



A fun and easy way for kids to learn about missions.

Hello Parents,

In a previous issue of Maranatha Kids!, we shared the story of Aliza Tianina, a Maasai girl in Kenya who ran away from home at the age of six. Today, we'll meet her cousin, Maleton. In 2019, our Maranatha Mission Stories television crew traveled to Kenya to film the Kajiado Adventist School and Rescue Center where Aliza lives. While there, the school principal took the crew to Aliza's home village, where they got an idea of what life was like for her and why she ran away.

During our TV crew's visit to the village, something incredible happened. They met nine-year old Maleton, who was from a neighboring village. She was brought to the village to undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) in preparation for her marriage to an older man.

In Maasai culture, girls as young as nine years old can be married off in exchange for a dowry of cattle. Part of the engagement process involves a female circumcision known as female genital mutilation (FGM). It is painful, and comes with the risk of infection, urination problems, severe bleeding, and even death.

When Maleton learned what was about to happen, she started crying. She was scared about what awaited her future.

At this time, the principal sprang into action. She asked why the girl was not in school and, with permission from the village elder and grandmother, took Maleton to the Kajiado school. Aliza's father, proud of what she had accomplished in school, also asked that his son be allowed to come too. (You will see his son in the video.)

Today's video will not discuss any traumatic details. We will only briefly mention child marriage and the inability to attend school, which will serve as the driving force for Maleton's rescue. Of course, if there are any aspects of the story you might be uncomfortable with, please screen the video ahead of time so you can be prepared.

We pray this video and discussion guide helps your children to consider injustice in the world and how they can help.

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Pre-video Discussion Questions

- What are some good things you have learned in school?
- What would it have been like if you never learned those things?
- How has school changed your life?

VIDEO

In today's video, we'll meet a girl from Kenya who began a new life at a special school in a single day.

Post-video Discussion Questions

- How old do you think a person should be before they get married and why?
- Maleton had to leave home in order to escape marriage and also go to school. How do you think she felt as they drove away? Happy? Sad? Both?
- Why do you think school is important for kids?
- Why did the Kajiado Adventist School and Rescue Center need help?
- Principal Sarah saw that Maleton needed help, and sprang into action. Can you think of something in your house, neighborhood, church, or school that needs help?
- Can you think of any Bible characters who saw a problem and acted to fix it?

Prayer Points

- Maleton and Edgar, as they continue learning and growing into new futures.
- Kids around the world who don't have the opportunity to go to school.
- Ask kids what they would add to the prayer list.

Did You Know?

- Maleton and Edgar are from the Maasai tribe. Maasai people have their own language called Maa. When Maleton and Edgar arrived at the Kajiado school, they didn't know how to speak to the other students and teachers. Slowly they are learning Swahili and English, the official languages of Kenya.
- At Kajiado, Maranatha is constructing dormitories, classroom buildings, bathrooms, and teachers' offices and houses.