

1 Introduction

Our church is spending time learning about a special place called Congo. We are going to learn about Congo and some special children that live there called Covenant Kids.

- What do you think the word covenant means?
- Where have you heard this word used? Is it part of the name of your church?

Covenant is a promise that God makes to the people he created. And we know that God created all people so all children around the world are kids of the covenant. God offers them the same love and grace that he offers to us.

2 Lesson

Read Psalm 24:1 and John 3:16.

God created the entire world and everyone who lives in it. Every adult, baby and child in every country all over the world was wonderfully created by God (Psalm 139). God promised to take care of his people from the very beginning and loved all of his people so much that he sent Jesus to earth so that our sins would be forgiven. He gives his love and forgiveness to all people, everywhere.

Churches in these countries know that if these kids get an education, clean water, food, and a safe place to be, they will not have to live in poverty when they get older.

3 Activity

When the people go to church, they are greeted with the sound of a drum which lets them know it is time for church. People greet visitors all together in the following manner: Say "mbote" three times with hands pointed towards them in a handshake fashion (i.e. as if you are giving them three handshakes). In a similar fashion, say "merci" (mair-SEE) three times with hands raised toward heaven. The children should greet you in the same manner at the same time. Practice saying "mbote" with others. A regular greeting is a handshake and then grabbing each other's thumb. Practice this special handshake with a partner.

5 Extra Activities

Children can color maps and flags of DR Congo to be used in the learning space as a visual reminder of your emphasis on this country and ministry.

Download a map and flag of DR Congo at CovChurch.org/covenantkidscongo under our Hope Sunday Resource section.

For more activities view our supplemental resources.

4 Elizabeth's Story

My name is Elizabeti. I am nine years old and I live in Gemena with my family. I help my mother with her small sewing business, but I usually wear previously-worn dresses from North America. I wake up early each morning to help my mother with chores and to care for the rest of the family. I like to sing and dance with other children in the church choir. Usually, I would not have the opportunity to go to school or learn to read. Because of the Congo Covenant Church and Covenant Kids, I get to attend school and study reading and math.



Elizabeth - Age 9

Prayer Requests:

- For Elizabeti as she studies in school, that she may catch a dream for her future
- For her mother as she provides for the family through her sewing business
- For Gemena that the community's needs would be provided
- For Elizabeti's faith in Jesus Christ, that she would know the deep love of God



Children's Curriculum: Lesson Two

1 Introduction

Hold up a water bottle and ask the following questions.

- Who drinks water at home? Where do you get it from?
- What are some other uses for water?
- Do you think water is something everyone needs?
- What are some other things we need? (help children to remember answers like food, family, doctors and medicine, and school to help us learn)

Today we are going to learn about some of the basic things we have that other children around the world – just like you – need too.

2 Lesson

Read Matthew 25:34-40.

Explain that these are Jesus's words. They tell us that when we take care of those in need we are taking care of Jesus. We show God we love him when we love and take care of other people in the world.

- What are some ways we can take care of other people?
- Can you think of anyone in your neighborhood that needs your help?
- Can you think of someone in another country that needs your help? How can you help them?

3 Activity

This game would be fun to play outside, weather permitting and is played individually, but can be played in teams depending on the group. Place 5–6 buckets of water on one side of the room/area outside. Place 5–6 empty buckets a little distance away from the full buckets. Give each child one cup. On teachers "go" children fill up their cup with water and fill up the empty buckets. Say: let's pretend the full bucket of water is our village well, and we need to bring water home to our family. Use the cups to bring water home! 1, 2, 3...After game is finished, say, "That was fun! You did a good job carrying water from the well to your village. If you lived in a village like Liabana, you would need to carry water everyday!"

