



# Benedict Menkoah

**We can show God's love by being nice to others**

MINI-MISSION LESSON: 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE - JUNIOR HIGH:

## **THEME:**

By being nice, we show God's love to people.

## **OVERVIEW:**

Read the story.

- Ask: "How are children and teens cruel to one another?"
- Ask: "What can you do about it?"
- Ask: "How does being nice to people reflect God's love for you?"

## **BIBLE VERSES:**

*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

John 13:35 (NIV)

*Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

## **RESOURCES:**

Benedict Menkoah story

## **YOU WILL NEED:**

Picture of Benedict

Discussion Questions (5-10 min)

Skit (10 – 15 min)

## **MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

Benedict Menkoah lives in Monrovia, Liberia, which is on the west coast of Africa. Benedict is one tough little boy! He was born with a birth defect called club feet. His feet were turned so far inward that his toes faced each other.

But Benedict refused to let his handicap stop him. He learned to walk on the curled-under tops of his feet. He loved soccer and continued to play, even though he rarely got anywhere near the ball. He would run and fall, get up, and run and fall again. When he was not playing soccer, he was climbing trees. It was more peaceful up there, high above all the people who laughed and called him names.

One day a big white hospital ship operated by Mercy Ships came to Liberia. When it docked in the port, hope was restored. Benedict was chosen to receive a free surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy*. The surgery corrected his right foot, and Benedict spent a few days in the recovery ward. Several months later, Benedict returned to the hospital ship to have his left foot straightened. Then he had to learn to walk all over again. By God's grace and with the help of all the Mercy Ships volunteers, Benedict was soon back on the soccer field!

Photo after Benedict had first surgery:



## Discussion in Large and Small Groups: 5-10 min

Explain that the Old Testament and the New Testament teach us to look out for those who are mistreated – the way Benedict was made fun of because of his club feet.

Psalms 82:3-4

*<sup>3</sup>Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed <sup>4</sup>  
Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

Hebrews 13:3

*<sup>3</sup>Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

- Divide into two Small Groups: boys/girls or older/younger kids
- Directions (1- 2 min):
  - Each team must come up with 3 or more ways they see children being picked on in school or in the neighborhood.
- Return to large group (3-5 min)
  - Discuss and compare their observations.
- Return to small groups (1 – 2 min)
  - The teams now takes the opposing team's observations and come up with ways to help the person being picked on.
- Return to large group for remainder of class and discuss responses.
- Finish in prayer, thanking God for the way we can bring heaven to earth by helping those who are being mistreated.

## Quick Skit: 10-15 min

(1) Explain that the Old Testament and the New Testament teach us to look out for those who are mistreated – the way Benedict was made fun of because of his feet.

Psalms 82:3-4

<sup>3</sup>*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed* <sup>4</sup>*Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

Hebrews 13:3

<sup>3</sup>*Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

(2) Have everyone count off 1..2..3..1..2..3..1..2..3..etc.

Ask the oldest person in the group to pick a number between 1 and 3. Those with that assigned number become your actors. (If the group is small, then divide according to what works best with you.)

(3) The acting group will choose one way they have seen someone getting picked on in school or in their neighborhood. Then they select actors:

- The person who will be picked on
- The individual/group who will be mean to the mistreated person
- The individual/group who will find the right way to defend the mistreated person.

(4) The numbers that have not been selected (1's, 2's and 3's) will then go to separate parts of the room and discuss:

Psalms 82: 4

<sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Discussion questions:

What do the people in need in our society look like?

How can we answer their cries for help?

(5) When the actors are ready, they will perform their skit for the entire group.

(6) After the skit, ask students to share what they were thinking/feeling during the role-play.

(7) Finish in prayer, thanking God for the way we can bring Heaven to earth by helping those who are being mistreated.