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■ CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Lita and Rick Sample
San Francisco Bay Area



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THROUGH LANGUAGE

Lita and Rick Sample,
San Francisco Bay Area

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 Lita and Rick Sample, CBF field personnel in the San Francisco Bay Area. They will learn how the Samples work with Karen refugees who have come to the United States from Myanmar. Children will see how the Samples can help these refugees, even though they don't speak the same language. Children will discover how God has sent other refugees who speak both Burmese (the language of the Karen people) and English so that the Samples are equipped to effectively help the refugees.

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Gather index cards and write these phrases on them, one per card:

Hello	¿necesitas ayuda con algo?
Welcome!	Hola
Do you need help?	Bienvenido
Bonjour	Willkommen
Bienvenue	Hallo
Avez-vous besoin d'aide pour quelque chose?	Brauchst du Hilfe bei etwas?

2. Watch Kyaw Soe's Story and Zar's Story from the OGM Resources. Locate a computer or TV to play the videos for your class and be prepared to show them.

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3. Print copies of the Coded Message Worksheet, one per child, and gather pencils for them to use. Familiarize yourself with the code so that you can help children as needed.
4. Print Bible Scavenger Hunt cards, located at the end of the lesson, on cardstock. Cut out the cards and hide them around the room.
5. Gather supplies for pancakes (or buy frozen ones). Heat up pancakes or mix ingredients together and heat the griddle. Locate syrup, plates, forks, napkins, cups and water for the children to drink.
6. Gather pictures from the OGM Resources. Print pictures or be prepared to show them on a digital device.

WELCOME

Greet children as they arrive. **Ask:** Do you know anyone who speaks a different language? Do you know any words in a different language? **Say:** When we go to a different country, we don't always understand the language. Sometimes we choose to go to a different country. But sometimes people go to a different country to find safety. Refugees are people who had to leave their homes because their country wasn't safe. They may have had to travel to the country next to theirs to be safe, or they may need to travel around the world. Most refugees can't bring very much with them. They need to find a lot of things when they arrive in a new country. But many cannot speak the language of their new country.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Do You Speak My Language? (5 min)

Items needed: index cards; pen or marker

1. Give each child an index card with the phrases on them. **Say:** I've written some basic phrases on these index cards. Yours either says "hello," "welcome," or "do you need help." It may say it in English, French, Spanish or German. When I say go, you are going to walk around and read your card to each person you see. If the person understands you, great! You can respond. If they don't, you have to keep trying until you find someone who understands you. It's okay if you don't know how to say what's on your card. Just do the best you can to sound it out. Ready? Go!
2. Give children a chance to speak to everyone in the room. Once everyone has had a chance, **ask:** Was it easy or hard to find someone who understood you?

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3. **Say:** If you were lucky enough to get a card in English, it was easy to find someone who understood you. But if you got a different language, it's possible that nobody in the room understood what you were saying. Raise your hand if nobody understood what you said.
4. **Ask:** Was it hard to communicate since nobody understood what you were saying? **Say:** This was just a game; but for some people, especially refugees, they may go to another country and not understand the language. It can be very difficult for them to get what they need. Today, we are going to learn how Rick and Lita Sample, CBF field personnel, help a group of refugees even though they don't speak the same language.

STORY (10–15 min)

Items needed: Kyaw Soe's Story and Zar's Story videos from the OGM Resources; a computer or TV to play them; pictures

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."

Say: Sometimes God asks us to do things that we aren't sure we can do. It can seem like we don't have what we need in order to be able to do what God wants us to do. But this verse reminds us that God always equips us with what we need to do God's will. God called Rick and Lita Sample, CBF field personnel, to help refugees in the San Francisco Bay Area. Many of these refugees are from the Karen people group. They came from Myanmar, a country in Southeast Asia. Most of these refugees don't speak English. And the Samples don't speak their language. But God sent someone who does!

Watch Kyaw Soe's Story from the OGM Resources.

Ask: What surprised you about Kyaw Soe's story? **Say:** Even when Kyaw Soe was in the refugee camp in Myanmar, he was still finding ways to serve God. He actually went to seminary to learn how to be a pastor while he was in the refugee camp! He loves preaching, and knows that he is doing the work that God has called him to do. Through him, the Samples are able to minister to the Karen people and make sure they have what they need.

Watch Zar's story from the OGM Resources.

Ask: What surprised you about Zar's story? **Say:** Zar lived in a refugee camp for 12 years. That is longer than most of you have been alive! All they could do while in the refugee camp was work and go to school. The United Nations helped her come to America. And now she teaches children's Sunday school! Zar helps the Samples know what her people need. She tells them about new refugees who come to America and lets them know who needs food or other help. Rick and Lita Sample work with people like Kyaw Soe and Zar to show the Karen people how very much God loves them.

