

# Introduction

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

The work in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a Pioneering Church Planting effort, initiated by one American and one Croatian couple from the Croatian field in 2002. Using computer classes and educational development through World Hope International (WHI), the team gained favor in the community and began engaging individuals in personal evangelism and discipleship.

The mission has been to *sow truth generously, nurture hope and justice, and cultivate communities of faith*. The strategy is through immersion, discipleship, and apprenticeship. In the context of shared life and Bible study fellowships, people are trained to be disciples who make disciples and so on. Strategic contacts have been made through neighbors and friendships developed through WHI. Some of these have become “persons of peace” who read Scripture with missionaries and help to initiate “Gatherings”, or discipleship-focused cell churches in their spheres of influence.

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Currently two Gatherings are meeting and being nurtured to grow, while four more are being prepped through investment in various persons of peace. Gatherings meet together formally at least twice a month for fellowship, discipleship, and worship, with lots of shared life and interaction between meetings.

Members of the Gatherings are reaching out to their neighbors and coworkers. Ena\* recently started a weekly spiritual discussion group at work, completely on her own initiative!

\* Name changed to ensure privacy



## Cuisine

Bosanski Lonac—pot of meat and vegetables  
 Sarma—stuffed cabbage rolls  
 Baklava—pastry  
 Cevaps—beef links and onions wrapped in a lepinje (pita bread)  
 Tufahija—apples filled with walnuts



It is customary for visitors to remove their shoes when entering a house; the host family will provide a pair of slippers

## Traditional Dress



The name Bosnia comes from the Bosna River which runs through it. Herzegovina comes from the herceg (duke) who ruled the southern portion before the Turkish conquest.



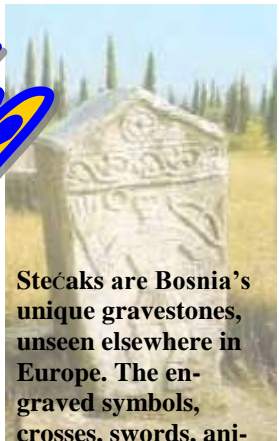
# Bosnia and Herzegovina

Religions:  
 Orthodox  
 Catholic  
 Islam



Traditional Dress

Stećaks are Bosnia's unique gravestones, unseen elsewhere in Europe. The engraved symbols, crosses, swords, animals or humans, revealed what the medieval Bosnians worshipped at the time.



Currency  
 Marka:  
 1 marka = \$.67 US



## Facts

- During the New Testament era this region was part of Illyricum which the Romans combined with Dalmatia.
- Bosnia was an independent Christian nation from 1200 to 1460.
- The Ottoman Empire conquered the region in 1463 and controlled the region until 1878.
- World War 1 began when a Serbian assassinated the archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914.
- Bosnia was part of Yugoslavia from 1929 until 1992 when they declared independence. This was followed by a tragic war that ended in 1995.



National Flower  
 Golden Lily



Language - Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

# Children's Story

## A Bible class

Several months ago, Ariela ran in the house, yelling, "Mom, Dad, I just started a Bible study!" She and her friends, Ana and Korina, had been playing outside. It was a sunny Saturday and the 8 and 9 year old girls weren't sure how to spend it. They walked around the neighborhood for a bit, trying to think of things to do. After a while they decided to take a break and sprawl out on the grass. As they looked up at the clouds, Ariela asked them if they ever thought about the God who made the sky above. The conversation shifted just like that. Although the girls had heard of God before, they had rarely heard anyone, especially someone their age, talk about Jesus as if they could really know Him. Even in a very religious place like Bosnia, people rarely ever talk about Jesus as a real part of their lives. Yet Ariela has been very open with her friends, telling them why she doesn't do certain things like cuss or take the Lord's name in vain. She tells her friends that she will pray for them when they are sad or hurt, even though they give her a funny look.

On that particular Saturday, as Ariela once again brought up God, Ana and Korina suddenly became very interested. The three girls decided that they couldn't think of anything better to do with their time than to read the Bible and talk about God. Ariela ran home to get her Bible. The three of them took turns reading and spent the next couple of hours discussing what it meant.

Ana and Korina took a big step that day toward living for Jesus. Ariela was excited because she knew that a good way to help people to know Jesus better is to get them into God's Word. It will speak for itself and can grab ahold of hearts in a powerful way. Ariela keeps praying for her friends. She hopes that as Ana and Korina have opportunities to read God's Word and watch the way Jesus is a real part of her life, they will want to live for Him too.

# Memory Activity

Psalms 71:17

O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I have constantly told others about the wonderful things you do.

memory dice -

make several dice and write the memory verse on them. See how long it takes to toss the dice to find get all of the words. You can have a competition to see who can get all of the sides and then put them in the correct order. This can be done as individuals or in groups.

Go to resource section to find pattern for making the dice out of paper. Another option would be to use two blocks of wood.

# Bible Lesson

Psalm 71:17

## Objectives

1. The children will gain a greater sense of the need and ability they have to share about God with the people they know.
2. They children will have more confidence in sharing as they've thought about what and how they can share.

## Key Learning Points:

1. What we learn about God is meant to be shared with others.
2. We should always be telling others about the wonderful things God is doing.

