



Children’s ministry extension activities

ACTIVITY 1: LET’S LEARN ABOUT MALAWI

Show the children a map of the world and see if they can find Malawi. You may need to give some hints if they are not sure where to look.

The Glissmanns live in a place called Blantyre in Malawi so let’s find out some things about Malawi and Blantyre. Can you find Blantyre on the map?

TEN FACTS ABOUT MALAWI AND BLANTYRE:

- 1.** Malawi is a country in southern Africa with a population of around 22million people; its capital is Lilongwe.
- 2.** ‘Malawi’ means “fire flames”. The country takes its name from the reflection of the rising sun on the waters of the vast Lake Malawi. Lake Malawi is one of two UNESCO World Heritage sites in Malawi. The other is Chongoni Rock Art Area, which consists of 127 sites that feature the richest collection of rock art in Central Africa. They are an amazing glimpse into the traditions of rock art of the hunter gatherers and of agriculturalists from the Late Stone Age up to the present day.
- 3.** Malawi is the fourth poorest country in Africa and over 40% of the population live on less than 80p a day.
- 4.** Around 85% of the Malawian population live in rural areas. The economy is mostly agricultural. Farmers in Malawi grow and export tea, cotton, sugar, coffee, peanuts and wooden products.
- 5.** In Malawi less than 10% of girls finish high school.
- 6.** Dance is an important part of Malawi’s culture. The National Dance Troupe was formed in 1987 by the government. Traditional dances and music can be seen as an initiation rite, and are used during rituals and marriage celebrations and ceremonies.
- 7.** Malawi has been producing tea for well over a century and it is the continent’s second largest tea producer after Kenya. The history of tea in Malawi stretches back to 1886 when seeds were taken from the Botanical Garden in Edinburgh to the Church of Scotland Mission in Blantyre and planted in the garden there. One bush, the ancestor of the original tea plantation in Mulanje, still grows at the Mission in Blantyre today.

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8. Volker and Jinhyeog live in Blantyre which is Malawi's second largest city, with a population of about 800,000. It is sometimes referred to as the commercial and industrial capital of Malawi as opposed to the political capital. It is the capital of the country's southern region as well as the Blantyre District.
9. Blantyre is the oldest urban centre in Malawi, established by Scottish missionaries in the 1870s.
10. Blantyre lies in the Shire Highlands, in the southern part of the country, at an elevation of 3409 feet (for comparison Carrauntoohil is 3407 ft and Slieve Donard is 2785 ft).

Encourage the children to chat together with you about the things that seem similar to our country and those that seem different. Maybe you could look online or in books and learn more things about Malawi. What are common foods? What is school like? What games do children like to play?

Discuss with the children how God has made an incredibly diverse world with different countries, people and activities. Celebrate the world that God has made.

ACTIVITY 2 : MUSIC

For this activity there are some choices:

A/ Maybe you could encourage children who play instruments to bring them in to your children's ministry. Children who play recorder in school could bring them to play a simple song that you use in your children's ministry. You may have some other percussion instruments for the children to use in your congregation and they could also play these.

B/ The other option is to make some instruments and use them to play along to songs in your children's ministry.

These ideas can be found online or you may want to make different instruments:

- [How to make an elastic band guitar | bbcgoodfood.com](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/how-to-make-an-elastic-band-guitar)
- [How to make panpipes | bbcgoodfood.com](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/how-to-make-panpipes)
- [Make your own harmonica | bbcgoodfood.com](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/make-your-own-harmonica)
- [How to make maracas | bbcgoodfood.com](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/how-to-make-maracas)
- [How to make a tin can drum | bbcgoodfood.com](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/how-to-make-a-tin-can-drum)

The children can then play their instruments to songs in your children's ministry or in the main service if there is an appropriate song for the children.

ACTIVITY 3: BIBLE TEACHING

Did you know that singing, dancing and making music with instruments is mentioned lots in the Bible?

Some examples of passages where making music and/or dancing is mentioned in the Bible:

- *Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. **Ephesians 5:19***
- *Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord because he is worthy of great honour. He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea. **Exodus 15:1***
- *Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Colossians 3:16***
- *You play your harps. Like David, you compose songs on musical instruments. **Amos 6:5***
- *Those who blew the trumpets and those who sang together sounded like one person. They praised and thanked the Lord. They sang as they played their trumpets, cymbals and other instruments. They praised the Lord with this song: "The Lord is good. His love continues forever." Then the Temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud. **2 Chronicles 5:13***

There is even a whole book in the Bible which is full of songs and poems written to God. Does anyone know what it is called? Psalms.

The psalms are full of songs of praise, worship, joy, anger and hurt. The people who wrote them used the words to help them make sense of the world around them and all that was happening. They also used them to tell God how they felt about what was happening in their lives.

The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible with 150 chapters. Psalm 150 is the very last psalm and it is a song of praise to God.

Read Psalm 150

What do you notice about who rebuilt the walls?

(Praise God in his Temple.

Praise him in his mighty heaven.

Praise him for his strength.

Praise him for his greatness.

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Praise him with trumpet blasts.

Praise him with harps and lyres.

Praise him with tambourines and dancing.

Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes.

Praise him with loud cymbals.

Praise him with crashing cymbals.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

Either give out Bibles for the children to find Psalm 150 or you could give them a print-out or display the words on a screen. Read the psalm together.

1. What sorts of things does the psalmist praise God for?
2. What instruments does the psalmist mention that they use to praise God?

Activity – write your own psalm

MY PSALM OF PRAISE

By _____

Praise God in

Praise God in

Praise him for

Praise him for

Praise him with

Praise him with

Let everything

Praise God!