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Pray for Rick and Lita Sample and the Karen refugees with whom they work. Ask God to help the Samples find ways to share God's love with the Karen people. Pray for safety for the Karen people and that more of them would be able to leave refugee camps and move to safe places.

■ ■ ■ RESPONSE ACTIVITY

Do You Speak My Language? (10 min)

Items needed: Coded Message Worksheet; pencils

1. Before the session, make one copy per person of the Coded Message worksheet located at the end of the lesson. Option: for younger children, play hangman together using the verse. ("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" Hebrews 13:20.)
2. **Say:** Rick and Lita Sample are CBF field personnel in the San Francisco Bay Area. They work with the Karen people. The people with whom they work are refugees who fled their homes to find a safe place to live. Many of them don't speak English, and the Samples don't speak Burmese. But the Samples felt God's call to work with the Karen people in San Francisco. They prayed and waited for a way to help. And God equipped them!
3. **Ask:** Whom did God send that we heard from in our story? **Say:** God sent a pastor from Myanmar named Kyaw Soe. He speaks Burmese and English. He helps the congregation worship in their own language. He can also find out from them what they need and share those needs with the Samples. He serves as an interpreter for the Samples, helping them understand what the needs of the Karen people are.
4. **Say:** Sometimes we need someone or something to help us understand too. We have a Bible verse, but it's all messed up. It's in a code. There's a way to decode it on your paper. Let's see who can figure out what our verse says.
5. Give each child a worksheet and a pencil. As needed, help them decode the verse. Once all the children have finished, encourage everyone to read the verse together.
6. **Say:** This verse reminds us that God gives us what we need so that we can do what God wants us to do. God sent someone to help Rick and Lita Sample understand what the Karen people needed. And God sent the Samples along with Kyaw Soe to the Karen people to share God's great love with them.
7. Pray for the Karen people, asking God to help them have what they need. Pray for the Samples, that God would take care of them and show them new ways to share God's love.



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■ ■ ■ ACTIVITY: Scavenger Hunt (10 min)

Items needed: Bible Scavenger Hunt cards located at the end of the lesson; scissors

1. Before the session, print a copy of the Bible Scavenger Hunt cards on cardstock. Cut out the cards and hide them around your room.
2. **Ask:** What does Zar do for the Karen people? **Say:** She teaches Sunday school for Karen children. She also helps the refugees have what they need through Rick and Lita Sample. Rick and Lita helped Zar go to a conference in Minnesota where she learned more ways to teach the children about God. Zar teaches Karen children about God's big love for them. She teaches them Bible stories and helps them know all that God has done for each one of us. I have hidden cards around the room with some Bible stories on them. Let's see how many we can find.
3. Give children time to find all the cards. Once they have found them, **say:** In each of these stories, God equipped the people in different ways. God equipped Joseph by giving him the ability to tell the king what his dreams meant. God showed Joseph that there would be a time where there wouldn't be enough to eat, so Joseph was able to store lots of food so that when the time came, the people had food to eat. When God asked Moses to go talk to Pharaoh, Moses was afraid. Moses wasn't a good speaker, and he didn't think Pharaoh would listen to him. So God sent Aaron, Moses' brother, with him to speak.

When Pharaoh set the people free, God equipped them by parting the Red Sea so that they could cross safely. God also sent manna and quail to keep them fed. God told Joshua and the people exactly what they needed to do in order to knock down the walls of Jericho. They marched around the city, blew their trumpets and the walls came tumbling down. When David had to fight Goliath, God equipped David with what he needed in order to bring the giant down. And when David became king, God made sure David had the people he needed around him to help him be a great king. When Daniel was thrown in the lions' den, God sent an angel to keep him safe.

4. **Say:** These are just a few stories of ways that God helped people have what they needed so they could do what God wanted them to do. Over and over again in the Bible, God shows us how God equips us to do what God wants us to do.
5. **Ask:** What are some ways that God has equipped us as a church to help the people in our community and around the world?

