



## Next Stop: Naivasha Children's Lesson (Grades K-5)

Our Prayer is that this lesson will:

**Introduce** Panua Partners In Hope, a partnership originally started as a ministry between United Methodist Churches in the US and Naivasha United Methodist Churches of Kenya,

**Encourage** children to explore God's call on their lives to love our neighbors, and

**Expand** their understanding of missions.

### Ice Breaker

Divide into groups of 12 or less to play paper airplane games. Hand out the "Next Stop: Naivasha" paper airplanes (print planes/instructions from included [PDF](#)) and give the youth a few minutes to work on folding them.

Have contests to see who has the airplane that:

- Travels the furthest.
- Stays in the air the longest.
- Is the most accurate (hold up an empty trashcan as a target.)

### Discussion Questions:

Play the game for 5 minutes or so, then use the following discussion questions:

- Have you ever traveled outside of the state where you live?
- What's the furthest place you have traveled?
- What did you find different about the place you traveled? What was the same? (examples: climate, food, activities, animals, etc.)

When we journey to other places we learn that many people live differently than we do. In other countries, they may even have different languages, foods and customs. It can be a challenge to learn to appreciate these differences and have compassion for people who live differently than us. Today we are going to learn about the mission work that began in two churches – one in Winter Park, FL and another in Naivasha, Kenya - that partnered together to create hope and help build a future for orphaned youth and children who are very poor. That initial partnership has grown to more churches in both the US and in Kenya in the past 6 years.

Naivasha, Kenya is about 8,000 miles away from us. (Show them where it is on a globe or map if you have one). To get an idea about how far that is, it can take up to a whole day (24 hours) to travel there by airplane from the United States. You have to cross over the Atlantic Ocean!

In Kenya, there are some things that you would find the same and some things that would be different from here. For example, most of the people speak English. But they also speak Swahili and other languages of the tribe they are in. Lots of kids like to play soccer. Many don't go to school after elementary school. The animals are different – zebras and elephants and giraffes live there.

## Lesson

Read the following Scripture: Matthew 22: 34–40

### The Greatest Commandment

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

These verses tell us that the most important thing to God is that we love God and love our neighbors. Even though Kenya is far away from us, the people who live there are our neighbors and God loves them as much as He loves us! We can show our love to them. Today we are going to learn about a ministry called Panua that shows our love for God and our neighbors in Kenya.

### Watch:

“[Munene](#)” Video (located at bottom of [panua.org/curriculum](http://panua.org/curriculum) page)

### Discussion Questions:

- What caught your attention in this video?
- What is one question you'd like to ask George if you could call him on the phone?

**State:** “The specific reality of many of the youth in Kenya is that:

- There are 2.5 million orphans (25,000 in the city of Naivasha)
- 43% of people live in poverty
- 18 million people are earning less than \$1.25 per day
- 40% of the population is unemployed
- 50% of boys and 35% of girls don't continue school after the age of 16.”

## ACTIVITY

**If the World were a Village of 10 people** (see [PDF](#))

*Have copies available or put information up on the board.*

**State:** “It may be hard to believe that there are many people just like George who are still living in poverty. To better understand the makeup of the human race, imagine that all 6.7 billion people on earth could be represented by a single “global village” of just 10 people. If you can picture this then you can begin to see how differently the world looks depending on where you are born.”

Have 10 students stand up. Read each statistic from “*If the World Were a Village of 10 People.*” Have the corresponding number sit down.

## Response

**Panua Partners in Hope: The Good News!!**

As Christians, we are called to respond and love our neighbors. Here is how we are going to do it! (Choose from the following):

- **Give financially.** Distribute small boxes for collecting change throughout the week to donate to Panua. Specific amounts may include:
  - \$20 Blankets and pillows
  - \$50 Seeds and tools for gardening vegetables
  - \$125 to purchase health and hygiene materials
  - \$250 to help send siblings to school
  - \$365 to sponsor a Panua Youth for one year
  - \$500 to support business start up kits
- **Show love.** Write a letter to your Panua youth if you have chosen to sponsor one (information on specific youth can be given ahead of time if you would like to share this).
- **Pray.**

## Closing

**Prayer Station Activity**

Respond in prayer by preparing the **Prayer Station Activity** (see [PDF](#) for instructions). You may choose to have the youth write prayer requests on butcher paper or chalk boards or use prayer fabric for each child to tie onto the rope and select a prayer card or a Panua youth to take home. If you are not sponsoring a Panua youth, you may also wish to have the children write their prayer for the youth they have selected on their prayer card (you can use the blank prayer cards).

### PRAYER

“Dear God, thank you for sending us Jesus to show us how to love and serve others. Please help us to show love to our neighbors both near and far.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”