



Benedict Menkoah

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

MINI-MISSION LESSON: SENIOR HIGH - SENIOR ADULT

THEME:

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

OVERVIEW:

- Read the story
- Discuss the theme of cruelty to people and what we can do about it.
- Missions Focus: "We are doing Missions whenever we bring the Kingdom of God to earth through our actions."

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:

Discussion Questions

Picture of Benedict

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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

Benedict refused to give in to his handicap. 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. Perhaps it was more peaceful up there, high above all the people who laughed at him and called him names.

One day Mercy Ships came to Liberia and docked their big white hospital ship in the dock ... and 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 began the challenging process of learning 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 (10-15 min):

“To better understand Missions and how what we do or don’t do affects the world, we are going to do a quick exercise. 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

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

Hebrews 13:3

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

DISCUSSION:

(1) Divide into small groups (1-2 min)

(2) The small groups will discuss how children/teens are cruel to one another. (3-5 min)

(3) Ask the groups to share their observations. If a white board is available, have someone write down the responses. (3-5 min)

(4) As a large group, discuss what we can do to prevent such mistreatment from happening? What can we say or do for a child/teen who is being mistreated? (3-5 min)

(5) Optional: If more time is available, expand discussion with these questions (5-10 min):

- How are adults cruel to other? (If not mentioned, bring up human trafficking, prostitution, child/adult slavery)
- What can adults do to help people mistreated in these ways?

(6) Finish with prayer, thanking God for the way we can bring heaven to earth by helping those who are being mistreated.