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■ ■ ■ SNACK: Pancakes (10 min)

Items needed: pancakes (frozen, made ahead, or ingredients to make them and a griddle); syrup; plates; forks; napkins; cups; water

1. Before the session, heat the pancakes or mix your ingredients together and get the griddle ready.
2. **Say:** Lita and Rick Sample, CBF field personnel, work with the Karen people who live in the San Francisco Bay Area. They are refugees who left their home in Myanmar because it wasn't safe for them. They found a new home in California, where Lita and Rick Sample work with their pastor and church to make sure they have what they need.
3. **Say:** Even though the Karen people left Myanmar, they brought their traditions with them, including their language, their customs and their food. One popular snack in Myanmar is moun pyit thalet (moun piet tha lei). It's similar to a pancake. Their version of a pancake can be sweet or savory. Today we are going to have our own version of a pancake!
4. **Ask:** When do you eat pancakes? Most of the time we eat them for breakfast, or we may eat one for dessert. But in Myanmar, they eat sweet things as snacks instead of dessert.
5. Make pancakes or give each child a pancake, along with a plate, napkin, fork and a cup of water.
6. Say a prayer of thanks for your snack.
7. As children are eating, talk about the things that are popular to eat in your town.

■ ■ ■ CLOSING ACTIVITY (5 min)

Items needed: pictures from the OGM Resources (printed or bring a digital device to show them)

1. Print or bring up pictures from the OGM Resources.
2. **Show** pictures of San Francisco (C090087.jpg, C090089.jpg, and C090054.jpg). **Say:** Rick and Lita Sample are CBF field personnel in the San Francisco Bay Area.
3. **Ask:** What did you learn about the Samples today? **Say:** Rick and Lita Sample work with the Karen people. But they don't speak their language.
4. **Show** C100006.jpg and C100008.jpg. **Say:** God sent Kyaw Soe, a pastor who is also a Karen refugee. Kyaw Soe speaks English and Burmese, the language that the Karen people speak. In our pictures, he is preparing for worship. The Samples know how important it is for everyone to be able to worship God in their own language. They work with Kyaw Soe to make sure the people in his church have everything they need.



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5. **Show** C080089.jp, C080081.jpg, and DSC00108.jpg. **Say:** Rick and Lita Sample help the people by purchasing groceries for them, having activities for the families and children, and more.
6. **Ask:** How do we help people in our community?
7. As parents arrive, thank children for participating in the session. Encourage children to pray for Lita and Rick Sample and the Karen refugees.



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RESOURCES

Burmese Snack Cakes

www.cnn.com/travel/article/myanmar-foods-try/index.html



A delicious Burmese pancake.

Courtesy Gary Stevens/Creative Commons/Flickr

Unlike sweet dishes in the West, Burmese sweets, known collectively as “moun,” aren’t consumed as dessert but rather as snacks, typically taken with tea in the morning or afternoon.

And unlike sweets elsewhere in Southeast Asia, moun aren’t generally packed with sugar; instead they get their sweet flavors from ingredients such as grated coconut, coconut milk, rice flour, cooked sticky rice, tapioca and fruit.

Standout Burmese sweets include has nwin ma kin, small cakes of crumbly semolina flour with coconut milk, ghee and raisins; and bein moun and moun pyit thalet, Burmese-style pancakes, served sweet or savory, with a damp, hole-y consistency not unlike an English crumpet.



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Closing Activity Pictures

- **_C080081.jpg**
Rick and Lita Sample gather groceries and supplies for refugees.
- **_C080089.jpg**
Rick and Lita Sample in front of the market, ready to gather supplies for refugees.
- **_C090054.jpg**
Rick and Lita Sample are CBF field personnel in the San Francisco Bay area.
- **_C090087.jpg**
The Golden Gate Bridge
- **_C090089.jpg**
San Francisco has many hills and curvy streets. This street, Lombard Street, is often called the crookedest street in the world!
- **C100006.jpg**
Kyaw Soe prepares for worship. He pastors a church of Karen refugees and works with Rick and Lita Sample to make sure the refugees have what they need.
- **C100008.jpg**
Kyaw Soe's Bible, translated in the language of his people (Burmese).
- **DSC00108.jpg**
Lita Sample plays with some of the Karen children. Rick and Lita help with the children's ministry and other ministers at the Karen church.



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CODED MESSAGE WORKSHEET



Here's our Bible verse, but it's all in code! Crack the code by finding the letters on the second row of the table. Then, look above each letter to see what the real letter is. Write that letter in the boxes (each box is a word) to discover our Bible verse!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A

“Nbz uif Hpe pg qfbdf... frvq zpv xjui fwfsz hppe uioh up ep ijt,
 cz efwfmpjoh jo vt xibu qnfbtft ijn uisovhi Kftvt Disjtu.”

–Hebrews 13:20

“

...

”

–Hebrews 13:20

BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT CARDS



Directions: Print a copy on cardstock. Cut out the cards and hide them around the room.

**David
and Goliath**

1 Samuel 17

**Daniel and the
Lion's Den**

Daniel 6

Joseph

Genesis 40-41

**Moses and the
Burning Bush**

Exodus 3

**The Hebrew
People**

Exodus 14, 16

**Joshua and the
Battle of Jericho**

Joshua 6