



1 All people matter — adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that God cares for all people

Location: *Niger*

Focus verse: **Psalm 86:15** “But You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth.”

Overall message: God cares about all people, even those who don’t care about Him.

Overview: In some places, it’s hard to become a Christian and hard to live as a Christian. Even if they get a chance to hear the Gospel, most Songhai don’t believe it. Those who do accept Jesus face persecution. Missionaries stay there though because they understand how much God cares about the Songhai people. They want to be God’s heart, hands and voice in Niger.

- Each missions experience is designed to last 10-15 minutes.
- Use as an addition to weekly meeting or combine for a longer missions focus.
- Customize these resources to fit your needs.

For stories, games and activities geared for younger children, visit AfricaTales.org. Use these to customize the missions experiences for the age group you are leading.



Taking it in

All people matter — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Niger map**
 - **Songhai kingdoms video guide**
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Songhai kingdoms** video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Introduction

- Introduce the experience by showing the **Niger map**. If you have a world map or globe, let kids find the distance between your state and Niger in Africa.
- You will hear many pronunciations of the country, but the missionaries say [nih-ZHEER.]
- You will be learning about a people group in Niger called the Songhai [SONG-hi].
- Explain that centuries ago the Songhai were one of the world's great empires. Today most Songhai people live a very hard life in the harsh deserts of western Africa. But now a new kingdom is building among them – the kingdom of God.

Video - Songhai kingdoms

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Songhai kingdoms** video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Discussion

- Using the **Songhai kingdoms video guide**, direct discussion of some of the key points of the video.
- For younger children, be prepared to explain some of these topics in very simple terms. For example, when discussing that most children die before age 5, simply say: *Many children get sick and die in Niger. They don't have what they need to grow up strong and healthy.*

Pray

Pray that the Songhai people will find a new life in Jesus Christ.



Taking it up

All people matter — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Songhai photos.** These include prayer requests you will use.
 - **All people matter focus verse**
 - **Niger map** (If you haven't already.) Tape it to a marker board or some place easily seen in the room.

Recap

Tell the group that you are learning about the Songhai people of Niger in Africa. The Songhai are very poor and life is hard for them. The worst thing is that they don't know about Jesus. Missionaries are there to tell them about Jesus. We can support these missionaries through our prayers and by giving to missions.

Prayer time

- Show the **All people matter focus verse** and read it together.
- Give the five photos to five volunteers.
- Going in order, ask each to read the caption on his or her sheet.
- After each reading, ask if they can think of other ways to pray for the people represented.
- Take time to pray after each request. Give kids a chance to pray aloud if they are willing.
- After each prayer, ask the reader to tape his or her photo to the wall as a reminder to pray.



Giving it up

All people matter — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

From the DVD-ROM, download and print:

- **Play money.** Make enough copies for each person to have at least 10 bills. (If it's easier, bring play money from a board game. The denominations of bills make no difference for this activity.)
- Bring a numbered game cube for each group.

Recap

Tell the group that you are learning about the Songhai people of Niger in Africa. The Songhai are very poor and life is hard for them. The worst thing is that they don't know about Jesus. Missionaries are there to tell them about Jesus. We can support these missionaries through our prayers and by giving to missions.

Activity - Giving means winning

- Ask the group to sit in a circle. If you have a large group, put them into groups of 6 to 8.
- Give each person the same number of pretend money bills.
- Explain that the object is to give away all their money. When they roll the cube, they will give away the same number of bills that they rolled.
- Hand one person the cube and ask them to roll.
- Whatever number they roll, they should give away that many bills. They can give them all to one person, or divide them among the group.
- Give them about 5 minutes to play. When you call time, the person with the least amount of money wins.

Discussion

- Call "time" after each person has had a few turns.
- Explain that our society makes us want more and more money. How did they feel trying to give away money?
- What was it like when one person was getting close to giving away all his or her money?
- Remind the group about the Songhai people and the missionaries in Niger. Explain that when we give to missions, we are helping the missionaries tell the people about Jesus.
- Some people think that it's weird to give money to people you don't even know. But as Christians, we know that God will use our offerings for His glory. Because we give to missions, people can know about Jesus.

Pray

Thank God that when we give to missions, we can be a part of His mission to save the Songhai people.



Taking it personally

All people matter — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

From the DVD-ROM, download and print:

- **Cross template** (for younger children)
- If possible, bring an assorted supply of craft items (such as fabric scraps, aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, craft sticks, construction paper, string) for kids to get creative in making a cross.
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show:
 - **A Gospel portrait** video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
 - **Lead you to the Cross (audio)**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Recap

Tell the group that you are learning about the Songhai people of Niger in Africa. The Songhai are very poor and life is hard for them. The worst thing is that they don't know about Jesus. Missionaries are there to tell them about Jesus. We can support these missionaries through our prayers and by giving to missions. We can join them in being on mission by witnessing to people around us!

Video - A Gospel portrait

- Show the **A Gospel portrait video**. After the video, ask how the volunteers used art to tell about Jesus.

Activity - Witnessing art

- Encourage each child to make a cross. They can color in the **Cross template**, draw one of their own or make one from the supplies given.
- As they work, discuss what it means to be a Christian and how someone can become a Christian. What does the cross symbolize to us as Christians?
- Play **Lead you to the Cross (audio)** while the kids work on their crosses.
- Ask them to share with one another someone they know who needs to know about Jesus.
- Encourage them to take their crosses and give them to someone who needs to know Jesus. They can say something as simple as: "I made this cross for you. I hope that one day, it will mean as much to you as it does to me." This might lead to a witnessing opportunity.
- Thank them for joining missionaries all over the world by telling people about Jesus right where they live.

Pray

Thank God for the creative ways that people are telling people about Jesus. Pray for the opportunities that your kids will have to tell someone about the cross.



Going further

All people matter

Ideas for mission projects based on the theme

Plan a day-long or overnight mission trip for your kids and their families. Look for a service project that's not too far from home, but one that gets kids away from the comforts of home. Your church staff or association might have ideas that would be perfect for families with children. Consider a sports ministry, a creative arts ministry or a service project, like serving food at a homeless shelter. Most importantly, though, prepare the kids to tell the people they meet about Jesus. They might even bring crosses, like they made in MX 4, to hand out. Include kids in the planning like how much the trip will cost each person, what you need to bring, where you will stay and how you will share the message of Jesus.

Point parents to **AfricaTales.org** for activities that they can do at home. Encourage families to explore the countries of Africa together as they pray for the work and the missionaries. They can also visit **commissionstories.com** for more stories, videos and information about Christians reaching the nations for Christ.