesson provided by Operation Mobilisation (OM) about the Horn of Africa and were introduced to the Kids for Camels Club. This is an initiative giving children and families the opportunity to learn about camel libraries in the Horn of Africa that reach marginalised nomad communities in the Horn of Africa through literacy programmes, which also opens doors to share the gospel.

The children heard the story of Ayaan; a little girl in the Horn of Africa who is caring for her family's goats. Her life was changed through one of these camel libraries as she not only learnt to read but also heard that there is a God who loves her. She is one of the many lives that were touched through this project.

During the lesson, we asked the children to pray for the Horn of Africa. We also challenged them to think how they could support the project, and we would like you to consider financially supporting this project too. The Kids for Camels Club is an initiative of OM that challenges children and families around the world to contribute what they can and work together to raise funds for camel libraries. One camel library is \$1,500 USD. We hope your family will join us in raising funds so that everyone in the Horn of Africa will have the opportunity to hear the good news of Christ!

[add any specific information about the way you want to do the fundraising with the children/families and contact details of your school, church or club]

