

David Livingstone: Missionary

An educational worksheet for children aged 9-13 published by
LivingstoneOnline.org

Written to T. Dyke at Kolobeng on the 1st of December 1851

My Dear Friend,

I for one like to hear how the families of my friends get on. I don't want scandal but I give you an example by telling you that I have four children - three boys and a girl and the fifth a little girl is in Heaven. I must soon part with them for the region to which we go to settle in is a feverish one and though one may dispose of his own life in the way he thinks best for His Redeemer's glory - he can scarcely be said to have the lives of his children at his disposal...

Our duty seems to be to preach the gospel to every creature and those who believe will be saved those who believe not be condemned...

God has by his good guidance opened up for us a large field on the North and we may either enter in there & work for Him or begin & build again in order carry forward his work among the Bakwains. The former seems to me to be the best for the Divine glory and I am now going Southwards in order to deposit my family somewhere and then return for the Interior work. The existence of African fever renders this step necessary...

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Experiences and Outcomes:

Literacy and English

Students can practice deep reading and textual analysis to explore Livingstone's letters.

Religious and Moral education

Students can learn about Christian missionaries, and specifically about Livingstone.

Suggested Questions:

How many children does David have?

Which tribe does David talk about in his letter?

What does David think his duty is?

Further Reading:

On the 21st of April, in Nyangwe, in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, David wrote down the various ways of greeting someone. Click on the link to the diary page below to read his record. Why do you think David wanted to learn the language of the people he was staying with? Do you think it was a good thing that he made a record of words and phrases he heard?

<http://livingstone.library.ucla.edu/1871diary/transcriptions.htm>



This is David's copy of the Christian bible in seTswana, the national language of Botswana and one of the official languages in South Africa. Click on the bible, or the link below, to learn to say hello in seTswana.

<http://www.setswana.info/wiki/index.php?title=Greetings&oldid=339>

This educational resource was developed by Kate Simpson and Megan Ward, who are staff of *Livingstone Online* (livingstoneonline.org). *Livingstone Online* is the leading site for learning more about the life and writings of David Livingstone. Visit our site to discover an array of images and texts that supplement the educational material found in this worksheet.