5 Extra Activities

Learn Lingala (Trade Language in Congo)

1. Mbotel! (Mm-BOH-tay) Hello!
2. Ojali? (Oh-ZAH-lee) How are you?
3. Najali. (Nah-ZAH-lee) I am fine.
4. Nkomo na yo nani (n-KOHM-boh nah yoh nah-nee) What is your name?
5. Nkombo ny ngai (n-KOHM-boh nah n-g-ah-ee) My name is (your name).
6. Ojali kosala nin? (Oh-ZAH-lee koh-SAH-lah nee-nee) What are you doing?

4

Liabana's Story

My name is Liabana. I am thirteen years old and live in Bokonzo, DR Congo. I walk to school every day with my friends as we talk and joke along the dirt road. Our school is a cement building with an aluminum roof. When I was in the younger grades we sat in the dirt under a tree! Some girls in the village who are my age are getting married and having children. My family could not afford for me to go to school, only my brothers. Thankfully I got a scholarship to cover my tuition, book, and exam fees. I am glad that I get to study and I hope that someday I can help others with the things I am learning in school.



Liabana - Age 13

Prayer Requests:

- For Liabana as she studies in school
- For provision of her family's daily needs, so Liabana can stay in school
- For the Bokonzo community and the physical and social challenges there
- For Liabana's faith in Jesus Christ, that she will grow strong in the knowledge and love of God

1 Introduction

Children in Congo love to play just like you do! They like to sing in church, play leap frog and soccer and spend time with their friends. While they love to play, many children also have to work very hard so that their family can have money. Girls walk very far and carry heavy buckets of water and food on their heads. Boys and girls work in the fields from early in the morning until the sun goes down. They work everyday! There are no weekends where they live in Congo. Families work in the fields to grow any food they can. Some of this food they sell in the market and some is just for them to eat. The people in the Equateur Province of Congo have very little electricity and no refrigerators. They usually eat one meal a day.

2 Lesson

Read Psalm 34:17-18.

This Bible promise tells us that God knows when his people are hurt or feeling down. It even says that God hears when we cry. We can trust that God hears us when we need him. He hears the needs of his people everywhere. Children all over the world, including DR Congo, sing praises to God and pray to him for healing. God hears their prayers and is close by them just as he is close to all of us.

- When you got up this morning how far did you have to walk to get water?

3 Activity

Nzoku means elephant and Nzale means water buffalo in Lingala, the trade language of Congo. Choose half of the kids to be one animal and the other half the other animal. Mix them up and have them form two lines facing each other at least ten yards apart. Choose one person to be "it" and they will stand in the middle and call out either Nzoku or Nzale. Whoever is called must run to the opposite line as the person in the middle tries to catch the runners. When caught, they must join them in the middle to catch more. Since both names start with "Nz," the children will find it challenging not to get mixed up as to which animal they are and it will be a mass confusion and fun.

5 Extra Activities

Tobeta Maboko (African Clapping Game)

Girls are often too busy to play more games. Tobeta Maboko is a game they can often play at school or even between household tasks. It is essentially played like our "Rock, Scissors, Paper" game, only it is done with the feet to a clapping beat.

See supplemental resources for instructions as well as other activities.

4

Noa's Story

My name is Noa. I live in Bogose Nubea, a small village, 45 kilometers outside of Bokonzo. We live far from a town or city. There are dirt roads, no running water, and no electricity. I am ten years old and the second of six children. My father is unemployed but works in his garden to provide one meal a day for our family. My family is plagued by malaria and malnutrition. My mother recently gave birth to my youngest sister, who died when she was only three days old. I like to play with my friends and I am thankful for the opportunity to go to school so I can get a job when I grow up and help my family.



Noa- Age 10

Prayer Requests:

- For Noa's family as they struggle to find food and clean water each day; for health
- For Noa as he learns as much as he can at school
- For his community as families struggle to meet daily needs for food, clean water, and health
- For Noa's faith in Jesus Christ, that he would grow strong in the reality of God's love

1 Introduction

We have been learning about Covenant Kids in Congo for the past few weeks.