Supplies: Paper, pens, 3x5 cards.

Memory Verse: "O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I have constantly told others about the wonderful things you do." Psalm 71:17

## Lesson Plan for Teacher

- Introduce the subject.  
Either reading the children's story from Bosnia, or telling your own story of how you or someone else told someone about God.  
Today we are going to talk about telling others what we know of God.
- Define:  
Let's read Psalm 71:17 and see what David says about this in the Bible.  
Have a child read the verse.  
Then ask, "When did David start learning about God?"
- Response to elicit: When he was a child.  
What did David do with what he learned of God?  
Response to elicit: He told others.  
How often did he tell others?  
Response to elicit: Constantly.  
What did he tell others?  
Response to elicit: The wonderful things God does.
- Establish Importance:  
Why is it important for us to tell others about God and the wonderful things He does?  
Responses to elicit/affirm: -It's a way for us to show God how much we love Him.  
It helps others to begin to love and trust God.

# Bible Lesson

- Expand their current situation: Ask the following questions of the whole group.  
How often to you talk to other people about God right now?  
What are some of the reasons why we don't tell people what we've learned about God?  
How do you feel when you talk to your friends about God?  
Possible responses: -Not very often. It's embarrassing. I'm afraid of what my friends will say or that they will laugh at me.
- Move them to what could be:  
What should we be doing with what God has taught us and done in our lives?"  
Responses to elicit/affirm: -We should be telling people about God.  
-We should tell the stories of what He's done for us.  
-We should help others believe in Him.
- Move to Solutions:  
In what ways can we tell people we know about God?  
Divide the children into smaller groups and have them list as many ideas as possible on a piece of paper you've given each group. Now ask each group to choose (put a star by) their top 2-3 answers. Ask each group to appoint someone who will report for each group.
- Report and Amplify: Have each group list their top 2-3 answers. Be sure and draw attention to key answers that everyone should notice.
- Summarize:  
Let's review what we've learned today. We've learned that it's important to tell people about Jesus because... (List the key points they came up with.)"  
AND We've come up with some good ideas for how we can tell people we know about Him. (List the top ideas they chose.)
- Reflect.  
Give each child a small card,  
Take a minute and on one side of your card write down one wonderful thing God has done in your life.  
Now, flip your card over and on that side write the name or names of 1 or more people you could tell about God and the wonderful things He does."
- Make applications:  
Challenge them to pray for who they named and look for an opportunity to share with them something wonderful God has done.

## Elastics

Equipment: ½-1 in wide piece of elastic, 3 yards in length. You can find elastic in the sewing section of a department store. Three or more people to play, but you can also play alone by stretching the elastic around two chairs.

How to play:

Tie the two ends of the elastic together to make a loop. Two children (chairs can also be used) stand inside the loop as they stretch the elastics until it is taut, starting around their ankles first.

The third person makes up a routine and jumps in and out of the elastics and from side to side. For several players: All the other players have a chance to follow the same routine before the level of **the elastics is raised. Anyone who can't duplicate the routine is out** of the game.

**After you've finished your routine at the lowest height, raise the elastics up and keep going until you can't jump any higher. Try these** different levels: ankles, knees, thighs, and waist.

Elastics is more fun if you have a rhyming song or chant to jump to.

You can make up your own, changing the moves with every syllable of the song.

The moves: You can switch the order of these moves and add more as you like.

On ONE jump with your left foot on the outside of the elastic and your right foot on the inside.

On TWO jump with your right foot outside and your left foot inside the elastic loop.

On THREE jump up and land with both feet inside the loop.

On FOUR jump up and land with both feet outside the loop.

On FIVE jump up and land with both feet on the elastic.

On SI X jump and spin 180 degrees and land with both feet outside the elastic

Songs: You can make up your own songs and rhymes, but here are a few in English to try.

**"Chocolate cake, when you bake,  
How many minutes will you take?  
One, Two, Three, Four"**

**"England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales,  
Inside, Outside, Monkey's tails!  
Jingle, Jangle, Center, Spangle,  
Jingle, Jangle, Out!"**

**"Charlie Chaplin sat on a pin.  
How many inches did it go in?  
One, Two, Three, Four"**

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# Prayer Time

- Pray for the missionary kids (Ariela, Luka, Kayla, Abri, and Xavier) living in Bosnia as they go to school and make friends. Pray that they will stand for Jesus and be a witness to their friends.
- Pray for more parents to want to read the Bible with Christians in Bosnia and that they would start reading the Bible as a family.
- Pray for families who are not a part of the church to want to gather weekly to read God's Word and encourage each other to do what it says.
- Pray for kids like Ana, Korina, Andrea, Dominik, Angela, Lara, Sara, Laris, Sani, Filip and others to know how much Jesus loves them and choose to love Him too.

# Activity

## C t i v i t y

Make a memory verse book.

This booklet will include all of the memory verses from all of the lessons.

Print out the pages in the resource section.

Cut the pages and punch the holes marked in each page.

Color the front page.

Tie the pages together with a string, piece of yarn or you can use brads.

Remember to use it each day to review the memory verse you just learn and to help learn other verses.