

Day One: Wahabu

meaning: God of love

Pronounced: “wa-ha-boo” with the accent on the second syllable

Akongo Surprises Everyone

This African story is from Kenya. It tells of the difference a girl made in the life of her school teacher because she shared the love of Jesus and changed the teacher’s life.

Akongo was a very shy girl. When people spoke to her, she could barely answer them back. At school, she hardly ever said anything in class.

Akongo believed in Jesus and was a good Christian. She loved to attend the youth group discussion meetings that were held at her church every Saturday night.

One evening, the youth group leader spoke about the need for the youths to dedicate their lives to God. As she listened, Akongo decided that she wanted to dedicate her life to God. She prayed and asked God to give her the opportunity and the strength to make a difference in her neighborhood or school.

The next week at school, one of Akongo’s teachers became fed up with the way things were being done. He walked into the classroom and said, “Oh, I have had it! I’m old and tired of teaching children who don’t have any respect. If any of you can tell me what life is all about, and what the purpose of it is, go ahead.”

Akongo raised her hand and said that she had found the answers to those questions in the life of Jesus. Everyone was shocked. Akongo hardly ever said anything in class?

The teacher did not believe in God, but he invited Akongo to stay after class and explain her beliefs to him. She told him what he should study, to learn more about God and Jesus. Then she invited him to go with her family to a fellowship meeting at their church the next Friday night. He agreed. That Friday, Akongo’s teacher put his trust in Jesus. What Akongo had told him inspired him to see that God loved him and that Jesus provided a purpose for living. Today he is a good Christian and attends church regularly. Akongo believed in Jesus. She showed God that she believed in Jesus by dedicating her life to God and helping her teacher believe in Jesus too.

“Akongo Surprises Everyone” appears in *Sunday school Lessons for the church in Africa* produced by the Community of Christ Independence, Missouri, 1999, p. 44.

Day Two: Umoja

meaning: unity harmony

pronounced: “oo-mo-Jah” with the accent on the second syllable

We Are One In the Spirit

This morning we made a symphony of sounds using our bodies as instruments. Have a group of campers stand in front and sing “We Are One in the Spirit” HS 466 at a fairly fast tempo. Everyone else can accompany the singers using the sound they made this morning following the tune and rhythm of the song.

Day Three: Jamii

meaning: one family

pronounced: “Jah-mee” with the accent on the first syllable

The Wicked Stepmother Who Changed

This South African story teaches the importance of being kind to one another and taking care of each other as children of God. It also demonstrates how repentance for wrong doing can change lives.

When Othieno lost his wife in a canoe accident, he was left with two daughters, Auma and Aloo, to take care of. He decided to marry a new wife, named Aoko, who could help him look after his children.

Aoko did not love her two stepdaughters. At every meal, she gave them only what was left over. In most cases, it was so little that the girls remained hungry. Othieno did not know that this was happening because he was away all day, working at his farm.

One day, Auma fell sick. Aoko, however, refused to take her to the hospital. Her condition became so bad that Aloo had to run to the farm to get her father.

Othieno came back from his farm at once. When he got home and saw Auma, he was shocked to see her condition. He rushed her to the hospital, and she was treated. Auma, fortunately, recovered. That night, Othieno and Aoko had a quarrel, because Othieno was not pleased with the way that she was taking care of his daughters.

The following morning, some members of our church paid Othieno and Aoko a visit. They prayed with them and invited them to come to their worship service the next Sunday. Othieno and Aoko agreed to come.

During the worship service, the preacher preached that we should ask God to send us the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions. Aoko, the stepmother, was touched by this sermon. She felt in her heart the Spirit of God telling her that she needed to love everyone and be good to them.

When Aoko got home that evening, she asked her stepdaughters to forgive her for not loving them and for treating them badly. The whole family rejoiced that the Spirit of God had touched Aoko and changed her life. The Holy Spirit had led Aoko to become one of God's children.

“The Wicked Stepmother Who Changed” appears in *Sunday School Lessons for the Church in Africa* curriculum produced by the Community of Christ, Independence, Missouri, 1999, p. 112.

Day Four: Uzima

meaning: health, life, wholeness

pronounced: “co-zee-mah” with the accent on the second syllable

FRIENDS INDEED

Contributed by Robert Wanga, Kenya

Nyirenda and Munthali were great friends. They got along well and spent a lot of time together, doing things that they both liked to do. In fact, they were more like brothers than friends.