Questions:

- Can you tell me something you remember about Congo or the kids that live there?
- What are some of the ways in which we have prayed for the kids in Congo?

2 Lesson

Let's learn about another Covenant Kid in Congo. The word tresor means treasure in French. French is the language taught to children in Congo. Today we will learn about a boy named Tresor.

Read Luke 15:3-7.

Did you know that every human being is a treasure to God? He created each person and looks for them when they are lost. God knows everyone and wants them to be safe no matter what country they live in.

3 Activity

Music is an important part of African culture. Have the children make rhythm instruments to use as they sing "Jesus Loves Me." Possible instruments include:

- Shakers – made of dried beans, rice, bottle caps or gravel in small boxes or small tin cans with plastic covers; an empty pop can with tape over the hole is another possibility.
- Drums – made from a 3 lb. coffee can with plastic lids and "drum" with fingers or sticks on the metal end. You can also tap a spoon against a glass bottle or drinking glass;
- Xylophones - these are very typical.
- Guitar -made from a stiff box (e.g. cigar box) that is open on one side with rubber bands around it to pluck in rhythm.

5 Extra Activities

Clay is used to making decorative bowls. Africans don't have lots of colors for paint. They use black, white and rust colors. Children might like to follow an African theme and model clay into small cuts, canoes with people, or African animal shapes.

For more activities view our supplemental resources.

4

Tresor's Story

My name is Tresor. I live in Bokonzo. My mother and father died when I was very young. A neighbor family took me in until I was seven years old. When the family's son died they believed that it was because of evil spirits and so they kicked me out of the house. For two and a half years I slept in the marketplace and begged for scraps of food. I had never been to school. I begged for someone to take me in, to care for me, and to help me go to school. Women of the Congo Covenant Church took care of me and my needs. Now, I attend school and help out with the technical services of the Protestant University nearby. I have a safe place to sleep, meals to eat, and people who love me.



Tresor - Age 9

Prayer Requests:

- For Tresor's education, that he would study hard and embrace lessons learned
- For his relationships with other kids at the orphanage
- For the community of Bokonzo as people struggle each day to find clean water and adequate food
- For Tresor's faith in Jesus Christ, that he would grow in the love and knowledge of God



Snacks Ideas (Pick and Choose One)

1 Fresh Fruit

Lots of tropical fruit grows in Congo. Enjoy a snack of fruit while you think about kids in Congo. Small chunks of papaya (cantaloupe may be substituted), chunks of fresh pineapple, sliced bananas, orange and grapefruit sections. Fresh lemon juice and a little sugar may be added for flavor.

2 Plantain (fried bananas)

Materials needed:

Plantain (substitute - Banana Chips)

Knife

Oil

Pan

Paper towels

Salt

Directions:

1. Peel as a banana.
2. Slice as potatoes.
3. Deep fry or pan fry in oil.
4. Drain on paper towels.
5. Salt to taste.

3 Peanut Butter

Peanuts are a staple in Congo! This is a perfect way to enjoy something that Congolese children enjoy. *However, some churches will not be able to have this snack due to peanut allergies.* An alternative to this snack is to not have a snack at all and talk about how most children only get one meal a day – or nothing at all. In some families children take turns eating; one child one day and another on the following day because there is so little to eat.

Materials needed:

Peanuts (roasted in the shell)

Processor (or blender)

Cookie sheet

Oven

Bagels

Salt

Directions:

The peanuts are pounded by hand in Congo, but you can use a food processor. Can you guess how many bagels you can cover with peanut butter made from one cup of peanuts? Follow these instructions.

