



Equipping...

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■ CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Dianne and Shane McNary
Slovakia



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THROUGH HELPING SLOVAKIA

Dianne and Shane McNary, Slovakia

OGM SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 13:20-21

OGM Abbreviated Verse:

“May the God of peace...equip you with every good thing to do his will...”

■ ■ ■ INTRODUCTION

In this session, children will meet Denisa, Ingrid and Marek, three people who are working to help Roma refugees in Slovakia. They will learn how Dianne and Shane McNary helped equip them to be helpful to Roma refugees, and how they are continuing this ministry after the McNarys have begun work in the United States. Children will see that we can equip people through helping them, and sometimes all we need is a bit of help to answer God’s call.

■ ■ ■ BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Gather a variety of musical instruments for the opening activity. Place them where children will be able to choose an instrument to play.
2. Watch Denisa’s, Ingrid’s and Marek’s story from the OGM Resources. Locate a computer or TV to play the videos for your class and be prepared to show them.
3. Purchase filled donuts for a snack. Have on hand plates, napkins, cups and water for the children to drink. Be sure and let parents know what snack you will be serving in case of food allergies.
4. Print a copy of the signs located at the end of the lesson. Cut them out and tape them around your room.
5. Print copies of the Create a Bible Story worksheet, one for each child. Gather pens/pencils as well as crayons, colored pencils or thin markers.
6. Gather pictures and be prepared to show them (either on a tablet or in print).

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■ ■ ■ WELCOME

Greet children as they arrive. **Ask:** Who are some of the people who help you? **Say:** We all have people who help us. Some people, like your parents, help you by making sure you have what you need. Some people, like your teachers, help you learn the things you need to know. Some people, like your friends, help you when you may not understand something, or you may be sad about something. We all have people who help us. Today we are going to be learning about how Dianne and Shane McNary have helped people in Slovakia so that those people can help refugees who need a safe place.

■ ■ ■ OPENING ACTIVITY

Play Musical Instruments (5–10 min)

Items needed: a variety of musical instruments (like tambourines, xylophones, maracas, etc.)

Say: We can learn a lot about God through the songs that we sing. (Talk about the songs that you sing at your church.) One way that we can experience joy is through music. In Slovakia, Denisa, a teacher, shows refugee children how to play musical instruments, like the ukulele. Most of these children don't have much. And it makes them very happy to learn how to play the ukulele! By teaching them how to play, Denisa shows them that someone cares about them. She helps them experience joy.

Say: We can experience joy through music too! Pick a musical instrument to play and let's see what kind of joyful noise we can make to the Lord.

- If the children with whom you work are young, let them play the musical instruments as they wish. If they are older, you may wish to play a song in the background to which they can play along.

Say: God has equipped some of us with lots of musical talents. Some of us are great singers, some are great at playing an instrument and some are great at dancing to music. Today, we are going to learn more about a few people that God has equipped to help others in Slovakia.

■ ■ ■ STORY (15 min)

Items needed: Denisa's Story, Marek's Story and Ingrid's Story videos from the OGM Resources; a computer or TV to play them

Read Hebrews 13:20–21 from the *Common English Bible*: “May the God of peace...equip you with every good thing to do his will, by developing in us what pleases him through Jesus Christ. To God be the glory forever and always. Amen.”

Ask: What do you think it means for God to equip you with every good thing to do God's will?



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Say: Those are all great answers! These verses show us that God will give us what we need so that we can do what God wants us to do. God will help us have what we need. In Slovakia, God is continuing to make sure that the people, especially the refugees, have what they need.

■ Show Marek's story from the OGM Resources.

Ask: What surprised you about Marek's story? Shane McNary, who was a CBF field personnel in Slovakia, suggested that there was someone who could help Marek and his church. He told them about Eddie Aldape.

Ask: Did Eddie speak the language? **Say:** Nope! Eddie doesn't speak any Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian or Roma; but Eddie still found ways to help them. Eddie rented a van and picked up people at the border. He also collected and distributed food and donations so that people could have what they needed. Because Shane connected Eddie to Marek, they were able to help the people. God had equipped Eddie to help the refugees. And Marek was equipped with the language and a place to keep the refugees safe.

■ Show Denisa's story from the OGM Resources.

Say: Dianne McNary, who, with her husband, Shane, was a CBF field personnel in Slovakia, helped equip Denisa through a discussion club. In this club, which Denisa was able to join online, the group spoke in English and just chatted about their lives. Dianne would tell them about God's love if they asked about God, but it wasn't a religious meeting. It was simply helping others practice their English. But through this group, Dianne helped equip Denisa to help the Romany people. Now Denisa teaches English and even some music to Roma children. She helps them learn what they need so that they can be equipped to care for their families one day.

■ Show Ingrid's story from the OGM Resources.

Say: The McNarys have helped Ingrid be able to provide for her family. **Ask:** Do you remember how they helped her? **Say:** Ingrid didn't have the money she needed to be able to go to university. So CBF field personnel were able to provide a scholarship to help her. Now, her family's life has been changed. Ingrid has a job where she can provide for her family. And it's not just her life that has been changed. Because CBF teams helped Ingrid with a scholarship, she became equipped to do some amazing things. She even helped edit a children's Bible storybook for the Roma people. This way, Roma children will have a Bible in their own language! Now they can learn about God's love for them.

