



Alphabetti Spaghetti

Aim: Teach that different scripts are used in Bible translations

Description: Activity pages and craft

Audience: Primary, any size group

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment: Pencils, coloured pens, scissors, glue sticks, copies of activity sheet, card

Scriptures to study: Psalm 119:130; Hebrews 4:12

Leader's instructions

Pre-class preparations:

1. In advance, photocopy enough activity sheets for everyone to have their own copy.
2. Cut card to the right size as a backing for each bookmark.

Class time

Hand out **Activity sheet 1** (on page 3) and pens and explain the first activity:

- a. Figure out the three words. (*apple, orange and banana*)
- b. Figure out the sentence. (*God's word brings life.*)
- c. Write your own name in Devanagari script.

Hand out **Activity sheet 2** (on page 4) and scissors, glue sticks and card and explain the second activity:

- a. Colour the bookmark
- b. Sign your name in Devanagari on it
- c. Cut it out
- d. Stick it onto the card as a backing.



Devanagari script is used a lot in Southeast Asia.

Let's pray together for a people group from that region – the Jirel people. They live in Nepal and write their own language in Devanagari script. You can find out more about the Jirel people at https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17015/NP.



Pray that many will come to know Jesus as they read the New Testament, and that a strong Jirel Church will grow.

Discussion and application

Ask the children where they plan to keep the bookmark so that it reminds them to pray for the Jirel people. Maybe in their own Bible or in the Bible the family uses for devotions at dinner? Then they can lead the whole family in praying for missions!

Be careful to point out the difference between what the children have written (which is English words written in a foreign script) and the verse on the bookmark (which is a foreign language AND a foreign script). Otherwise they may try to decipher the 'code' on the bookmark when they get home and won't be able to.

The Devanagari script has been simplified for the purposes of this activity. Depending on where you live, there may well be children in the group who already know this script. If so, make the most of it! They may have specific prayer requests that add life and impact you never expected.



Activity sheet 1

Here is the Devanagari alphabet. It looks a bit like spaghetti:

(Wycliffe Bible Translators)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
अ ब च ड ए फ ग ह इ ज क ल म न
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
ओ प कउ र श ट उ व व क्स य ज

Here are some English words written with Devanagari letters. Can you work out what they are?

अ प प ल ए ओ र अ न ग ए ब अ न अ न अ

Devanagari letters are joined up together to make whole words. Here's a whole sentence. Can you work out what the message says?

गओडश वओरड बरइनगश लइफए

Can you write your own name in joined-up Devanagari letters?



Activity sheet 2



The Devanagari script was first used to write the Hindu Scriptures. Devanagari means 'the writing of the gods'. Today this alphabet is used to write languages in India and Nepal.



The Jirel people of South Asia write their own language in the Devanagari script. Translators took 22 years to put the New Testament into the Jirel language. It was published in 1992 for the first time.

Here is a bookmark to colour, cut out and keep.



To find out what this verse from the Jirel New Testament says, read Hebrews 4:12a.