



OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

EXTEND  
HOPE &  
HOSPITALITY

Bible Study  
for Children

2020-2021

MIRA AND SASHA ZIVANOV

**MINISTRY FOCUS:**

CBF Field Personnel Sasha and Mira Zivanov

**SCRIPTURE:**

Hebrews 13:2

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

1. Decide if you will do a pretend feast or an actual one. Collect pretend food or crackers, grapes and cheese cubes. If teaching preschoolers, cut grapes in half or choose a different fruit. Put the food into baskets (if it is possible to pass food around), and put water into small cups. Collect plates and napkins for the feast.
2. For a virtual feast, contact parents and ask them to have a snack (or some of their child's favorite foods) ready.
3. Obtain a video screen and cue the OGM video Intro to St. Louis.
4. Locate a cell phone or video camera to record videos in the Call to Action. If doing this activity virtually, ask parents to record their child saying "welcome" and "God loves you" in those specific languages.
5. If there is a refugee community in your area, find out which language many of them speak.
6. If choosing to donate food to a local food pantry, contact the food pantry to obtain a list of food requested.

**GETTING STARTED/THEME INTRODUCTION:**

**Say:** In our last session, we talked about what it means to show hospitality.

**Ask:**

- Do you remember ways that you can show hospitality?
- What is one way we can show hospitality to our friends? To the people at school? To strangers?

**Say:** One way we can show hospitality is by sharing our food with others. Today we are having a feast!

Encourage students to sit around the table. Give each student a plate. For older students, pass around baskets of crackers, grapes and cheese cubes. Encourage students to take what they wish. Give each student a cup of water. For younger students, allow them to choose what they would like to eat, but put it on their plates for them.

Ask for a volunteer to say the blessing. As students are eating, say: We show others they are welcome when we share a meal with them. When we share a meal together, we sit around the table and talk and laugh. We learn more

about one another. We learn the things we have in common. And we enjoy each other's company. We become more like a family.

**Ask:** What is your favorite part about family meals?

**Say:** Family meals help us to feel closer to our family. They can also help others who are lonely. When refugees first arrive in a new country, they don't know many people. They feel lonely. When others welcome them in, when they invite them over for a meal or when others help them, they feel less alone. They discover that someone cares. And they can learn about God's love.

**Virtual Suggestion:** Host a virtual feast! Ask parents to prepare some of their child's favorite foods or treats. Encourage everyone to eat together. As you are eating, use the discussion from above.

**BIBLICAL BASIS:**

**Say:** In the book of Hebrews, the writer reminds us how important it is to show hospitality to others. He says that in offering hospitality to others—even strangers—we may be welcoming in God's messengers.

**Read:** Hebrews 13:2.

**Ask:** Have you ever seen an angel?

**Say:** An angel is God's messenger. We don't know much about them; but we know that angels are important. They have shared important words from God. In fact, angels were the ones who told the shepherds about Jesus! We may not see what we think an angel looks like. But we are all God's messengers. God shares His message with each and every one of us. If we are listening, we can hear God's voice. God tells us what He wants us to do. And sometimes God tells us to talk to others. We may feel God pushing us to be friends with someone or to share what we have with someone. God gives us a message. And the Bible reminds us to welcome others, to share God's love with them and to help them. And by doing so, you may just have a messenger from God at your table!

**Ask:**

- What are some ways that the Bible tells us to welcome others?
- What are some ways Jesus tells us to welcome others?

**Read:** Matthew 25:35-40.

**Say:** Jesus tells us to feed those who are hungry, to give something to drink to those who are thirsty, to give clothes to those who need it, and to visit

those who are sick. Jesus tells us to take care of others, to help them and to welcome in the stranger.

**REFLECTION:**

Sasha and Mira Zivanov are doing just that in St. Louis, Missouri. There they work with refugees who came to America from Bosnia. There was a war in Bosnia in the 1990s, and it wasn't a safe place to live. Many people had to leave their homes to try to find somewhere safe. Sasha and Mira had to leave Bosnia and they came to America. They help others in St. Louis who are refugees like they were.

Watch the video "Intro St. Louis."

Ask students how Sasha and Mira Zivanov are helping refugees in St. Louis.

**Say:** Many refugees have to leave school even before they have to leave their home country. Sasha and Mira work with refugees and help them learn English, find a safe place to live and a job so that they can support their families. Refugees come to America because they want a safe place for their families and so their families can have things they didn't have. They bring their children here so that they can go to school and have a normal life. Sasha and Mira help them create this life. In the video, Sasha said that some people were nice to him when he came to America, but some just ignored him. Mira and Sasha welcome refugees so that they know they have found a safe place to live, and that they have found a family.

**Ask:**

- Is there someone who is new to your school? To your neighborhood? To our church?
- How can you welcome them?

**CALL TO ACTION:**

Encourage children to choose one of these activities:

1. Record a video in which they say "Welcome!" and "God loves you!" in Croatian to send to Sasha and Mira Zivanov.

"Welcome" – "dobrodošli" (Pronunciation: doe bro dosh lee)

<https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/the/croatian-word-for-c0b137fe2d792459f26ff763cce44574a5b5ab03.html>

"God Loves You" - "Bog te voli" (pronunciation: Bog teh volley):

<https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/the/croatian-word-for-202a37cf03ffc206792f67869bbc704636e96478.html>



2. Record a video in which they say “Welcome!” and “God loves you!” in a language that a refugee community in your area speaks.
3. Collect food for a local food pantry to distribute.