Say: Each of these people is equipped to do different things for God. But in every situation, they have found ways to use what God has given them to be able to help others. And in their own way, they are each helping to equip others to do what God wants them to do as well.

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Pray for the people in Slovakia, especially the refugees. Ask God to help them find safe places to stay and for them to have what they need. Ask God to help Marek and his church as they help refugees be safe. Ask God to help Denisa as she teaches the Roma children. Ask God to help Ingrid as she works on books to teach the Roma people.

■ ■ ■ RESPONSE ACTIVITY

Items needed: Copies of the signs located at the end of this lesson; scissors; tape

1. Before the session, print out the signs located at the end of this lesson. Cut them out and tape them around your room.
2. **Say:** Many Roma people come from other parts of Europe to try to find a safe place to live. They are refugees. They had to leave their homes because it wasn't safe. But there are many people who do not like the Roma or are afraid of them. In our story, you heard from a man named Marek and a woman named Ingrid.
3. **Ask:** Do you remember what they said about how the Roma people are treated?
4. **Say:** Ingrid said that someone's mother tried to uninvite her to their house because she was afraid that Ingrid would steal something—all because she is Roma. Marek said that the Slovakian government refused to help the Roma refugees.
5. **Ask:** What did Marek decide to do? **Say:** Marek and his church looked for ways to help the refugees! When the refugees came to his town, they may not have spoken the language there. They may not have been sure where they were supposed to go. They needed people to help them find a safe place and find what they needed.
6. **Say:** There are signs up around the room. These are signs for a church, a hospital, a train station, a hotel and a grocery store. I'm going to call out one of these places and I want you to go stand in front of the sign that you think is the Slovakian word for that place.
7. Call out each word in English and give the children time to decide which word they think it is. Then, let the children know if they are correct or not. Once you have gone through each word in English, encourage the children to sit in a circle. Share with the children what each Slovakian word means.

Kostol (cost-all): Church

Nemocnica (knee-moch neeta):
Hospital

Potraving (poe tra veen):
Grocery Store

Vlaková Stanica

(vla-co-va stan-ita): Train Station

Hotel: Hotel

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8. **Ask:** Was it easy or hard to find what you were looking for? **Say:** Some words, like hotel, may be the same in a different language. That one was easy to find. But it can be really hard to find what you need when you don't speak the language somewhere. That's where people like Marek, Denisa and Ingrid can help. They can help others find what they need. One way that they equip others is through helping them. Marek helps refugees have a safe place to stay and have the supplies they need. Denisa teaches Roma children English, music and more. Ingrid helps by working on books in the Roma language, like the children's Bible storybook that she helped edit.
9. **Say:** The McNarys equipped Marek to help the refugees by helping him have the resources he needed. They connected him to Eddie Aldape, who helped Marek get supplies to refugees and has found ways to help refugees cross the border. The McNarys helped Denisa learn English so that she could be equipped to teach others. The McNarys also helped Ingrid by giving her a scholarship so that she could finish school. Going to school equipped her with what she needed to get a job and provide for her family. It changed her life. And now she works to help others learn through books.
10. The McNarys are back in the United States now, but their work in Slovakia continues. God equips us to have what we need to do what God wants us to do. God used the McNarys in Slovakia to equip people like Marek, Denisa and Ingrid to continue to help the people there, even long after the McNarys are gone. It's amazing to see how God works to give us what we need!

■ ■ ■ ACTIVITY: Create a Bible Story (10–15 min)

Items needed: Create a Bible Story Worksheet; pens or pencils; colored pencils/crayons/thin markers

1. Before the session, make copies of the Create a Bible Story worksheet located at the end of the lesson. Make enough for each child in your class to have one.
2. **Say:** As we learned earlier, Ingrid helped put together a children's Bible storybook for Roma children. This Bible storybook is in their own language and helps them learn more about God. Because Ingrid was given what she needed so that she could be equipped to do what she loves, she was able to use what she loves to help Roma children learn about God.
3. **Say:** We are going to think about the Bible verses that we read earlier and use them to create a Bible story illustration of our own.

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4. **Read** Hebrews 13:20-21. From the *Common English Bible* it says, “May the God of peace...equip you with every good thing to do his will, by developing in us what pleases him through Jesus Christ. To God be the glory forever and always. Amen.”
5. Give each child a Create a Bible Story Worksheet. **Say:** There are four boxes for you to use to draw your story. If you would like, you can draw how you think God looks in the first box; God giving you good things in the second box; how you think Jesus looks in the third box; and someone praising God in the fourth box. Or, you can think about the talents and things that God has given you and draw a story about that in these boxes. Be creative!
6. Give children time to create their stories. When they are finished, ask for volunteers to share their stories. Praise each child for the story he or she created.
7. **Say:** Just like God has equipped Marek, Denisa and Ingrid to help others, God has equipped us to share God’s love and help others too!
8. **Say** a prayer, asking God to help each of us see the ways in which God has equipped us and ask for help in sharing God’s love with others.

