

## Teaching Guide -The Fania People

### Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Fania people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Fania people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Fania people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Fania people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Fania people group provide for basic human needs:
  - Food
  - Clothing
  - Shelter
  - Human relationships
  - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
    - Are these customs of the Fania people different from the way you live?
    - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
    - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Fania people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Fania people?
  - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
    - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
    - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Fania people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
  - Bible stories
  - Christian radio
  - Christian music Christian drama
  - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Fania people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.

# F

## Fania

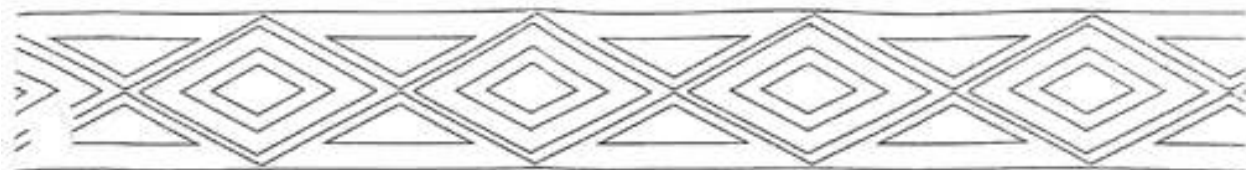
(FAN-yah)

When Grandfather was young, many wild animals roamed the dry savanna plains of Chad. He could creep very close to an antelope. He could almost capture it with his bare hands. Hunting was as natural as breathing. Fania men are famous for stealthy tracking and accurate spear throwing.

Today there are fewer wild animals. A Fania man must raise chickens, gather wild honey and labor in his millet field. If he hears the snort of a snuffling warthog or the yelps of silver-backed jackals, his heart beats faster. He longs to drop his machete. He wants to pick up his hunting spear and enjoy the thrill of the chase. Sometimes he does.

*The Fania people do not have the Bible in their own language.*





# The Fania People

**Continent: Africa**

**Country: Chad**

**Geographical information:**

**The Fania people live in Chad.**

- Chad is a landlocked country in Central Africa. It is called landlocked because it is surrounded by other countries and has no coastline.
- Chad has a tropical climate in the south where it rains a great deal.
- The center of the country has dry savannah plains with a mixture of shrubs and desert.
- The northern part of Chad is the southern edge of the great Sahara Desert.
- There are mountains in the northwest part of the country.

**Can you find Chad on the map of Africa?**

- Find and name the seven countries that surround it.
- Warthogs are one of the interesting wild animals that live in the same area as the Fania people.

**Facts about the Fania People:**

- The Fania people live in the southern lowlands close to the country of Central African Republic. Their area is a place of dry savanna grass lands.
- They live far from towns.
- They live in round houses with grass roofs.
- Most Fania men are farmers growing millet in their fields.
- Millet is the main crop grown by the Fania people and is a basic food they eat.
- Fania men love to hunt and track animals. One kind of animal they hunt is warthogs.
- Many of the Fania people do not know how to read in the two national languages of French and Chad Arabic.
- Their own Fania language has never been written.
- Most of the people would like to learn to read and write in Fania.

- They need a literacy program to help them learn.
- Most Fania people say they are Muslim but they do not follow Muslim prayer times.

### **You can pray for the Fania people.**

- Ask God to send Christians to share God's message of love with these people.
- Pray that the Fania will be willing to listen and accept God's free gift of salvation.

### **Additional information for older children:**

#### **Millet**

We have learned that the Fania people grow millet in their fields. What is millet?

- Millet is one of the oldest foods known to humans. It may have been the first cereal grain grown for food.
- The Bible often mentions it because it was used to make bread.
- It has been used in Africa, India and China for thousands of years.
- It is the 6th most important grain in the world because it grows well in hot dry climates on poorly fertilized soil.
- Millet is very healthy food. It is a tall erect annual grass that looks like maize (corn).
- It is the main crop grown by the Fania people, and a basic food they eat.
- It is a good crop to grow. It has small seeds which can be stored safely for many years.
- Insects do not eat the seeds.
- The grain of this plant tastes very good.
- Millet straw is used to feed livestock.
- The Fania people use it for building their homes and
- for their cooking



