



## Children's ministry extension activities

### ACTIVITY 1: LET'S LEARN ABOUT BILBAO AND SPAIN

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Show the children a map of the world and see if they can find Spain. You may need to give some hints if they are not sure where to look.

Derek and Jane French live in a place called Bilbao so let's find out some things about Spain and Bilbao. Can you find Bilbao on the map?

#### TEN FACTS ABOUT SPAIN AND BILBAO:

1. Spain, officially called the Kingdom of Spain, is a country in Europe with a **population** of about 48million people. The **capital** city is Madrid.
2. There are four official **languages** in Spain - Spanish, Catalan, Galician and Basque. Second only to Mandarin, Spanish is number two when it comes to the highest number of native speakers, with some 485 million people around the world speaking the language in countries such as Mexico, Columbia, Argentina and Peru.
3. Spain is home to the **world's largest tomato fight**. Every year, on the last Wednesday in August, the quiet Spanish town of Buñol hosts La Tomatina - the world's largest tomato fight. Over 150,000 kilos of over-ripe tomatoes are used in the food fight and thousands of locals and tourists take part in the chaos. The origins of La Tomatina are unclear but one theory is that the festival started as a religious procession that went awry way back in 1945. According to the legend, a young person started causing trouble during the procession. A fight broke out, and there was a vegetable stand nearby with lots of tomatoes. People grabbed the tomatoes and started throwing them at each other.
4. Spain's Marcha Real is one of the few **national anthems** with no words, along with only three other countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and San Marino. That means at large sporting events, the normal practice is for the audience to hum along to the tune while the players stand in silence. There has been a number of attempts to write accompanying words to Marcha Real but none of them have been officially approved by the Spanish government.
5. **Geography**: Spain occupies most of Europe's Iberian Peninsula, stretching south from the Pyrenees Mountains to the Strait of Gibraltar, which separates Spain from Africa. To the east lies the Mediterranean Sea and Spain's Balearic Islands. Spain also rules two cities in North Africa, Ceuta and Melilla, and the

Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. The interior of Spain is a high, dry plateau surrounded and crisscrossed by mountain ranges. Rivers run to the coasts, creating rich soils that are good for farming. The interior of the country gets very cold in winter, and is very hot and dry in summer. The north coast is called “Green Spain”, because the mild, wet climate of the region allows lush plants and trees to flourish. The southern and eastern coasts of Spain, from the fertile Andalusian plain up to the Pyrenees, are often swept by warm winds called “sirocco” winds. These winds originate in northern Africa and keep temperatures along the Mediterranean coast warmer than the interior.

6. **Derek and Jane live in Bilbao.** Bilbao is a city in northern Spain, located in the province of Biscay and in the Basque Country. Although the vast majority of Spain’s population primarily speaks Spanish, some areas speak a different language altogether. Perhaps most interesting is the language spoken in the Basque Country. The people there speak Basque, which is a language isolate – meaning it is unrelated to any other existing languages!
7. Bilbao’s **architecture** is a fantastic mix of traditional and contemporary styles. One must-see building is the Guggenheim Museum. Its curvy, shiny exterior looks like a giant ship! The historic Old Town, called “Casco Viejo,” is filled with narrow streets and stunning buildings, like St. James’ Cathedral. Another unique feature is the Puente Colgante, a swinging bridge that connects two parts of the city.
8. Bilbao is famous for its delicious Basque **cuisine**. One popular dish is “pintxos,” which are tasty snacks served on small pieces of bread, often topped with fresh ingredients like seafood or vegetables. People enjoy walking from place to place, tasting the different pintxos available. Another Basque favourite is “bacalao al pil-pil,” a codfish dish cooked with garlic and olive oil. Bilbao also hosts a fantastic food market called “Mercado de la Ribera,” where locals shop for fresh produce, meats, and cheeses.
9. Bilbao takes **education** seriously and has many schools and universities. The University of the Basque Country is one of the largest and offers a variety of studies, from engineering to art. The city also has international schools where children can learn in different languages. Many students enjoy field trips to places like the Guggenheim Museum to learn about art. In Bilbao, education is not just about books—it’s about exploring and discovering the world around you!
10. **Transport** in Bilbao is easy and fun. The city has a modern metro system that can take you to many important places quickly. You can also use trams, buses, and even ferries to cross the Nervión River! Many locals like to ride bicycles

or walk to enjoy the beautiful streets and parks. There is also the Funicular de Artxanda, which takes you to a hilltop viewpoint with stunning views of the city and countryside.

Encourage the children to chat together with you about the things that seem similar to our country and those that seem different. Maybe some of the children have visited Spain on holiday and could say what it was like. Was it hot or cold? Did they try anything different to eat?

Discuss with the children how God has made an incredibly diverse world with different countries, people and activities. There are countries that we often go for our holidays, like Spain but the people there need to hear about Jesus too and Derek and Jane are doing just that in different ways.

## ACTIVITY 2

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### Activities

- Song suggestion: [Ask Seek Knock - Hillsong Kids](#)
- Learn the Lord's Prayer together. Make up actions to help you remember the words or use this video [The Lord's Prayer](#) with actions for some suggestions.
- Make a Lord's Prayer jar
  - o You will need:
    - coloured card
    - small glass jar for each child
    - scissors
    - stickers or other decorations
    - markers or crayons
  - o Instructions:
    - Decorate the outside of the jar using stickers, etc.
    - Cut card into strips and write on different parts of the Lord's Prayer and other people/things to pray for.
    - Place the strips into the jar.
    - Use the papers to learn the Lord's prayer by emptying them out and putting them in order; OR pull out one piece at a time to focus on in prayer.

#### ACTIVITY 3: BIBLE TEACHING

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##### The Lord's Prayer

One of the books that Andamio have translated into Spanish and published for children and families to use is about the Lord's Prayer. It is a translation of a book written by Sally Lloyd-Jones (author of the Jesus Storybook Bible). The Lord's Prayer in Spanish is **La Oración del Padre Nuestro**.

##### Introductory activity

Have some self-adhesive labels with the names of different categories of people on them, one for each child. Ideas might include: mum, dad, doctor, teacher, friend, police officer, coach, brother, sister, etc. Give the children a few minutes to ask each other yes/no questions to try and work out who their 'person' is. After a few minutes, gather the group back together.

Ask questions like: how often do you speak to the type of person on your label?

Why do you talk to the different people?

How do you know the best person to talk to?

God wants us to talk to him too and we do that through prayer. In this session we are going to think of some ways that Jesus used to show how important prayer is.

There are different times in the Bible when we read about how Jesus prayed. Sometimes he went off by himself or went up a mountain. Before Jesus was arrested and went to die on the cross, he went to a garden to pray. His disciples must have understood by watching Jesus that prayer and talking to God was important so they asked him to teach them to pray.

##### Read Luke 11:1-13 together.

Jesus taught the disciples how to pray and then he told them two stories to help them understand what he meant and what God was like. One of the stories was about two neighbours and one about a father and son. Jesus was not saying that God is like a sleepy neighbour who does not want to be bothered by our problems or like a parent who gives the wrong thing to a child. Instead, he was teaching us that God is **much more** than either of these two people!

In between the two stories, Jesus also gives some instructions about prayer using three words – ask, seek and knock – to describe three things we do when we pray. We want to ask God to show us how to live, we seek for the answers that he gives us and we knock to ask God for the things that we need.

We may think that because Jesus was God's son, he did not need to pray but instead Jesus spent lots of time in prayer which shows how important it is for us! God loves us so much and because of this love he wants us to talk with him – getting to know him, thanking him and asking for his help.