



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Today's story talked about the different places that people in Africa meet to worship. Meeting outside is a common occurrence. There is often more room for a large group to spread out under a tree, and during cooler times of the year, people enjoy the chance to sit out in the sun. Try holding your class outside for this lesson. Invite the children to take note of what they might find distracting, or what they enjoyed about it. Discuss what it would be like to meet outside all the time. What problems would there be? What's nice about it?

An important aspect of any African church is music, and outside, you can be as loud as you want! Make sure to sing some songs that involve a lot of dancing/motions and clapping. If the kids are feeling creative, they could even break off into groups and choose songs and dances to perform for the rest of the class.

BUILD YOUR CHURCH

Materials Needed:

Construction Paper
Scissors
Glue
Markers/Pencils
Popsicle Sticks
Pipe Cleaners
Colored Tissue Paper

Instructions:

1. Give each child a sheet of construction paper (preferably in a bland color).
2. Using the supplies listed above, have them 'build' their church. Popsicle sticks or pipe cleaners could be glued down for walls and roofs, tissue paper can be bunched up for bushes and trees, or stuck on the walls for stained glass windows, if desired. They can cut shapes from other colors of construction paper, maybe use pipe cleaners or paper to stick on some little people attending the church—let them use their imaginations!
3. Alternatively, they may wish to build an African church, like some of the ones in the photo gallery. A thatched roof could be made from strips of paper, or grass collected from outside. Scraps of aluminum foil could be used to create a church built of tin sheeting.
4. At the end, remind the children that it is not where we worship that matters, but who we worship.

