

Alphabeti

Spaghetti

Description:

activity page & craft that could tie in with lessons about India

Aim: to teach that different scripts are used in Bible translations

Audience:

child-reen grades 1-6, any size group

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment:

pencils, colored pens, scissors, gluesticks, copies of activity sheet, cardstock

Scripture to Study:

Psalm 119:130



Partners in Bible Translation

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Leader's Instructions:**Pre-class Preparations:**

1. In advance, photocopy enough activity sheets for everyone to have their own copy.
2. Collect enough cardstock to cut out backings for each bookmark.

Class Time:

1. Hand out activity sheets and pens and explain the first activity:
 - Figure out the three words: *apple, orange and banana*
 - Figure out this sentence: *God's Word brings life.*
 - Write your own name in Devnagri Script.
2. Hand out scissors, glue sticks and cardstock and explain the second activity:
 - Color the bookmark.
 - Sign your name in Devnagri on the bookmark.
 - Cut out the bookmark.
 - Glue it onto the card stock.
3. Pray together for the Jirel people. 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:

1. Ask the children where they plan to keep the bookmark so as to use it for a reminder to pray for the Jirel people. (*perhaps 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 God's work around the world!
2. Be careful to point out the difference between what the children have written (which is English 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.
3. The Devnagri 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.

Here is the *Devnagri* alphabet. It looks a bit like spaghetti.

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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 कस य ज

Here are some English words written with Devnagri letters. Can you find out what they mean?

अ प प ल ए ओ र अ न ग ए ब अ न अ न अ

Devnagri letters are joined up together to make whole words. Each word looks like a clothes line with washing hanging on it. Here's a whole sentence. Can you work out what the message says?

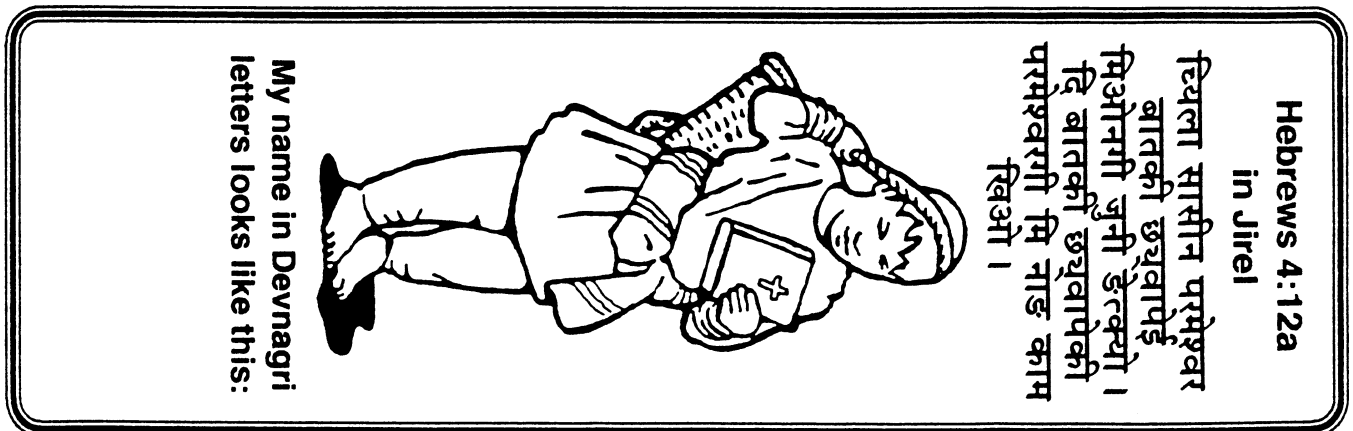
गओडश वओरड बरइनगश लइफए

Can you write your name in connected *Devnagri* letters?

Fact: The *Devnagri* script was first used to write the Hindu Scriptures. *Devnagri* means "the writing of the gods." Today this alphabet is used to write languages around North India.

Fact: The *Jirel* people of South Asia write their own language in the *Devnagri* script. Translators took 22 years to put the New Testament into the *Jirel* language. Now it has been published for the first time!

Here is a bookmark to color and keep:



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