

# PARENT AND TEACHER GUIDE

## Trash To Treasure

Themes Found in This Story:

--African children being creative when making toys and games

### The Story:

*Trash To Treasure*: The lemur children learn a lesson about making do with what they have. The parent/teacher may read the story aloud, or print the story for the children to read or follow along.

### Characters in this Story

Maro: (MAH-roo)

She is a Sifaka Lemur from Madagascar. Her name is short for 'Marojejy', a national park that is home to many types of lemurs. Like many children in Africa, she cares for her younger siblings because they have no parents.

Francois, Philibert and Jeji: (frahn-SWAH, fee-lee-BEHR and JEH-jee)

They are Maro's little brothers and sister. Francois and Philibert have French names—a common language in Madagascar. Jeji's name is the last half of 'Marojejy', like her big sister's name.

Kili: (KIH-lee)

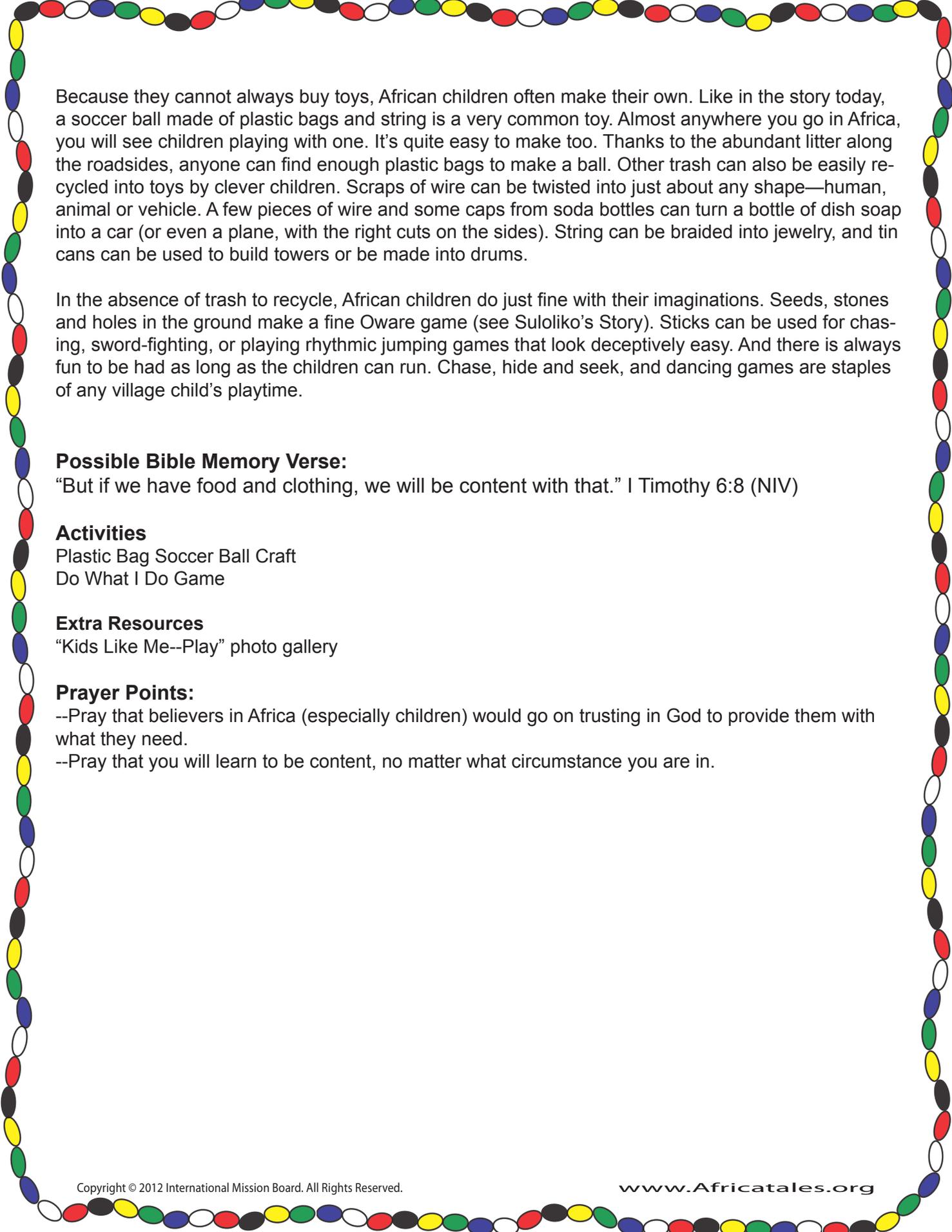
He is a baby Black Rhinoceros from Tanzania. His name is short for 'Kilimanjaro'—the tallest mountain in Africa, which is found in Tanzania.

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

They are twin lion cubs from South Africa, near Rustenburg and the World Cup stadium. Tshameka is the oldest—his name is the Tswana word for 'play'. His sister Reë's name is short for Reënboog, which is Afrikaans for 'rainbow'—South Africa is also known as the 'Rainbow Nation'.

### Background Information

Many children in Africa do not have nice toys and games. Sometimes, like Maro and her family, they cannot afford them—not when money is needed for more important things like food and school fees. Sometimes they live in a place, like in poor rural areas and villages, where such things are not available. Should they receive a nice toy, they treasure it and treat it like a prize.



Because they cannot always buy toys, African children often make their own. Like in the story today, a soccer ball made of plastic bags and string is a very common toy. Almost anywhere you go in Africa, you will see children playing with one. It's quite easy to make too. Thanks to the abundant litter along the roadsides, anyone can find enough plastic bags to make a ball. Other trash can also be easily recycled into toys by clever children. Scraps of wire can be twisted into just about any shape—human, animal or vehicle. A few pieces of wire and some caps from soda bottles can turn a bottle of dish soap into a car (or even a plane, with the right cuts on the sides). String can be braided into jewelry, and tin cans can be used to build towers or be made into drums.

In the absence of trash to recycle, African children do just fine with their imaginations. Seeds, stones and holes in the ground make a fine Oware game (see Suloliko's Story). Sticks can be used for chasing, sword-fighting, or playing rhythmic jumping games that look deceptively easy. And there is always fun to be had as long as the children can run. Chase, hide and seek, and dancing games are staples of any village child's playtime.

**Possible Bible Memory Verse:**

"But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." I Timothy 6:8 (NIV)

**Activities**

Plastic Bag Soccer Ball Craft  
Do What I Do Game

**Extra Resources**

"Kids Like Me--Play" photo gallery

**Prayer Points:**

--Pray that believers in Africa (especially children) would go on trusting in God to provide them with what they need.  
--Pray that you will learn to be content, no matter what circumstance you are in.