Introduction Mozambique

The church began through Mozambican men who worked in the gold mines of South Africa. There, they heard about Jesus and received Him as their Savior. They went back to their home areas in Mozambique and told their friends and family about Jesus. They brought them Bibles that were written in their African language and preached and taught about Jesus. Many people believed in Him and churches were planted in different places. Today, there are about 200 Wesleyan Churches in Mozambique. Pastors and church workers are being taught at the Xai-Xai Wesleyan Bible College. Thousands of Mozambicans have come to Jesus because they have watched the Jesus Film in their own language.

INSIDE THIS LESSON Fact Sheet 65 Story 66 Memory Verse 68 Lesson 69 Game 70 Prayer Time 71 Activity Page 72





God Spoke to Stefane from the Ocean Wave

Stefane was the oldest son of Chief Macambaco in Southern Mozambique. Everyone expected that he would become the Chief of his people when his father passed away. He lived about a mile from the mighty Indian Ocean near Xai-Xai, Mozambique. Stefane spent many hours playing with his friends on the beautiful sandy beach near his father's village. They would chase the crabs that scampered across the beach. Whenever they caught them, they would use them as bait by tying them on their hooks when they went fishing.

At low tide, when there was no water covering the rocky reef along the shore, Stefane loved to go right out to the edge so that he could cast his line as far out as possible into the deep ocean below. He would often catch some really big fish and proudly take them home to show his Father, the chief. His mother and other women would prepare the fish and roast them over an open fire so that the whole family could have a great feast. Stefane's father was really proud of his son and he often told him that his ability to be a good fisherman was a clear sign that he would one day be a good chief and leader of his people.

Stefane was walking home one afternoon with a big bunch of fish that he had caught. He saw a white man with a small group of African men, coming straight toward him. When the met, the white man looked at him and spoke in Zulu, "Young man," he said, "Jesus is calling you to follow Him, and He will make you a fisher of men." Those were some of the strangest words he had ever heard! He really did not understand what the man meant. The man said that he was a missionary and that he had a message from God for the Chief and the people of Xai-Xai. Stefane said, "I am the chief's son and I will show you where his home is." At home, Stefane listened intently as the missionary shared about God's love for the men, women and children of the world. He heard how God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. Stefane believed in Jesus that day and asked God to forgive his sins. He became a follower of Jesus and felt that Jesus was calling him to be a pastor and teach others about God. He also knew that some day after his Father died, he would be asked to become the Chief and rule his people. He did not know how he could do that and also be a pastor!

One day, Stefane was out on the rocky ocean shore fishing. He tied a big crab onto his hook and threw his line as far out into the ocean as he could, hoping to catch a nice big fish. He tied the line to his wrist to make sure that it was secure and then sat down on a rock to wait for a fish to bite. Suddenly there was a huge jerk on the line! Stefane began to pull it in. But, the fish was so big and strong that it began to pull Stefane toward the edge of the reef. He decided to cut the line to keep from being pulled into the ocean. As he reached for his knife, a big wave splashed over the rock and caused him to lose his foot-



 $oldsymbol{n}$

ing. His knife fell into the swirling water as the wave lifted him up. The fish gave a strong tug and pulled Stefane into the ocean. Down, down, down into the water he went as he struggled to untie the fishing line from his wrist. He held his breath as long as he could but he was running out of air. Stefane prayed, "Lord, it looks like my life is going to end right here unless you rescue me. Lord, if you set me free, I will live the rest of my days as your messenger and servant." Suddenly the line snapped and Stefane was able to swim

back to the surface and climb onto the rocks. His body was cut and bruised but he was alive. Stefane went and reported to his Father, the Chief what had happened and his father released him to follow the Lord as a pastor. Stefane became a very dynamic pastor who brought many people to Jesus – he was a real "fisher of men."

Many years later, another missionary was traveling with his family in Mozambique. The missionary was going to preach the gospel at Xai-Xai. They arrived at a small cottage and were preparing to eat a simple meal of soup. There was a knock at the door. There stood Pastor Stefane. He was now an older man; and he was holding a large woven basket with six beautiful fresh fish inside. He said, "The Lord told me to bring these fish to you." The missionary asked him, "But, how did you know that we were here, since we only arrived here a short time ago?" Pastor Stefane smiled and explained, "Last night God spoke to me in a dream. He told me that you would be coming today and that I should go out and catch these fish for you."

