

PARENT AND TEACHER GUIDE

The Visitor

Themes Found in This Story:

--Fascination with people who look different

The Story:

The Visitor: Madala's friend, Angus, has come to visit from Scotland, and the children are fascinated by how different he sounds and looks.

The parent/teacher may read the story aloud, or print the story for the children to read or follow along.

Characters in this Story

Madala (mah-DAHh-lah)

He is a chameleon from the country of Zambia. His name is the respectful way to say "old man" in the Chinyanga language.

Tshameka and Reë (tshah-MEH-kah) and (REE-ah)

They are twin lion cubs from the country of South Africa, near Rustenburg and the World Cup Stadium. Tshameka is the brother—his name is Tswana for "play". Reë is the sister, and her name is short for Reënboog, which is Afrikaans for "rainbow"—South Africa is also known as the "Rainbow Nation".

Kili (KIH-lee)

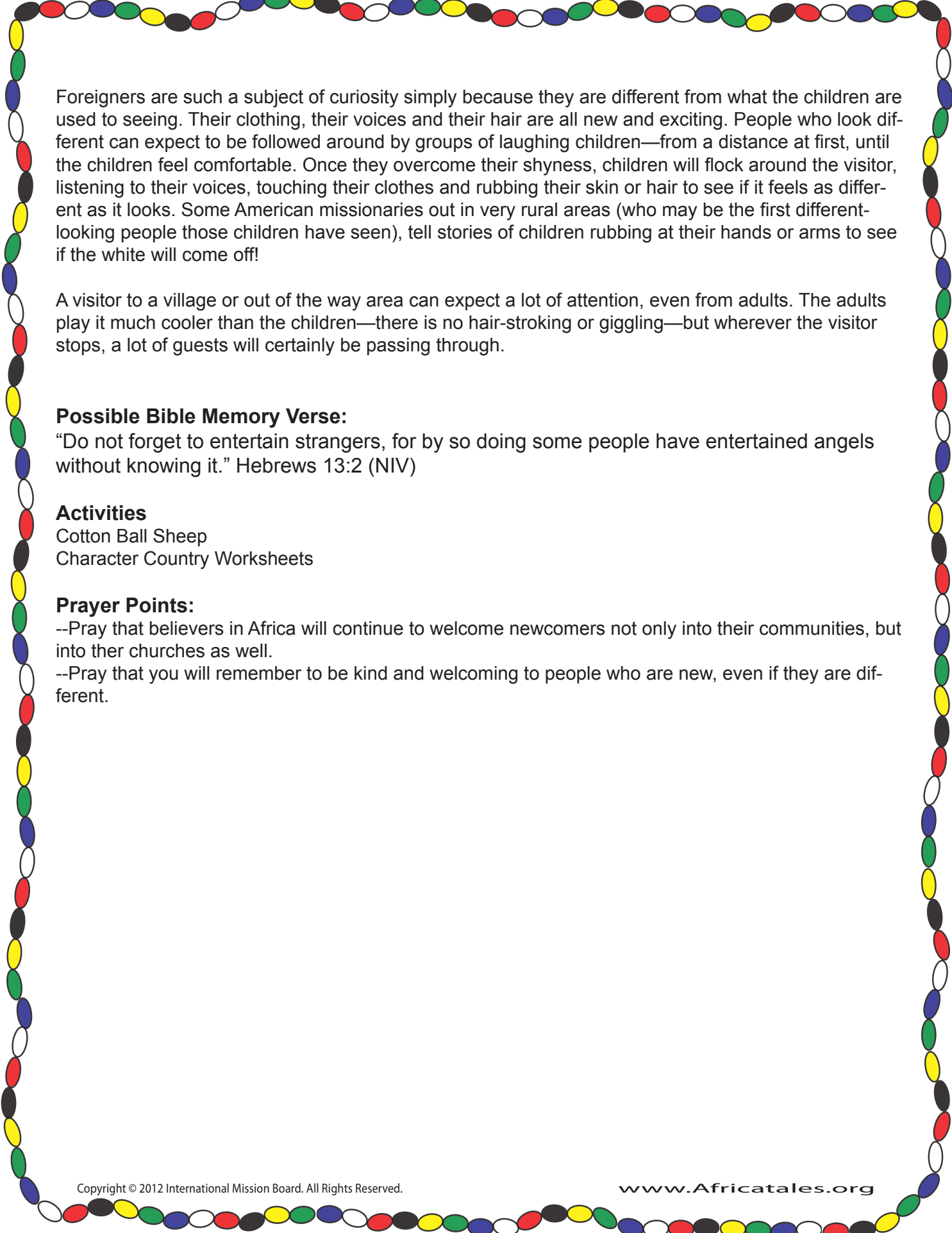
He is a baby black rhinoceros (also called a "hooked-lipped rhinoceros") from the country of Tanzania. His name is short for "Kilimanjaro", the tallest mountain in Africa.

Francois, Philibert and Jeju (frahN-SWAH, fee-lee-BEHR and JEH-jee)

These three lemurs are the little brothers and sister of Maro. She cares for them, as they have no parents, and sometimes they go off on adventures of their own.

Background Information

When a person from a foreign country shows up in an African village, they are the subject of quite a lot of interest. African children in particular find visitors fascinating, and, depending on how much exposure they've had to people from other cultures, a bit frightening. This reaction varies from place to place, depending on how often foreigners come into their community, but this fascination can even be found to a certain degree in cities, especially in the poorer areas where outsiders tend not to go.



Foreigners are such a subject of curiosity simply because they are different from what the children are used to seeing. Their clothing, their voices and their hair are all new and exciting. People who look different can expect to be followed around by groups of laughing children—from a distance at first, until the children feel comfortable. Once they overcome their shyness, children will flock around the visitor, listening to their voices, touching their clothes and rubbing their skin or hair to see if it feels as different as it looks. Some American missionaries out in very rural areas (who may be the first different-looking people those children have seen), tell stories of children rubbing at their hands or arms to see if the white will come off!

A visitor to a village or out of the way area can expect a lot of attention, even from adults. The adults play it much cooler than the children—there is no hair-stroking or giggling—but wherever the visitor stops, a lot of guests will certainly be passing through.

Possible Bible Memory Verse:

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

Activities

Cotton Ball Sheep
Character Country Worksheets

Prayer Points:

--Pray that believers in Africa will continue to welcome newcomers not only into their communities, but into their churches as well.
--Pray that you will remember to be kind and welcoming to people who are new, even if they are different.