



An African Adventure **The Lutheran World Federation** **Lesson Plan for Elementary Age Children**

Goals

- To give the children an understanding of how big the world is and how the Lutheran family is present in the world
- To give children an appreciation for the beauty of Africa
- To teach children about the need for water

Materials needed

- LWF map for each child (available from Augsburg/Fortress Distribution Center)
- Marker pen for each child
- Plastic pail
- Picture or travel book from public library with color photos of Zimbabwe.
- Hymnal With One Voice #717 “Come All you People”
- African animal stickers (Optional)

Seat children in a circle on the floor and give each child a map and a marker.

Today we are going to take a long ‘pretend’ trip and visit a country far, far away. What will we need to take with us? *Discuss, but include books and games for the airplane trip, small gifts for our new friends, a suitcase, etc.*

Depending on their age, help them as needed to find the general vicinity of their home on the map. Using the marker, have each child put an “X” on their home. The country we are going to visit is called Zimbabwe. Can you say that? Let’s find Zimbabwe on the map. *Show them where it is and have each child put an “X” on Zimbabwe.*

Zimbabwe is very, very far away. To get there we will need to go to our airport. We will fly in a very big airplane all day across the ocean to France! *Help them find France on the map and put an “X” on it.* We will have lunch and dinner on the airplane. *Have the children connect the two “X” marks with their markers.* When we get to France we will get off the airplane and stay overnight at a hotel by the airport.

In the morning, we will get on another big airplane and fly for a long time. We will have breakfast, and lunch and snacks and dinner on the plane! *Connect the “X” in France with the “X” in Zimbabwe.*

Zimbabwe is a beautiful country. *Share the photos from the library book if possible.* They have a HUGE waterfall called Victoria Falls. The people in Zimbabwe speak a language called Shona. In Shona language, Victoria Falls is called “the Smoke that Roars” because the water makes so much noise when it crashes and splashes across the big cliffs. It spews out steam that looks like smoke!

In Zimbabwe there are wonderful animals. What kind of animals do you see around your neighborhood? (Dogs, cats, raccoons, deer, squirrels, rabbits, etc.) If you lived in Zimbabwe some animals in your neighborhood would be monkeys and baboons! They play in the trees just like squirrels do here! In Zimbabwe you would also see elephants, hippopotamuses, lions, leopards and zebras!

Do you like to go to ball games? What is the name of your favorite team? In Zimbabwe their sports teams are called the Rhinos and the Sporting Lions! We could cheer for them!

We have lots of Lutheran friends in Zimbabwe. They go to church and Sunday school just like we do. They sing songs just like us and listen to Bible stories. They pray just like we do. They are our friends even though we don't know them! That's cool!

If you lived in Zimbabwe, having enough water for drinking, and cooking, and washing clothes and taking baths and brushing teeth would be a problem. There isn't enough water for everyone.

How many faucets do you have in your house? *Count them and have them share with the group. Did they think of the outside of the house where the hose connects? Did they think of the laundry room?*

From your bed, how many steps do you take to the sink in the bathroom? *Try to remember! Count them and share.*

What do we use water for? *Help them brainstorm all the uses from washing dishes to watering plants, filling swimming pools, etc.*

Do we sometimes waste water? Do we let it run too long? Why is clean water important? *If you drink water that isn't clean you can get very sick.*

In Zimbabwe, the moms get up very early in the morning and take one or two empty pails and walk for many, many miles to get to a water faucet. When the mom gets there she rests for a little while and then fills the pails with water and carries the pails all the way home without spilling any water! Sometimes the moms carry one pail on their arm and another pail is balanced on their head. Could you do that? Let's try! *Let each child try walking while balancing the pail on their head...no hands!*

How could we help the people in Zimbabwe get water? Could we send it? No! All of the Lutherans in the world belong to an organization called the Lutheran World Federation. Look at your map. All the places in the world that are colored red or blue means Lutherans are there! *(If the children are old enough, explain the map key.)* We help each other in lots of ways! All of us help. Together we help people dig wells for new water faucets. Thanks to the Lutherans, the moms in Zimbabwe don't have to walk

so far to get water in the mornings. There will be a faucet in their neighborhood. They still don't have a faucet in their house but the water is clean and not far away. The next time you use water at your house, remember not to waste it and be thankful that you have lots and lots of clean water to use. Remember your friends in Zimbabwe. Remember that Lutherans help the world!

Options:

If there is time, have the children turn the map over and draw a picture of an animal they might see in Zimbabwe. Give each child a safari animal sticker.

Come all You People (WOV 717) is a hymn from Zimbabwe. It is easy to sing and even singable in Shona!

Close with prayer.

“Dear Jesus. Thank you for our friends in far away Zimbabwe. Be with them and take care of them. Thank you for the Lutheran World Federation that digs wells and helps bring water closer to the villages. Help us all to help each other. Amen.”

For further information see:

www.elca.org/lwf

www.lutheranworld.org

www.watercan.com

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/africa/zimbabwe/>

www.elca.org/countrypackets