

# EXPLORING God's Global Family

LESSON 1 **PART 1**  
**Burkina Faso**  
Spiritual Emphasis: Evangelism

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## Where Are We Going?

Your child will be able to:

- describe at least two characteristics of the West African country of Burkina Faso.
- produce and design sports equipment from recycled materials.
- manipulate recycled sports equipment in a physical activity.
- identify spiritual gifts given to God's children.
- explore how God can use all of us to share the gospel through play and sports.
- create a family plan for simplifying sports or play equipment and donating to those in need.

## Ready for the Journey

### Supplies

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Map of Africa which lists capitals of the countries
- ✓ Activity Sheet 1–1. (Find it at the end of this session.)
- ✓ 6 plastic shopping bags (grocery-size)
- ✓ Yarn or twine
- ✓ Miscellaneous recyclable materials from household (paper towel, toilet paper cardboard tubes, newspapers, plastic bottles, plastic straw, paper plates, cardboard boxes)
- ✓ Masking tape

## Preparation

- Assemble the supplies listed.
- Read Romans 12: 6-8.
- Background information: Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries and is ranked as the third least-developed country in the world. It is landlocked with two distinct climates; main sources of income include copper and gold. The people of Burkina Faso eat grain products including millet and maize, and for protein, poultry and fish. The capital of Burkina Faso is Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso (*Burkina* may be translated "men of integrity" from the Mòoré language, and *Faso* means "father's house" in Dioula) has had several different names, depending upon the political climate, but it gained its independence from France in 1960. The official language is French, along with some tribal languages.

## The Journey Begins

Go on a sports equipment expedition in your home! Ask these questions:

- How many pairs of sports shoes do you have?
- How many T-shirts are in your drawer that you can wear for play and sports?
- How many different kinds of balls and other sports equipment do you have in your closet or elsewhere in your home?
- Make a chart with your own categories starting with these suggestions: Number of pairs of sports/play shoes; number of T-shirts with team logos; number of balls, bats, rackets, etc.
- Who in your family plays the most different sports and has the most equipment? What are your results?

Locate Burkina Faso on a map and discuss the country's culture and history. Explain that it is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most of the children there don't have the money to buy sports equipment such as balls used for soccer (called *football* in the rest of the world). But God gave children in Burkina Faso and other poorer countries creativity to make their own sports equipment. "Let's go to Africa and play some of your favorite games — the African way!"

## Enjoy the Journey

- 1 Invite your child to collect some recyclable materials around your home.
- 2 Choose a place indoors or outdoors to create the sports equipment. Assemble your recyclables in that location.
- 3 Follow the instructions to create the plastic bag soccer ball from Activity Sheet 1-1. Practice kicking the ball into one of the other recyclables (such as a cardboard box) as the goal. Discuss how this created ball is the same (or different) to kick as a real soccer ball.

- ④ Challenge your child to create other games using the remaining recyclables. For example, crumple newspaper for a baseball and use a wrapping paper tube or paper towel tube for a bat. Paper plates can be used as Frisbee-type toys. Use the masking tape to create other items. If you have several children, invite them to cooperate in making new equipment by taking turns to pick the recycled items and explaining their created equipment and games.
- ⑤ Designate a field day for the family with the created equipment. For example, see how far you can throw a plastic straw (like a javelin) from a fast-food soft drink, or how far you can toss a paper-plate Frisbee. Make awards, too!
- ⑥ Challenge your child to make up games using just the recyclables he or she has chosen. How many different games can she create to play with friends or family?
- ⑦ Discuss and imagine where children of Burkina Faso might play games. Would there be snacks at “break time” or clean water for refreshment? Do Compassion-sponsored kids have team uniforms? How would playing games be more challenging for children of West African countries such as Burkina Faso?

## **Grocery Bag Balls**

African kids who are poor can't afford to buy toys, so they make them. See if you can make a ball like kids in Africa do!

### **Supplies**

- ✓ 6 plastic shopping bags (grocery size)
- ✓ Yarn or twine

### **Instructions**

**1**



Wad 5 bags into a ball.

**2**



Place the wad of bags into another bag.

Close the bag.

**3**



Wrap the handles of the bag around the wad and tie the ends.

**4**



Wrap the twine or yarn around the ball and tie the ends. You are now ready for a game of soccer!