



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

EXTEND
HOPE &
HOSPITALITY

Bible Study
for Children

2020-2021

JANÉE ANGEL

MINISTRY FOCUS:

Janée Angel, CBF Field Personnel in Antwerp, Belgium

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 13:2

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

1. Gather items for an obstacle course: chairs, blocks, jump ropes, bean bags, etc. Using copy paper and a marker, number your obstacles. Place a chair next to each obstacle with a number clearly visible on it.
2. Set up the obstacle course around your room. Block off some areas so that children have to run around and go back. Create activities in the obstacle course that students must do before they move on to the next obstacle. For example: jumping rope 10 times before moving to the next obstacle. Write directions for obstacles and place them in the chair as well, or ask a volunteer to give directions for each obstacle.
3. If doing the obstacle course as a virtual activity, send activity suggestions and directions to parents about setting up their mini-obstacle course.
4. If using the “Going on a Bear Hunt” virtual activity, locate the video and practice the motions. Be sure to make it silly!
5. Locate a backpack. If you like, fill it with things you would take if you had to leave your house quickly. Consider making a list of important items to share with the students.
6. For the Call to Action activity, locate a refugee ministry in your community or a homeless shelter. Ask for a list of items that would be useful for welcome/encouragement bags. Decide if you will purchase these items, or send a list to parents requesting that they choose something to bring in. If doing this virtually, send a list of items needed to the parents (if students are packing the bags) or ask for families to drop off donated items (if you are packing the bags). Gather construction paper and markers for cards of welcome/encouragement.
7. Obtain a video screen and cue the OGM video: Impact Belgium: Ornila.

GETTING STARTED/THEME INTRODUCTION:

In-person activity: As students arrive, encourage them to go through the obstacle course. If you wish, have students work together to create their own obstacle course once they have finished.

When they have each finished, **ask:**

- Was this obstacle course easy or hard?
- Which obstacle was the hardest?
- Which one was the most frustrating?



- Did you get mad when some of the areas were blocked and you had to go back?

Say: Our obstacle course was fun. In our lives, though, we sometimes find obstacles that keep us from moving forward. An obstacle is anything that stops us or keeps us from moving. When you play a video game, there are things you have to jump over, crash through, or move around so that you can keep going. It's the same in our lives. There are obstacles that force us to try a different way. There might be a wall that you have to ride your bike around, because if you try to crash through, you'll get hurt. There could be a rock that you have to climb on to get to the rest of that path. Whatever it is, sometimes there are obstacles that we have to deal with. Sometimes, though, there are obstacles that we can't see and touch. Maybe we don't understand something. That's an obstacle. Or, perhaps others refuse to help us. That's an obstacle. Sometimes hard things happen and we have to change our plans.

Ask:

- What obstacles have you faced in your own life?
- Did you have someone who helped you face those obstacles?
- How have you helped someone else facing an obstacle?

Virtual Activity Options: Going on a Bear Hunt

Going on a Bear Hunt Video for Preschoolers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_ShP3fiEhU

For elementary, use this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2-dk7TQoeg> (Or just use the motions from this video.)

Alternatively, ask parents to set up a mini-obstacle course at home for each student who is participating. For this obstacle course, send activity suggestions and directions for parents, such as:

1. Make your way to the kitchen by hopping on one foot
2. With your eyes closed, choose a snack from the pantry; you must eat what you chose!
3. Walk to the fridge backwards
4. Using boxes, bins and containers, create a course where students must go around, jump over, or crawl under.

*For virtual activities, adapt opening questions based on the mini-obstacle courses of the bear hunt. Be sure to discuss obstacles and find out what obstacles students have faced in their own lives.

BIBLICAL BASIS:

Say: Early Christians faced a lot of obstacles in their lives. Some of them were arrested because they believed in Jesus and shared Him with others. Some were even killed because they believed in Jesus. Early Christians traveled far and wide to tell others about Jesus. Paul was shipwrecked on his way to tell others about Jesus. They sometimes had to leave towns in a hurry. They didn't always know what they would eat for dinner that night or where they would sleep.

But they continued to share Jesus with others. And they hoped that their brothers and sisters in Christ would show them hospitality. They hoped they would show them that they cared by offering food and a safe place to sleep. They hoped they would be welcomed in.

In Hebrews, the writer reminds Christians to keep loving one another, and to show hospitality to strangers.

Read: Hebrews 13:2.

Ask: How do you think early Christians could show hospitality to strangers?
How can we show hospitality to strangers?

