



3 Every child matters — adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that every child is important to Jesus and needs the chance to hear about Him

Location: *Mozambique*

Focus verse: **Luke 18:16** “Jesus, however, invited them: ‘Let the little children come to Me, and don’t stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”

Overall message: Every child needs the opportunity to hear about Jesus and know how much He loves them.

Overview: When Sally, a Christian worker, went to Mozambique, she found out that the church in one village did not include children. Nobody was telling them that Jesus loved them and had a plan for their lives. Sally started having Sunday School and Bible teaching time with the children. Every child needs to know about Jesus. Sally understood that she had to be God’s voice in Mozambique. What can you do to make sure other kids around you hear about Jesus?

- 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

Every child matters — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Mozambique map**
 - **Every child matters focus verse**
 - **Mozambique photos.** Prior to meeting, tape these around the room or down a hallway.
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the ***Mudding in Mozambique*** video on the DVD-ROM. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Introduction

- Show the **Mozambique map**. Ask how many have even heard of Mozambique!
- Read the **Every child matters focus verse** aloud.
- Explain that Sally was a missionary in Mozambique for two years. She had never even heard of Mozambique before she found out the need for a Christian worker there.
- She found out some interesting things about life in Mozambique.

Activity - Life in Mozambique

- Explain that your group is going on a short trip to Mozambique.
- Take the group around the room (or down the hallway), stopping in front of each photo.
- Ask for volunteers to read each caption.
- Give kids a chance to comment on the photos.
- Ask them how life in Mozambique is different from their lives.

Video

- Show the ***Mudding in Mozambique*** video.
- After the video, discuss how building homes is different in Mozambique.
- Does mudding look like fun to your group?

Pray

Thank God for the chance to learn about Mozambique and for the missionaries who are there.



Taking it up

Every child matters — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Mozambique prayer reminders**
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Let the children come** video. This will play from a DVD player or computer.

Recap

Sally was a missionary in Mozambique for two years. She found out that life is very different there. She also found out that the village children were not welcome in the church and didn't have a chance to hear about Jesus. She knew that Jesus wanted her to tell the children how much Jesus loves them. Every child matters to Jesus.

Video - Let the children come

- Before you show the **Let the children come** video, lead the group in praying for the children of Mozambique and thanking God for people who are telling the children about Jesus.
- As you start the video, ask your group to watch for things they need to pray for later.

Prayer time

- One at a time, ask for people or situations that need your prayers.
- You might need to get them going with these suggestions:
 - Sally and the other workers. Thank God for them and pray that they will continue to tell the children about Jesus.
 - Churches in villages of Mozambique. Pray that the adults will understand the importance of children learning about Jesus.
 - Children. Pray that every child will understand and accept that Jesus loves them and died for them. Pray that they will choose to become Christians.
 - Living conditions. Ask God to provide the things they need to live healthy lives.
- Stop after each prayer request to pray for that situation.
- Give kids a chance to discuss how sad it makes them feel that they would not be welcome in the church, but try to keep the focus on prayer.

(MX 2 continued)



Taking it up

Every child matters — MX 2 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prayer reminders

- Distribute the **Mozambique prayer reminders**.
- Give kids a few minutes to fill in requests they want to remember.
- Encourage them to take them home as a reminder to pray for Mozambique.



Giving it up

Every child matters — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Sally Hamrick photos**

Make sure you have a pen and paper/marker and marker board (depending on your resources and class size).

Recap

Sally was a missionary in Mozambique for two years. She found out that life is very different there. She also found out that the village children were not welcome in the church and didn't have a chance to hear about Jesus. She knew that Jesus wanted her to tell the children how much Jesus loves them. Every child matters to Jesus. When we give money to missions, we help children around the world know about Jesus.

Discussion - Kids and money

- Ask how many kids have their own money.
- Let them talk about the ways they get money and record them on a marker board (allowance, chores, losing teeth, gifts from grandparents, etc).
- Now list some of the ways they spend their money (toys, candy, etc...).
- Challenge them to make giving to missions a regular part of their spending.
- Explain that by learning and giving now, they will be better prepared to know and do what God wants them to do when they are older!

Activity - Sally, the missionary

- Show the **Sally Hamrick photos** in order, asking for a volunteer to read the captions to the group.
- Emphasize the fact that God started speaking to Sally about missions when she was a child.
- Today, she is being obedient to pray, go and give to missions.
- She is in the habit of giving because she understands the difference she is making.

Pray

Pray that your children will become faithful givers to missions.



Taking it personally

Every child matters — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

Bring a snack or special treat (like cupcakes) for the group to enjoy. You will use this snack to represent something worth sharing with others. Make sure you have at least one extra to share with someone not in your room.

From the DVD-ROM, download and print:

- **I want you to know something** handout. Make a copy for each person in your group.

Recap

Sally was a missionary in Mozambique for two years. She found out that life is very different there. She also found out that the village children were not welcome in the church and didn't have a chance to hear about Jesus. She knew that Jesus wanted her to tell the children how much Jesus loves them. Every child matters to Jesus. We can tell others right where we are about Jesus.

Activity - Something worth sharing

- Give a treat to all the children in your group. Before they eat it, ask them what seems good about the snack.
- If some do not like this particular treat, ask them to describe their favorite treat.
- Tell them that you have some extra treats for other people in the church. (You can plan to give just one to the pastor or another adult everyone knows or plan to share with a whole group, like the youth group or choir. This will work best if the person(s) is at the church at the same time you will be meeting with the kids.)
- Ask: How can we give this cupcake to Pastor Ben? (reword as needed)
- Lead them to try or discuss things like:
 - calling out his name (When they try this, answer with "He can't hear you.")
 - calling his cell phone ("He won't answer.")
 - sending an email or writing a letter ("He won't receive it in time.")
 - sending someone to get him ("He might not be available to come.")
- How can you make sure he gets his treat? TAKE IT TO HIM! (Make plans to deliver the treat at the end of the experience.)
- Explain that that's exactly what Sally did. She brought the Good News of Jesus to the people of Mozambique because she wanted to make sure they would get it.

(MX 4 continued)



Taking it up

Every child matters — MX 4 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Activity – I want you to know something

- Remind them that Sally worked especially with children.
- Review the focus verse and emphasize how important each child is to Jesus.
- Ask them to think of a friend or another child who needs to know that Jesus loves them.
- Distribute the **I want you to know something** handouts.
- Let them enjoy their treats while they fill in their handouts.
- Challenge them to give this handout (and perhaps a homemade treat!) to a child they know.

Pray

Thank God for your group and the ways that they are learning to share the love of Jesus with people all over the world.

Share

Be sure to leave time to bring the treat to the person or group you planned to share with!



Going further

Every child matters

Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Plan a children's event in an under-privileged neighborhood in your town. Consider contacting your church's association to see if ongoing mission work is being done. Perhaps your church could join them. Encourage the children of your church to be a part by planning games, learning to tell Bible stories and making snacks. Kids reaching out to other kids is a terrific way to be on mission right where you are!

It's not too early for children to begin asking God how they will serve Him in the future. The IMB has many student mission opportunities for older youth. IMB also has volunteer opportunities for families to be on mission together. Visit imb.org and click on the "Go" tab. Under "Volunteer" you can search for opportunities for families. You can also call **(800) 999-3113** for more information. Look for ways to encourage children to be God's heart, hands and voice as they grow up and mature in Christ.