

THE NATIONS AS OUR NEIGHBORS

LESSONS FOR MISSION MINDED KIDS

LESSON 1

GUS AL-KHAL IN BETHLEHEM



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Lesson 1: Gus Al-Khal in Bethlehem

Goals for Lesson 1:

- The students will be introduced to Pastor Gus Al-Khal and his ministry to the Arabic speaking people in the Bethlehem, PA area.
- Students will understand that America is made up of people from many different countries who speak many different languages.
- Students will understand that God loves all of the people of the world, and desires that His children would love their neighbors as themselves.

Verse for “The Nations As Our Neighbors”:

“All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.” Psalm 86: 9-10

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- If you will be having snack time, prepare the food as directed.
- If you will be collecting items for the Bethlehem church, make copies of the notices to be sent home with your children, either the day of the lesson, or before hand. Prepare a box to collect the items in, and make arrangements to transport the collected items to Pastor Gus. (If you are close by, you may drop the items off at the Bethany E.C. Church office on N. 6th St. in Allentown, between the hours of 9 AM and noon, M-F. If you are farther away, the items could be taken to Myerstown via anyone else who is traveling there, and then taken to Allentown with someone who is from that area. Please make arrangements before collecting items.)
- Locate an up-to-date globe or large world map to use during the lesson time.
- Make a copy of the Arabic word chart for each child to take home, and a copy of the Arabic World map for each child to color or take home.
- Prepare small card stock name plates to practice writing the word “Jesus” in Arabic. Have markers or pens available.

Lesson Plan:

- Begin with prayer.
- Gather your group of children around the globe or world map. As you read them from the list, ask volunteers to locate the twenty-five countries of the world that have Arabic as their official language. Point out that all of these countries are in the same general area of the world. Show the United States in relation to this area, and tell the students that 10,000 people from the Arab world are living in the Bethlehem area in Pennsylvania. (Show them the general Eastern PA area.)
- Introduce the verse (Psalm 86: 9-10) and talk about all of the nations that are represented in the USA and how God made each of us to worship Him, no matter where we came from.
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, discussing as necessary for your group of children.
- Use the chart of common Arabic words to practice saying some of them. The sounds and symbols of this language are very unfamiliar and difficult for most English speakers. Give a copy of the chart to each child to take home as a reminder of the many people who speak this language.
- Show children the copy of the word “Jesus” in Arabic. Provide small name plate cards and markers or pens and have children practice writing the symbols to spell “Jesus”. Remind them that Jesus died for all people and He hears all prayers, no matter what the language.
- Serve Hummus and Flat Bread as a snack. Talk about mealtime traditions in their homes and how each family and each country has their own ways of sharing food together.
- Use the map as a coloring page or a take home reminder of the lesson.
- If you are collecting items for the Arabic church, talk with your students about the items needed and encourage them to be involved in missions by sharing what they have with others who need to hear about Jesus.
- End with prayer for the Al-Khal family and the 10,000 Arabic speaking people in the Lehigh Valley. Pray that God will show us ways to reach these “neighbors” with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 1 Story: Gus Al-Khal in Bethlehem

Our Mission Minded Kids theme is called “The Nations As Our Neighbors”. Often, we talk about other countries that are far away and that we may not have even heard of before. Here in America, we are considered a melting pot, which means we have people living here who have come from all over the world and speak many, many languages. What are some of the languages you hear people speaking other than English? It is the same with our church denomination. In our church denomination, we have pastors from all over the world that teach and preach in a variety of languages.

This week we are going to talk about the Arabic Living E.C. Church in Bethlehem, PA. Pastor Ghosoub “Gus” Al-Khal and his wife and their three boys live there and have planted a church to minister to the Arabic speaking people there. They also are ministering to a mixed community of people in Allentown.

Pastor Gus was not born here in America. He grew up in Amar, Syria, which is a predominantly Islamic country. He had a family of two sisters and two brothers who currently all live in the United States. His parents are American citizens but currently live in a village in Syria.