Say: The Bible reminds us that some who have shown hospitality to strangers have entertained angels without knowing it. That means that they have had messengers from God among them.

Tell a story from your own life about a time when it was possible that you entertained an angel without knowing it.

Say: Each and every person is created by God. We are all God's children. And God wants us to share God's love with others. One way we can do that is by showing hospitality. We show hospitality when we help someone else. That may mean that they are hungry and need something to eat. It may mean that they need a warm place to sleep. It may mean that they need clothes to wear. It may even mean that we help someone with an obstacle. God expects us to share God's love with others.

REFLECTION:

In Antwerp, Belgium, CBF Field Personnel Janée Angel and her husband Hary are showing hospitality to strangers who are refugees. Refugees are people who had to leave their homes because it wasn't safe. Many of these refugees are from Syria. Janée and Hary started a church in Antwerp, Belgium, for refugees who speak Arabic. They help refugees leave their

homes in Syria and travel to Belgium. They help them find food to eat and a safe place to live.

Imagine that you have to leave your house quickly and move to a new place. The only things you can take are the things that you can carry. You have to put everything you want to take into a backpack like this (show a backpack).

Ask:

1. What would you take? (Give children time to share what they would take. Prompt them as needed, reminding them to think about the things they really need—not just toys and video games.)
2. What would you hope was waiting for you when you arrived somewhere safe?
3. How would you want people to help you?

Watch *Impact Belgium: Ornila*.

There is a war happening in Syria and it is no longer a safe place to live. Children cannot go to school and it is hard to find enough food to eat. Ornila and her family wanted to leave Syria because it wasn't safe. But it took a long time before they could leave. There were obstacles they faced that made it hard for them to get to a safe place. They tried to get out through a different country, but that country said no. They had nowhere to go.

But Ornila called CBF Field Personnel Janée Angel, who is her aunt. And God made a way! Thanks to money from CBF and other Field Personnel in Lebanon, Ornila and her family were able to travel from Damascus to Beirut and then on to Belgium. Along the way, Ornila learned about Jesus and became a Christian. When she finally got to Belgium, she could go to church and worship God because of the Arabic church that Janée Angel and her husband, Hary, had planted.

They were safe! Janée and her husband, Hary, help other Syrian refugees get to Belgium as well. They help them get visas and raise money for them to be able to travel. They meet them at the airport and help them find a safe place to stay. They make sure they have enough food to eat. They work hard to meet their physical needs and their spiritual ones. They tell them about God and how much God loves them. They tell them how Jesus died for them. They help them see how God is working in their lives.

Many of these refugees are strangers. They come from a different place and speak a different language. But Janée and Hary welcome them. They show them God's love by sharing with them what they need. They show them

hospitality by welcoming them, feeding them and caring for them. They help them feel welcome in their new home.

CALL TO ACTION:

Help refugees/strangers in your community feel welcome.

Create Welcome Bags (This can also be a virtual activity.)

- If there is a refugee ministry in your community, call and ask for a list of items you could put in a welcome bag for a refugee family.
- If there is not a refugee ministry in your community, call a homeless shelter and ask for a list of items you could put into a gallon storage bag for individuals who are homeless. (This will most likely be items like socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, band-aids, etc.)
- If your budget allows, purchase items requested from the refugee ministry or homeless shelter. If not, encourage families to choose an item to bring in.
- Encourage children to create notes of welcome/encouragement for each of the bags. Divide up supplies so that children can help pack the bags.
- Ask a family to drop off the bags at the shelter or refugee ministry.
- If doing this activity virtually, send parents a list of items needed to pack one bag. (Or, have families drop off items at the church for you to pack the bags.) Set a specific date for a packing party. Remember that not all children will gather their items in time. When doing an online packing party, ask children who do not have items to pack to create cards of welcome/encouragement. Families can choose to bring their bags to the church, or keep them in their cars to give to homeless individuals if packing bags for the homeless.

Say: One way that we can show hospitality to strangers is by helping them know that they are welcome. We can also encourage them and remind them that they are not alone. Today, we are going to create welcome bags to help others feel welcome in our community.

Virtual activity option: Write notes of welcome and encouragement

- Encourage children to write a note of welcome to someone new in their neighborhood or at their school. Alternatively, encourage children to write a note of encouragement to someone who has faced an obstacle recently.
- Encourage children to be creative—to write, to draw, to write a poem, etc. on their note of welcome/encouragement.

