Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Ukrainian dessert: Items needed: Doughnut holes, plates, napkins and water. Give each child several doughnut holes. As children are enjoying their snack, tell them that in Ukraine, these would be known as pampushky. They are often tossed with sugar. Traditionally, they are filled with rose preserves, but can also have a poppy seed filling or other sweet fillings. Use this link https://kids.kiddle.co/Ukrainiancuisine to talk about other types of Ukrainian cuisine.

Create thankful jars: Items needed: Mason jars or other widemouth jars, craft supplies (scrapbook paper and glue, Washi tape, stickers or paint pens), scraps of paper to write on, pens/pencils. Encourage each child to create a thankful jar. Once they have finished decorating their jar, ask them to think about things that they are thankful for. Encourage them to write a few down on scraps of paper and put them in their thankful jars. Challenge children to write down one thing a week that they are thankful for and place it in the jar. Talk about how Mina, Gennady, Hailey and Tima shared stories of thanksgiving and how God had helped them.

Discover Hailey's journey: Items needed: Map of Europe; passport (Student Handout), masking tape, stickers or stamps with stamp pad, pictures of Germany (https://tinyurl.com/4hnyzbtf), Poland (https://tinyurl.com/mr2auw65), Romania (https://tinyurl.com/mttca3mm) and Ukraine (Kyiv: https://stock.adobe.com/search?k=%22kiev+ukraine%22). Use a hallway and various classrooms to create "Europe." Have one classroom be Ukraine, with Romania on one side in another classroom and Poland on the other side. Germany will be on the other side of Poland. Print pictures from each of these countries and tape them to the walls in each classroom. Create a checkpoint in the doorway using a masking tape line and a volunteer. Give each child their passport from their student handout. Show the map of Europe and talk about how Hailey went to Romania first to give birth to her daughter. They then went back to Kyiv to be with her husband, Tima. Then, the whole family traveled to Germany. Encourage children to find a route from Ukraine to Germany. After they have, take them through the various classrooms, showing their passports at each "checkpoint," getting them stamped (or stickered), and looking at the pictures of each country. Talk about how they might have traveled (by car, by bus, or by plane).

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Gennady and Mina Podgaisky are CBF field personnel in Krakow, Poland. Before they moved to Poland, they were CBF field personnel in Ukraine. Through a reunion with some Ukrainian friends, they remembered God's faithfulness even in difficult times. This session focuses on the theme of eyes to see.

Bible Verse

Ephesians 1:18

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and you will understand the hope given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all God's people.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Where have you seen God at work in your life?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Seeing God's Faithfulness."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Seeing God's Faithfulness

"Mina and Gennady, welcome! It is so good to see you," Hailey said, as she opened the door wide. "And welcome to Germany!"

"Thank you, Hailey," said Mina. "It is good to see you as well! Tell us all about the last year,"

"A lot has happened since we last saw you in Kyiv," Hailey said. "Tima's legs have healed thank goodness. Those burns were bad, but they could have been much worse. And God gave us an unexpected blessing. Because of his burns, Tima was allowed to leave Ukraine. We are so grateful that Germany welcomed us in. And God has blessed us again because I am expecting twins! What a wonderful blessing. There has been so much pain and fear. It was so hard when I was in Romania alone, wondering if I would ever see Tima again. But God kept me and our little girl safe, and we were able to come back home. It was terrible living in a war zone. There was so much fear and uncertainty and many, many tears. But God has been faithful to us, and we are all together and safe. I don't know if we will ever be able to go home again. But God has given us a new home. And we are grateful," Hailey said.

"We have so much to be thankful for," said Mina. "I am especially grateful for a God who is always faithful."

"Amen" said Hailey, Tima and Gennady.

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How has God helped Hailey and Tima?
- **Ask**: How do you think God used other people to help Hailey and Tima? (If children need help with this question, encourage them to think about people in Romania, Ukraine and Germany who may have helped Hailey and Tima, as well as Mina and Gennady.)
- **Ask**: How has God helped you when things are hard?
- **Say**: When someone says that God is faithful, it means that God never leaves us. God promises to be there with us, and God keeps God's promises. When everything is good, God is there. And when things are hard, God is there as well. Hailey and Tima went through a difficult time in their lives during the war in Ukraine. But God was with them and God helped them. God helps us too. You can trust that God will always be there for you.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Thank you for helping us even when things are hard. Please help Mina and Gennady continue to share your love with others. Amen.

Gennady and Mina Podgaisky

Gennady and Mina Podgaisky are CBF field personnel in Krakow, Poland.

STUDENT HANDOUT
JULY 12, 2026

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Bible Verse

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Create a passport

Draw a picture of yourself in the circle.

_____
Name

_____
Birthday

_____
Country where you live

_____
State you live in

Stamps from Countries Visited

Ukraine	**Poland**
Romania	**Germany**