

PARENT AND TEACHER GUIDE

Road Trip

Themes Found in This Story:

--Travel in Africa

The Story:

Road Trip: The friends pile into Madala's Land Rover for a journey.

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-DAH-lah)

He is a chameleon from Zambia. His name is the respectful way to say 'old man' in the Chinyanja language.

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 Jejy: (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. Jejy'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'.

Omulonga: (oh-moo-LOHN-gah)

She is a Black-footed Penguin from Namibia, an immigrant new to the area. Her name is the Oshiwambo word for 'river'.



Santo: (SAHN-too)

He is a Loggerhead Turtle from Mozambique. His name is the Portuguese word for 'blessed'. Because he is a sea turtle, with flippers instead of feet, he cannot get around on land and must rely on his friends to help him, representing the disabled of Africa.

Jos: (JAHS)

He is an Abyssinian Roller from Nigeria. His name is also the name of a large city there.

Nyati: (NYAH-tee)

He is a Cape Buffalo from Kenya. His name is the Swahili word for 'buffalo'.

Suloliko: (soo-loh-LEE-koh)

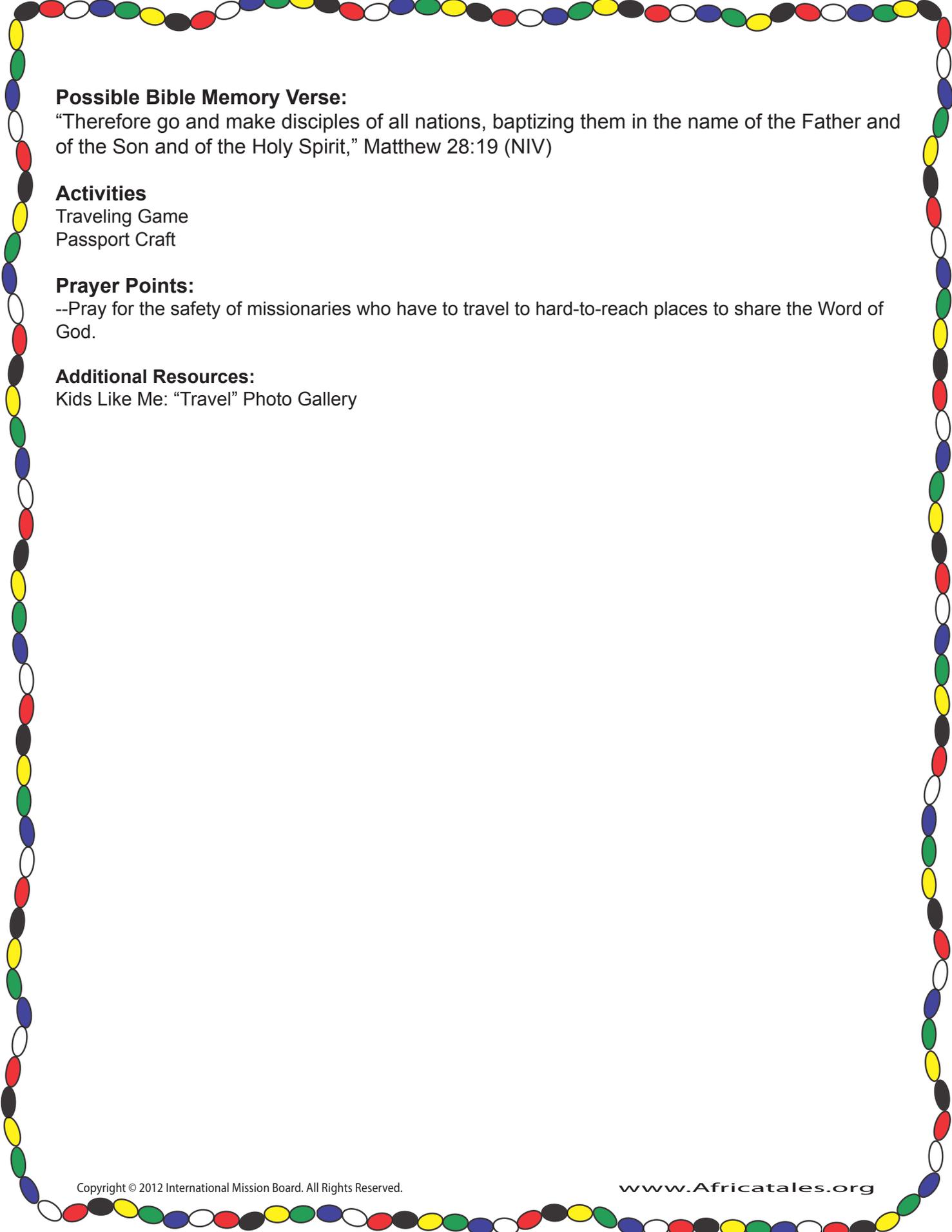
She is a Zebra Duiker from Guinea. Her full name is 'Suloliko Lamalaka' which means 'close to the king' in the Guinean language of Kissi.

Background Information:

Traveling in Africa can be a very interesting affair, especially if you are going by road. Destinations are likely to be quite far apart, with few places to stop in between. A day like the one the characters have in this story, where you drive from dawn until dusk, is not all that uncommon. Sometimes, missionaries who live in remote places may joke that a place that is only a day's drive away is quite close! Obstacles like police checkpoints, border posts between countries, and ferries over rivers can slow you down too. The ferry may be on the other side of the river when you arrive, waiting to return until it is full, the border post may have run out of forms, or the police may want to search through your luggage. The well-seasoned African traveler knows to say that a journey "should take about _____ hours", instead of giving a more specific time.

Another element that makes road travel interesting in Africa are the roads themselves. Near to the cities, you are likely to find paved roads, although a road completely free of potholes is unlikely. In rural areas and game parks, roads tend to be made of dirt—some are smooth, hard dirt, others are bumpy and filled with holes, and still others are loose sand, waiting to trap the unsuspecting traveler. A well-prepared traveler will be sure to have snacks and water, tools for changing tires or pulling oneself out of the mud, and, of course, toilet paper.

A popular tenet of African traveling philosophy is that there is always room for one more. Outside of cities, seat belts laws are rarely enforced, and even in the cities, they are often ignored. (Until the vehicle gets caught!) Africans do not mind riding close together, and a common sight on many highways is a bus packed to the brim with people, with luggage tied precariously to the roof, with perhaps another passenger or some livestock up there too. Travel in Africa is rarely predictable, but it is quite often an adventure!



Possible Bible Memory Verse:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

Activities

Traveling Game
Passport Craft

Prayer Points:

--Pray for the safety of missionaries who have to travel to hard-to-reach places to share the Word of God.

Additional Resources:

Kids Like Me: “Travel” Photo Gallery