■ ■ ■ SNACK: Šišky (10 min)

Items needed: filled donuts; plates; napkins; cups; water

1. Before the session, buy donuts filled with either cream or jam. When children arrive, alert parents to what your snack will be in case of allergies.
2. **Say:** A popular treat in Slovakia is called Šišky [Sh ish key]. That’s the word for donut in Slovak. But these aren’t just any donuts—these donuts are filled or topped with jam or custard. **Ask:** Have you ever had a filled donut?
3. **Say:** These donuts are most often enjoyed during the time of the Carnival, which is a festive period that comes before Lent. Lent is the 40 days before Easter when many Christians give up things like sweets as they think about Jesus’ sacrifice for us. The Šišky [Sh ish key] is a treat that people like Dianne and Shane McNary, CBF field personnel who have served in Slovakia, would have enjoyed.
4. **Say:** Today, we have our own version of Šišky [Sh ish key]. Our donuts are filled with (tell children what’s in the donuts).
5. Give each child a plate, napkin, donut and cup of water. Say a prayer of thanks for your snack.
6. As children are eating, **ask:** What are some popular things that we like to eat in our town? If someone new came to our town, what foods would you tell them they needed to try?



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■ ■ ■ CLOSING ACTIVITY (5 min)

Items needed: Pictures from the OGM Resources (See the end of the lesson for captions.)

1. Show children the picture of the Slovakian town. **Ask:** What do you notice in this picture? Does anything look similar to where you live? **Say:** This is a town in Slovakia. This may be a place where refugees would come. When you go to a new town, you aren't sure where things are located. You need help to find your way. **Ask:** What are some ways we can help people new to our town?
2. Show children the pictures of Denisa, Ingrid and Pastor Marek. **Ask:** How have Denisa, Ingrid and Pastor Marek helped Roma refugees? **Say:** Denisa has helped by teaching the children English and how to play musical instruments. Ingrid has helped by making a Bible storybook for the children in their own language. And Pastor Marek has helped make sure the refugees are safe and have what they need.
3. Show the picture of Dianne and Shane McNary. **Say:** Dianne and Shane McNary helped Denise, Ingrid and Pastor Marek have what they needed to be able to help the Roma refugees. Your teachers teach you what you need to know so that you are equipped to live in our world. Your parents teach you what you need to know. There are lots of people who help make sure you have what you need to live in our world. The McNarys have helped Denisa, Ingrid and Pastor Marek be equipped too. Through their work in Slovakia, the McNarys made sure that God's love would continue to be shared with others even after they left.
4. **Pray** for Denisa, Ingrid and Pastor Marek as they continue to help Roma refugees. Pray that the refugees will have a safe place to live. Pray for the McNarys as they begin new work in the United States.
5. As parents arrive, thank children for participating in the session. Encourage children to pray for the Roma people.

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RESOURCES

Snack: Šišky, Slovakian donuts; www.tasteatlas.com/sisky

Krapfen was probably the first European-style doughnut to appear, followed by similar varieties in other countries. These pastries are traditionally prepared with leavened dough that is deep-fried until golden and crispy on the outside, while they remain soft, light and airy on the inside.

Though krapfen can be prepared plain, they are most often filled or topped with jams and vanilla or chocolate custards, while the top is usually dusted with powdered sugar or drizzled with chocolate. The origin of the word *krapfen* dates back to 9th century, and the recipes in German can be found as early as the 14th century.

The sweet versions of the pastry became predominant, and have remained closely associated with the Carnival, a festive period which precedes Christian Lent. Interestingly, during the Carnival, one krapfen in a batch filled with jam and fruit preserves might contain a filling of mustard as a prank.

It is believed that doughnuts spread throughout many central European countries, which adopted the technique but used different regional names. Consequently, krapfen in Germany goes under *Berliner*, *pfannkuchen*, *faschingskrapfen*, *krebbel*, or *kreppel*.

In Poland, they are known as *paćzki* or *krepel*, Hungarians refer to them as *fánk*, Slovak as *šišky*, while the Czechs use the term *koblihy*. In Slovenia, they are better known as *krofi*, while the standard name throughout Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia is *krofne* or *krafne*.

Closing Activity Pictures

■ DJI_0035.jpg

A Slovakian town with mountains in the distance

■ DSC01453.jpg

Denisa and Dianne McNary having a conversation as Dianne helps Denisa practice her English.

■ DSC02382+.jpg

Dianne and Shane McNary, CBF field personnel who helped people like Marek, Denisa and Ingrid find ways to help Roma refugees in Slovakia.

■ DSC02455.jpg

Ingrid reading. Ingrid works on books for the Roma so that they can learn.

■ SF03511.jpg

Pastor Marek with his family. Pastor Marek and his church have housed refugees and helped them find what they needed. Through his work with Roma refugees, these refugees have a safe place to call home.



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SIGNS

Print and cut out the signs. Use tape to place them around the room.



Kostol

Nemocnica

Potraviny

Vlaková Stanica

Hotel

CREATE A BIBLE STORY