1. Obtain a bag of “roasted in the shell” peanuts.
2. Put the peanuts on a cookie sheet and warm in the oven (about 250-300) for 15-20 minutes. This loosens the oil to make smoother butter. Have kids open the shells and remove the peanuts and the skins. (The skins soak up the oil and make very dry butter.)
3. Put 1 cup of cleaned peanuts in the food processor (use metal cutting blades).
4. Grind for about 5 minutes. The peanuts will first be pulverized. Then they will turn to a sticky dust. Then it will slowly get moister. A ball will form and run around the sides. And finally, the ball will get cut down slowly and turn into a smooth butter. At this point you can stop the processor and salt to taste.
5. Finally, run the processor again to mix in the salt.
6. Spread on to bagels (they are easier for children to spread, rather than regular bread).

Variation: If someone has a flour/wheat-berry grinder (hand or electric), this would be much faster—although it might be messier to clean up. Some juicers work too.

4 Spinach

Frozen spinach resembles the “pondu” which the Congo women make from chipped manioc leaves. When the spinach is cooked, add one cup of coarsely ground or chopped peanuts and just enough red pepper to make it tasty.



COVENANTKIDS
Congo
POWERED BY World Vision

Supplemental Resources

Extra Activities

(Pick and Choose One)

1 Dancing in Congo

Go online to CovChurch.tv/congo-kids-dance and watch a video of Congolese children dancing in worship. See if you can try dancing like they do! Find as many drums that you can and play them as you worship like the children in the video.

2 Jesus Loves Me

Learn the song "Jesus Loves Me" in Lingala. You may wish to print the words on poster board for the children to read.

Yesu, Ye alingi ngai (YAY-soo YAY ah-LEEN-gee n-gah-EE)
Ye alingi yonso mpe (Yay- ah-LEEN-gee yohn-soh m-pay)
No bolingo na Ya be (Nah boh-LEEN-goh nay Yay bay)
Yesu akotala ngai. (YAY-soo ah-koh-tah-lah n-gah-EE)
Ngai nakolinga (N-gah-ee nah-koh-leen-gah)
Yesu Masiya (Yay-see May-se-yah)
Ngai nakolinga (N-gah-ee nay-koh-leen-gah)
Yesu Mobikisi. (Yay-soo Moh-bee-kee-see)

All "a's" are pronounced "ah" (as in "father")
All "e's" are pronounced like a long a (as in "lake")
All "i's" are pronounced "ee" (as in "bee")
All "o's" are pronounced "oh" (as in "boat")
All "u's" are pronounced "oo" (as in "tooth")
All "y's" are pronounced "yeah" (as in "yellow")

3 Tobeta Maboko (African Clapping Game)

Girls are often too busy to play more games. Tobeta Maboko is a game they can often play at school or even between household tasks. It is essentially played like our "Rock, Scissors, Paper" game, only it is done with the feet to a clapping beat.

First, the clapping beat: The beat is a 1, 2, 3 pause 1, 2, 3 pause 1/beat.

Second the action: As the players clap the last, single beat they jump into the air. Then, in a quick motion as they are about to land, they make their choice. The choices are:

1. Right foot out in front.
2. Left foot out in front.
3. Feet split side-by-side.

For simplicity, we'll say the Right Foot Forward (as it begins with "R") will be ROCK (as it also begins with "R"). Next, we'll say the Split (as it begins with "S") will be SCISSORS (as it also begins with "S"). And finally PAPER will be the left foot forward as it's the only one left.

It is important to mention that the players (especially in pairs) be looking at each other's faces and not the other's feet! The game can be played with any number of participants or in small groups.

Variation 1: Illumination – Large group reduces to one last player as everyone competes with leader. All who win over the leader remain in the game and others sit down.

Variation 2: Round Robin – Large or medium size group. Stand in circle and begin with random player.

The player "plays off" with person on the right. Loser sits and winner passes on to the next person on the right. Last one standing wins.

Variation 3: One-on-One – Pairs play for a set number of points. The first one to arrive wins. The players simply compete against each other and the winner gets a point.

Variation 4: Triples – Three players play and the "odd-man-out" gets a point. If all are different, they play again. Players try to avoid points and the first one to the set number ends the game and the lowest points win.