**Millet**

## Chad Animal Study - Warthogs

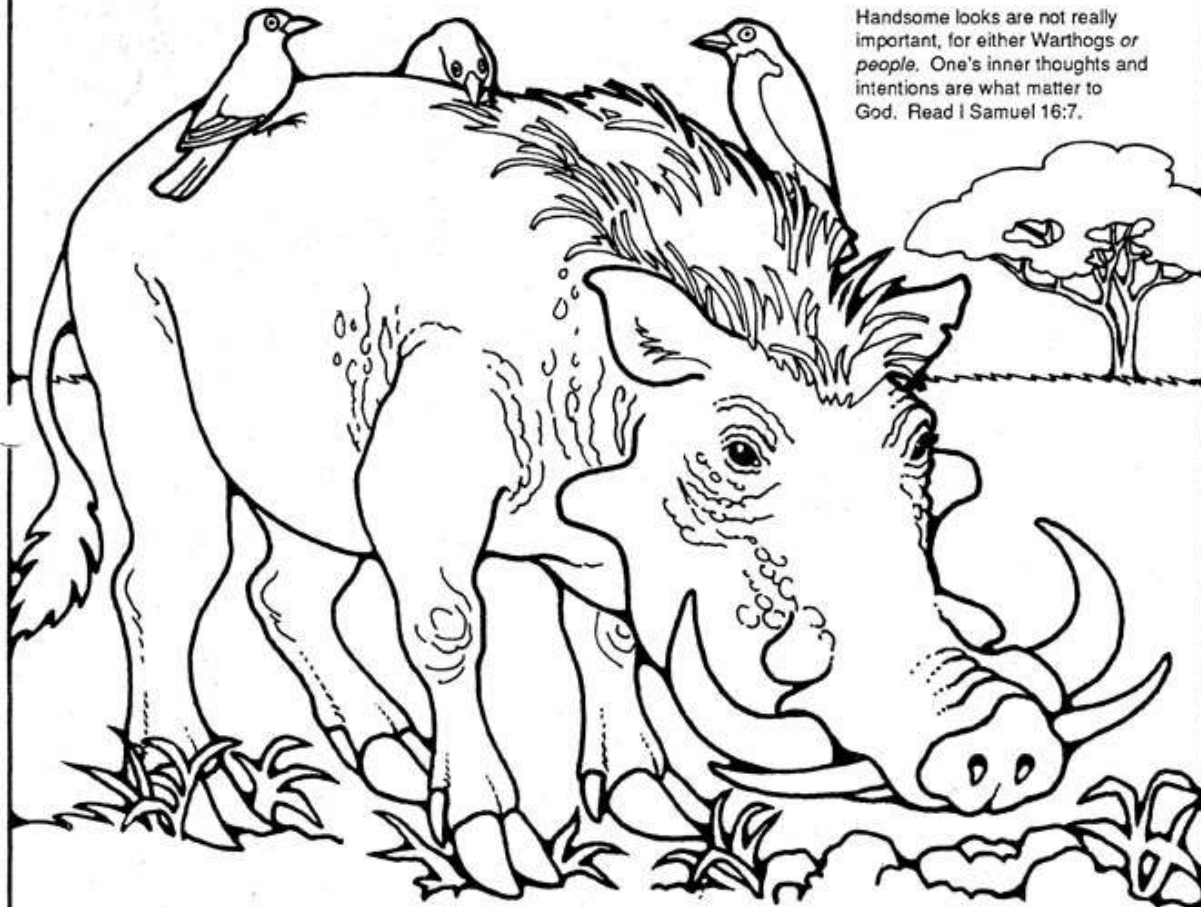
**We also learned that Fania men like to hunt warthogs. What is a warthog?**

- Warthogs are animals that live in the central part of the African continent.
- Warthogs look a lot like pigs.
- Warthogs have rough, black or brown hair covering their bodies.
- The face of a warthog is long with fleshy warts (bumps) and long curving tusks.
- Warthogs usually live in the savannah grasslands of Africa.
- Warthogs eat grasses, roots, berries, bark and sometimes dead animals.
- Warthogs travel in groups with one or two mothers and their little ones.
- Male warthogs usually travel alone.
- Male warthogs have more warts on their faces than the females.
- The large warts protect the faces while males fight each other during mating season.
- Both male and female warthogs have four large tusks and large shovel shaped heads. They look fierce! But they would rather run than fight.
- Warthogs can run as fast as 30 miles (48 kilometers) an hour.
- When cornered by predators (animals that want to eat them) warthogs will attack with their sharp lower tusks that can measure 6 inches (15 centimeters).
- Older warthogs also have long curved upper tusks that can be as long as 2 feet (61 centimeters).
- Warthogs use burrows for shelter.
- When entering their burrow the males back in. This is for defense. In the morning the males charge out at top speed. They want to get a running start on any animal waiting to kill and eat them.
- When protecting her young, a mother warthog first sends her piglets into the burrow. Then the mother whirls around and backs in. Her large head and tusks block the entrance. Attacking animals give up and go away.
- Warthogs allow some birds called oxpeckers to eat parasites that live on their bodies. Parasites are small bugs that bite and cause itching. The birds love to eat them and have a steady supply of food. The warthogs get rid of the discomfort of the parasites.



**Warthog**

The Warthog may have the most amazing face in the animal kingdom. Its big head is covered with warty lumps and bumps--the source of its name. And it has teeth that grow outward and upward to form large, fearsome tusks. It has a tough hide and a mane of stiff bristles. The Warthog would certainly not win any animal beauty contests. Yet, it is perfectly suited to live on the hot African plains where God put it. The Warthog's tough hide protects it from thorns and insect bites. And it uses its long tusks to dig food (plant bulbs, tubers, and roots) from the ground.



Handsome looks are not really important, for either Warthogs or people. One's inner thoughts and intentions are what matter to God. Read I Samuel 16:7.

The Warthog, a mammal, has an amazing relationship with Oxpecker birds. The Warthog is a wild member of the Pig family. So Oxpecker birds are getting a true piggy-back ride while they dine on ticks and other insect pests that cling to the Warthog's body. In return for the safe ride and the tasty meal, the Oxpecker birds warn the Warthog of approaching danger with their loud calls.

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