

# THE SMUGGLER'S SUITCASE



A HOLIDAY CLUB RESOURCE

# INTRODUCTION

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for choosing to share the stories of the persecuted church with the children in your holiday club! We hope they will be inspired by the courage and boldness of our brothers and sisters around the world who have taken great risks to follow Jesus in the face of incredible challenges.

## WHO IS THIS HOLIDAY CLUB AIMED AT?

We have tried to make this material suitable for both Christian children and children who may not be from a church background. For children who are already following Jesus, we hope these stories and activities will encourage them in their faith. For children who don't know Jesus yet, we hope these materials might help them think about why people would be willing to take such big risks for Jesus, and perhaps inspire them to follow Him themselves.

This material would be most suitable for 7-11 year olds. Ideally, you need a group of at least 12 children, split into teams of six to eight children with one or two leaders for each team.

## WHAT IS THE THEME?

Over the course of five days, the children will 'travel' around the world, learning about different countries, and finding out about the adventures of brave persecuted Christians from these countries.

The countries included are Iran, North Korea, the countries of Central Asia, and China.

The week begins by introducing Brother Andrew, the founder of the charity Open Doors. He is the guiding 'character' for the week. Each day, he will send a letter and an item in his suitcase to the group, introducing the country for the day and telling a story of someone from that country.

The space should be decorated with items related to travel – maps, globes, old suitcases, compasses, travel tickets, foreign money, flags from around the world, etc.

The children are based in teams of six to eight, with team names related to travel. Some suggestions: Adventurers, Explorers, Voyagers, Pioneers, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Navigators, Trekkers, Sailors, Pilots.

## WHAT IS THE FORMAT FOR EACH DAY?

Each day's activities are designed to last for approximately 2.5 hours. As the week goes on, you may find some activities take more or less time than expected, so do adjust the timings to suit your group. Most of the games can be made shorter or longer as needed, and where there are two games you may decide to just do one. Some of the days slightly differ from this, but the usual format for each day is:

- **A team starter activity.** This is usually a craft. Something that the children can join in with as they arrive (20 mins)

- **All together welcome, songs and 'What's in the suitcase?'** A time with all the children together, led from the front, including the letter from Brother Andrew (25 mins)
- **'Snacks and chats' in teams.** Where possible, we suggest that you offer the children a snack, including something to try from the country you are 'visiting' that day. We have included brief discussion notes linked to the story from Brother Andrew, including a Bible verse to discuss (20 mins)
- **Games.** Some are games to play all together, some are team games played against the other teams. Most days we have suggested two games, but if you find you are running out of time you could choose to do just one game (40 mins)
- **All together songs and recap.** A time to bring everyone back together and remind the children what you have been discussing that day (20 mins)
- **Team ending activity.** An opportunity to finish the crafts from the start of the day, or to play another game in teams. This time can be reduced if other activities have overrun (20 mins).

## WHAT WILL WE NEED TO RUN THE HOLIDAY CLUB?

Each day includes specific lists for what you will need for the crafts, games, and 'What's in the suitcase?' segments. In general, you will need:

- **Craft materials.** Pens, pencils, paper, card, paint, glue, scissors, etc. The most complex craft is on day two, when the children will make their own suitcases out of shoe boxes. For day three, you will need to download and print the secret cipher wheel sheet ([download here](#)).
- **Items for games.** The most unusual are the big coats, combat trousers, big socks and Bibles you need for the 'Hide the Bibles game' on day one. On day two you will need items for an obstacle course and blindfolds. On day three you will need big pieces of card. Day four's games require balloons, parcels for 'pass the parcel', and cutlery, clothes and chocolate for the chocolate game. For day five you will need post-it notes, pens and a big notebook with 'Bible' written on it
- **Items for the 'What's in the suitcase?' segment.** You will need a suitcase, ideally one that looks quite old. Tie a brown label to it saying 'Brother Andrew's suitcase'. You will also need each day's letter from Brother Andrew. You may wish to ask someone to write these out so that they really look like letters. Each day there will be an item that should be in the suitcase. The most unusual is the framed photo of Kim Il-sung from day three, but you can download a copy from the Open Doors website. You will also need a world map or a globe to show the children where each country is
- **Copies of 'Secret Smuggler'.** At the end of the week, you could also give each child a copy of

'Secret Smuggler' to take away. It's an illustrated booklet telling the real story of Brother Andrew. [You can order free copies on the Open Doors website](#), but you will need to order these in advance to ensure they arrive in time.



## WHAT SONGS SHOULD WE SING?

We suggest you choose around four songs which will be the main songs for the week, so the children can really get to know them, especially if you have a lot of children attending who are not usually in church. 'He's got the whole world in His hands' would work well with the theme of the week, and can be adapted to talk about the different countries you will be discussing – for example, 'He's got all of Iran in His hands'.

You may already have some other favourites from your children's church, but if not, here are a few suggestions:

- [Our God is a Great Big God](#)
- [When the World Shakes](#)
- [Who is the King of the Jungle?](#)

Once the children know the song, divide the group into two, with one group singing the first part and the other singing the second part, and challenge them to see who can sing the loudest!

