



## Extension activities for children's ministry

Listed below are a series of activities that look at the theme of the recent digital dispatch where Blaze the Bee has been visiting the Veres' to see the work that they are involved in there as PCI global mission workers. This is not a complete lesson but instead a series of activities that can be chosen from to create a Sunday morning that continues the theme from the children's address materials produced.

*If the Digital Dispatch was not shown in church, show the video to the children.*

Video can be found at [www.presbyterianireland.org/blaze](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/blaze)

### **ACTIVITY 1: LET'S LEARN ABOUT HUNGARY AND BODASZŐLŐ**

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Show the children a map of the world and where Hungary is on that map or see if they can find it.

The Veres' live in a place called Bodaszőlő so let's find out some things about Hungary in general and the area that they live in in particular.

#### **TEN FACTS ABOUT HUNGARY AND BODASZŐLŐ**

1. Hungary is a landlocked country in central Europe known for its spa towns and hot springs. It is bordered by Slovakia and Austria to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Slovenia to the west, and Croatia and Serbia to the south.
2. Hungary has a population of about 10million people and the official language is Hungarian.
3. The capital of Hungary is Budapest. Budapest was created when three cities, Óbuda, Buda and Pest were all growing together they decided to join to form, 'Budapest'.
4. The Danube River runs through the middle of the country and is Hungary's largest river. It flows for nearly 1,800 miles, passing through 10 nations on its way to the Black Sea. No other river in the world passes through as many countries.
5. Hungary is also the birthplace of many famous people. Erno Rubik, a sculptor and professor, invented the Rubik's Cube in 1974. Hungary boasts 13 Nobel Prize winners, and magician Harry Houdini was also born in the country's capital, Budapest. Béla Bartók and Franz Liszt are two of the country's greatest composers.

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6. Hungarian cuisine primarily consists of meat dishes. Gulyás (Goulash), a thick beef soup cooked with onions and potatoes, is popular throughout the country, as is halászlé, a rich fish soup.
7. Automobiles, electronics, and pharmaceuticals are all key industries in Hungary. With its healthy plains, Hungarian farmers grow lots of wheat, corn, sunflowers, and many other in-demand crops.
8. Bodaszőlő is a village in the north-east of Hungary, about 160 miles over the border from where the Veres' used to live in Cluj-Napoca in Romania.
9. Bodaszőlő is surrounded by forest and is about 7 miles from the larger town where Csaba and Ilona live.
10. The people in Bodaszőlő have only lived there for about 20 years after being displaced and there has never been a Christian church in the village.

### Here are a few words to learn in Hungarian:

Hello	<b>Szia</b>	pronounced: <i>see-aw</i>
How are you?	<b>Hogy vagy?</b>	pronounced: <i>hodge vodge</i>
My name is Blaze	<b>Blaze vagyok</b>	pronounced <i>vod-joke</i>

### ACTIVITY 2 : DESIGN A NEW CHURCH

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*This activity helps us to think about what is really important in terms of our churches but also allows the children to use their imaginations and creativity.*

Give each child a piece of paper or card. On one half of the paper/card encourage the children to design their own church from the outside. Chat together about what it might look like, what helps us to recognise churches from the outside and encourage them to design their own church. You could even show them a variety of church buildings around your town or across PCI and see the variety of different buildings that there are.

On the other half of the page (or on a different piece of paper/card), encourage them to think about the things that they would need on the inside of a church. Again, chat with the children about what things are inside churches. What is important and necessary to have and what is the choice of an individual congregation? What other things would the children add to the church to make it more comfortable/friendly/engaging?

Allow the children's creativity to think about church.

Explain that Csaba and Ilona have moved to a place in Hungary that has never had a church before. They do not have a traditional building that we would recognise as a church. Instead, they meet in a rented house in the village.

Pray for Csaba, Ilona and the team as they set up and grow this small church, as they reach out into the community and as they share about Jesus with the people of the village for the first time.

### **ACTIVITY 3: BIBLE TEACHING**

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*In this section, the teaching uses part of the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The memory verse is the verse from 1 Corinthians that Ilona mentions in the video.*

#### **So far in the story:**

Nehemiah is in exile, working for the king of Babylon, and he has learned that the walls of Jerusalem are broken and need repaired. When he heard this news, he was very upset. The king noticed how sad he was and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah explained the situation and the king gave him permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, gave him supplies and promised him protection. Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls to ensure that God's name would be honoured and exalted in the land. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and told the leaders what he was there to do, they agreed to begin the great work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

The hard work of rebuilding the walls begins and we are going to try and discover who does the work.

**Read** Nehemiah 3:1, 8, 12, 14, 17, 22.

What do you notice about who rebuilt the walls?

*(Everyone rebuilt a different part, they worked together to complete the walls.)*

The amazing thing about the rebuilding of the walls was that all the people took a part and helped to do it, not just builders but priests, perfumers, goldsmiths, ordinary citizens and their sons and daughters. Everyone had a part to play and a section to rebuild. It wasn't always easy. It was hard work, not everyone took part and there was some opposition to their rebuilding efforts. But most people played their part.

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- It was God's work but it was done through his people; God still works through his people today – that's us!
- They were building up the walls; our role is to build up our faith and other believers.
- The people worked together on each section and it completed the walls; we must do the part that God asks us to do and it adds to what others are doing for God as well.

Ilona mentions a verse near the end of the Digital Dispatch video from 1 Corinthians. This is what the verse says:

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

### 1 Corinthians 15:58

Even though you are young and maybe feel like you cannot do much to help God's work in the world, you really can! I am sure there were children who were part of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah, and I know how important children can be in helping others learn about Jesus and grow in their faith.

What could you do as the children's ministry to encourage other leaders and followers of Jesus in your church? Could you write notes of encouragement or draw pictures to remind them how much they are loved?

### Here is one example



What could you do for each other as you go to school to share how important Jesus is to you? Maybe you could pray for each other in this session and also choose one other child to pray for this week.

### For leaders:

- Pray together for the children
- Give each child the name of one of the others to pray for this week
- Maybe this could be written on the back of a card/bookmark with the memory verse on it.