Nyirenda's and Munthali's lives were almost totally different. Nyirenda's family was rich. They lived practically nothing in common. Here is what happened.

Everyone wondered how Nyirenda and Munthali had become great friends. After all, they had liked to sit, listen to the birds sing, and guess what delicious meal his family's cook would fix for dinner that night.

Early every morning, Nyirenda would go down to the river, to relax before he headed off to school. He liked to sit, listen to the birds sing, and guess what delicious meal his family's cook would fix for dinner that night

Munthali, too, would go down to the river early every morning—but not to relax before he headed off to school. Instead he came to catch fish for his mother, his brothers and sisters, and him to sell in the market that day.

As he fished, Munthali often thought, "I hope we earn enough to have something to eat tonight." Some night his family went without food because they had sold only a few fish in the market that day

One morning, Nyirenda noticed Munthali fishing at the river. "That boy can catch fish!" Nyirenda said to himself. "I love fishing but I have no luck at it at all. I wonder how he does it."

Nyirenda sat there on the riverbank for some time, watching Munthali catch fish after fish after fish. Finally, he could not sit still any longer. Nyirenda stood up and called to Munthali: "Hello, there!"

Munthali was surprised. He looked at his bare feet, ragged shorts, and torn shirt, and thought, "Why is this rich boy speaking to *me*?"

Nyirenda walked over to Munthali. "I've been watching you fish. You're very good. I love fishing but I have no luck at it at all. How do you do it?" he asked.

"It's not hard. You just have to put bait on your hook the right way. Would you like me to show you how?" said Munthali.

"Oh, yes!" answered Nyirenda.

Munthali showed Nyirenda how to put bait on the hook. Then Nyirenda dropped it into the water. After a minute or so, guess what? Nyirenda caught a nice big fish—the first fish that he had ever caught.

Nyirenda was excited and thankful. He was glad to have caught his first fish. Even more, though, he was grateful to Munthali for teaching him how to fish.

"Can I try again?" asked Nyirenda.

"Sure," said Munthali.

Nyirenda stayed there and fished until he had to leave for school. By the time he left, he had caught enough fish for Munthali and his family to sell in the market that day.

As he walked to school, Nyirenda realized that Munthali was a true friend. "What can I do to help my friend?" he asked himself. Nyirenda knew right away.

Early every morning from then on, Nyirenda came to the river—but not to relax. No, he stood on the riverbank next to Munthali and fished! Whatever he caught, he gave to his friend for his family to sell in the market.

That is how Nyirenda and Munthali became great friends.

Closing

Ask each camper to think of another camper. Then have them list some things that they can do to be close friends with her or him. Encourage the campers to do as many of these things as they can during the remaining time at camp, to foster wholeness and health (physical, mental, or spiritual) in the other person,

Day Five: Heri

meaning: good wishes, goodwill, blessings

pronounced: heh-ree, rolling the "r" sound, as in Spanish, with the accent on the first syllable

Serious Skit

Have a group of staff and campers create a skit or dramatic reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12 NRSV). Relate it to blessing others through godly behavior,

Journal

To enhance the camping experience, consider providing each camper with their own personal journal. Please see file for appropriate pages. You may wish to cover the page numbers when copying). This will create a small booklet approximately 5 ½ by 8 inches. Each day contains two to five questions to which campers may choose to respond. These journals should be used in relationship to the theme class. Allow campers approximately twenty-five minutes to complete the entry for Day One. Allow for ten minutes for the other days of the camp. For convenience, the outline of questions is below.

DAY ONE -Have campers complete the wahabu journal entry: How does God's love challenge you to better love (others and to keep hate from getting in your heart)?

DAY TWO-Have campers complete the umoja journal entry: What ways does your culture create or destroy unity among people? How do you think it is also important to live in unity with our environment? Why?

DAY THREE - Have campers complete the jamii journal entry: What does it mean to you to be accepted by Jesus no matter what burdens you carry inside? What are our responsibilities as members of God's family? Write about a time when a brother or sister in Christ reached out to you when you were hurting.

DAY FOUR - Have campers complete the uzima journal entry: What kind of food do you usually eat, and do you always have enough to eat? In Daniel 1:3-19, what is the message for us today regarding food? In more affluent countries, often food goes to waste because there is too much, while in poor countries; people starve because there is too little food. How do you think we can ensure more equal distribution of food around the world?

DAY FIVE - Have campers complete the hen journal entry: What changes do you think need to take place where you live in order to promote Harambe? What would you most like to change about yourself on the inside, so that your outward actions are more Christ like?