Just as the Lord spoke to Samuel so many years ago and gave him messages for the Israelites, the Lord continues to speak to people who are willing to listen and obey Him. Stefane was one of those people who was willing to listen to the Lord and obey Him. Will you be one of those people who listen carefully to what the Lord says and let Him use you in whatever special way He has planned for your life?

Memory Verse

I Samuel 3:10

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

To help the children learn the verse, give them the pictures of the megaphone and ears (found in resource section p. 122-123). The children can write the Lord's words on the megaphone, and Samuel's words on the ears. Or, they can color/cut the pictures and use the megaphone when speaking the Lord's words, and place the ears over their own ears while saying Samuel's words.

Bible Lesson

God Calls Little People for Big Jobs

Have you ever gone to play basketball with friends and they decided to choose teams? Usually, the shortest or the youngest person became the last one to be chosen. Perhaps, you have even been that last person. Do you remember feeling disappointed each time someone else was chosen and you were left waiting? Don't be discouraged! The Bible tells us many stories how God chose little children to do important tasks for Him.

In First Samuel, Hannah was sad because she had no children. She prayed that God would give her a son and promised that when God answered her prayer, she would give her son back to God to work for Him. God answered her prayer and she named her son Samuel which means, "I asked the Lord for him." When Samuel was very small, his mother took him to the temple and presented him to Eli, the priest. First Samuel 3:1 says, "The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli." Can you imagine how special Samuel's job was as he lived in the Temple and served God by working along with Eli?

Read First Samuel 1:1-11. When Samuel was hearing his name, at first he thought that it was Eli calling him. But, Eli soon realized that it was the voice of God that Samuel was hearing. Can you imagine how awesome it was for Samuel to hear God's voice speaking to him out loud? Maybe he was even a little bit afraid to hear God's voice. When Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said, Samuel was faithful to tell him that God was going to judge Eli's whole family because of the evil behavior of his sons. Eli accepted the message because he knew that it was not just Samuel speaking, but that God was speaking through him. Eli's words are written in verse 18, "He is the Lord, let Him do what is good in His eyes."

When we read how God used a little boy named Samuel, it teaches us that God wants to use each one of us in some special way. God has many different things that he wants us to do for Him. He does not always speak to us out loud as He did to Samuel, and He does not always ask us to deliver special messages. But, God does have something special for each of us to do.

Discussion

Can you think of other ways that God speaks to us?

- · Through the Bible
- The quiet voice of God in our hearts (our conscience)
- · Pastors, spiritual leaders, other Christians
- · Through life's experiences
- · Through His awesome creation (nature)

Bucket Balance Race



In Southeast Africa, people have a wonderful sense of balance. They do much of their work by carrying different items on their heads. They start carrying small items when they are young, which helps develop the neck muscles so they can balance heavier hings as they get older. Also, the women carry their babies in a sling or cloth on their back.



🌠 ou will need: two empty buckets, two dolls, two strips of cloth

*lace the children in two lines for a relay race. Ask the first hild in each line to tie the doll on his/her back and place the bucket on their head. They must walk to a chair, circle the chair, and return to the line. (They will most likely have to use their hand to balance the bucket - it is not easy!)

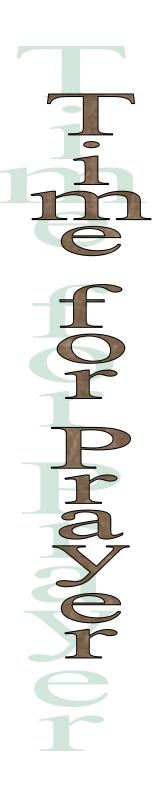


First team to finish wins. (If the boys do not want to use the doll, which is the doll of the boys do not want to use the doll, which is the can eliminate this part and allow the girls to practice after the race.)









- Pray that many thousands of children will hear about Jesus and give their lives to Him.
- Pray that God will call many Mozambican people to become
 Pastors and that they will come to Xai-Xai Bible College to be trained.
- 3. Pray for the thousands of children who have been left alone as orphans when their parents have died from HIV Aids. Pray that God will help the church people to help these children.
- 4. Pray that God will help the Church Leaders in Mozambique to do a good job and to plant many new churches where people still need to hear the truth about Jesus.
- Thank God for the Wesleyan Missionary families who are working in Mozambique.

Activity

Copy to the resource page 124 for the student activity. The student should connect the dots and color the picture to see what Pastor Stefane caught in the Indian Ocean.