When he was growing up in Syria, Pastor Gus lived on a small farm complete with farm animals and fruit and olive trees. He went to school during the day just like we all have to but then when he got home he had to help around the family farm. Two of his particular tasks were helping to take care of the cows and the fruit trees. How many of you have to help take care of the cows before you do your homework? Around 1 pm, his family would have their family dinner, and then everybody would take a nap, similar to a siesta. During that

time all the shops and businesses would close down. Can you imagine a whole town closing down so that everyone could rest? Nothing would open back up until about 5pm. His evenings were spent visiting family and friends in the village and then his sisters would work on their housework with his mom. On Sundays, he attended the local protestant church.

Gus became a Christian when he was 16 years old, through a Presbyterian minister that used to travel around from village to village passing out Bibles. After becoming a Christian, Gus was mentored by this same pastor for a couple of years and then he felt led to come to America. At first, he lived in Detroit, Michigan and was involved in a wonderful church there, but soon he felt called to move to Allentown, Pennsylvania where he could reach out to other Middle Eastern people with the Gospel.

Currently, he is preaching at the Arabic Living E.C. Church in Bethlehem, PA, and at the Bethany E.C. Church in Allentown. The Arabic church services are much like the church services we have including songs of worship (sung in Arabic), prayer, offering, and preaching. The children have Sunday School classes taught in the English language.

We need to pray for Pastor Gus and all of the Arabic speaking people in the Bethlehem area. Right now they need children's English Bibles for their Sunday Schools, and Bibles written in Arabic for the adults. They are also trying to collect children's craft items (like crayons, markers, colored paper and stickers) for Arabic churches overseas that they currently support.

(Notice to be sent home with children if you are going to collect items for the Arabic Church)

As we practice loving our neighbors, our MMK group will be collecting items to be sent to the Arabic Living E.C. Church in Bethlehem, PA. This church is pastored by Gus Al-Khal, from Syria, and is reaching out with the love of Christ to the 10,000 Arabic speaking people in the Lehigh Valley area. Following is a list of things they can use.

*Children's Adventure Bibles—These can be slightly used or new. They are in the English language (NIV) and have a picture of a mountain climber on a purplish background.

*Arabic Bibles—If you have access to Bibles translated into the Arabic language (or English and Arabic together), Arabic Living E.C. is always in need of them.

*Children's Art Supplies—Crayons, markers, colored pencils, colored paper, stickers, etc. can be used in the Sunday School and Preschool ministries at Arabic Living, as well as sent overseas to the Arabic Christian Churches they help to support.

*Non-perishable Foods—Arabic Living E.C. Church and Bethany E.C. Church (a multi-cultural congregation also pastored by Gus Al-Khal) have food bank ministries to the people in their communities. Any non-perishable foods can be donated and will be given out to the needy people in these neighborhoods.

***Twenty-five countries of the world use Arabic as their official language. They are listed as:**

United Arab Emirates

Israel

Qatar

Afghanistan

Iraq

Saudi Arabia

Algeria

Jordan

Sudan

Bahrain

Kuwait

Syria

Chad

Lebanon

Tunisia

Comoros

Libya

Western Sahara

Djibouti

Morocco

Yemen

Egypt

Mauritania

Eritrea

Oman

Most of these countries have people groups speaking other native languages or dialects as well.

Map of the Arab World



Below are some simple Arabic words with their pronunciations.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | نعم | na'am | /naʕam/ |
| No | لا | lā | /la:/ |
| Welcome | أهلاً | ahlan | /ahlan/ |
| Hello | حَبَّارم | marḥaban | /marḥaban/ |
| Goodbye | مَسالمة | ma'a as-salāmah | /maʕ assala:mah/ (literally 'with peace') |
| Please | كوجراً | arjūk | /ʔardzu:k/ |
| Thank you | شكراً | shukran | /ʃukran/ |

The name “Jesus” in Arabic:

عيسى

Serve hummus with flat bread or pita bread, which can be bought at most grocery stores in the bakery area, or the ethnic foods area. Bread is broken into small chunks and dipped into the hummus. It is eaten as a finger food as part of a meal.

Hummus (chickpea dip)

1 clove fresh garlic

dash salt

1 can chickpeas (drained)

2 Tablespoons tahini (sesame paste)

¼ c. very hot water (not boiling)

Juice from 2 lemons

¼ c. olive oil

In a food processor, chop garlic with a heavy dash of salt until garlic is very finely minced. Add chickpeas, tahini, hot water, and lemon juice. Process. While processing, drizzle oil into spout until the mixture becomes like a loose paste. Serve with pita or flat bread.