## DO WE HAVE TO DO ANY ACTING?

The only day where acting is a key element is day four. This is a more immersive day, where the children will pretend to be having a birthday party to cover up that we are meeting to talk about Jesus, as some Christians in Central Asia do. You will need someone to play the 'Hunter', who is coming to try and find the Christians. We have suggested lines for this person to say, but they don't have to be learned off by heart and said word for word, as long as a similar message comes across.

On the other days, you do have the option to have some leaders act out the stories from Brother Andrew's letter as they are being read, if your team is keen to do this. This could be fun and would make the stories more engaging for the children. However, these can also be simply read out as stories to be listened to, especially if you have quite an attentive group. Most of the stories are quite short.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE OPEN DOORS RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN?

If you enjoy using this resource, you can find other free resources to use with children on the [Open Doors website](#), including Sunday school sessions, Christmas materials, prayer resources, videos, and more!



# MEET THE SMUGGLER

## DAY 1

**Aim for the day:** to introduce the story of Brother Andrew and his suitcase, and the idea of being part of a family in God.

### TEAM STARTER ACTIVITY: MAKE A TEAM SIGN (20 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A big piece of white card
- Craft resources – pens, pencils, crayons, stickers. You could also use paints and glue to stick on other materials if you don't mind getting a bit messy!

#### Instructions:

As your group arrives and meets for the first time, invite them to help create a team sign.

If your group is quite young, you may wish to write or print the name of your team on the piece of card ahead of time in bubble writing, so they can colour it in.

Your team may be a little shy to begin with, especially if this is their first time meeting each other. If they are hesitant to suggest ideas, an easy design could be to have the team name in big letters in the middle, and have each person draw themselves and write their names around the sides.

Don't worry if you don't finish the sign during this time slot – there will be more time to finish it off later.

### ALL TOGETHER: WELCOME, SONGS, 'WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?' (30 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A suitcase, ideally one that looks quite old. If you don't have one, you can usually find them sold in charity shops or online. Add the label to it saying 'Brother Andrew's suitcase'
- The first letter from Brother Andrew (text below). You may like to ask someone to write this out so it really looks like a hand-written letter.

Bring all the children together to a central space. Have the leader who will usually be hosting these slots introduce themselves, welcome the children, and share any important information. Then move on to action songs.

Once you have finished singing, have the children sit down, and show them 'Brother Andrew's suitcase'.

**Leader: Look what I've found! Can anyone shout out and tell me what this is?**

Hopefully someone will shout out that it's a suitcase.

**That's right! And can you put up your hands and tell me when you might use a suitcase?**

Invite children to share suggestions.

**But who does this suitcase belong to? Does this belong to any of you?**

**Oh, there's a label tied on here. Would someone like to come out and read it?**

Invite a child to come and read the label saying 'Brother Andrew's suitcase'.

**Okay, so this is Brother Andrew's suitcase. Does anyone know who Brother Andrew is?**

It's likely that none of the children will know who Brother Andrew is, but if anyone does, invite them to share what they know.

**Why don't we look inside the suitcase and see if we can find out anything else about this person Brother Andrew. Who would like to look inside the suitcase?**

Choose a volunteer. First invite them to shake the suitcase around and guess what's inside. Then invite them just to put a hand inside, but not look, and say what they can feel. Finally, invite them to look inside. Inside the suitcase should be the first letter from Brother Andrew.

**What is it?**

**That's right, it's a letter! Let me read it to you:**

Dear brothers and sisters,

*My name is Brother Andrew, and this is my smuggler's suitcase. I used this suitcase to smuggle Bibles all over the world, to places where Christians were not allowed to have Bibles. I could have been arrested and gone to prison if I had been caught. But I used to pray and ask God to help me not to get caught – and I never was!*



*Once, I was driving in my car to a country where the Bible wasn't allowed, and my car was full of Bibles. I was stopped by some soldiers, and they started searching my car. They opened my suitcase, and it was full of Bibles for all to see. I was sure I was in big trouble!*

*But the soldiers just closed the suitcase and sent me on my way. It was as if they hadn't seen the Bibles at all! I couldn't believe it. I drove away, amazed that I hadn't been arrested.*

*Once I decided to follow God, my life was full of adventures like this. And every day this week, I'm going to tell you about other people from around the world who have also been on big adventures with God.*

*Some people I know have walked into countries where the Bible isn't allowed, past the guards, with big coats full of hidden Bibles. Why don't you see how many Bibles you can hide in a coat?*

*Your brother in Christ,  
Brother Andrew*

## TEAM GAME: HIDE THE BIBLES (15 MINS)

### You will need:

- For each leader, a big coat with lots of pockets, a pair of cargo trousers with lots of pockets, big socks and a big hat
- At least 15 small 'Bibles' for each team. If you have many small copies of the New Testament or something

similar and you aren't worried about them being damaged, you could use these. You may prefer to make up some pretend Bibles, using small notebooks and writing 'Bible' on the front, or stapling together small books of paper and writing 'Bible' on the front

- Stopwatch or other device for timing
- Optional: bell or whistle to indicate the start and end of the game.

### Instructions:

Have each team gather together and a leader from each team put on the big coat, cargo trousers, big socks and hat. Then give each team the 'Bibles' but tell them not to do anything with the Bibles yet.

When you say 'go', each team has one minute to try and hide as many Bibles as they can in the outfit of their leader. The team that successfully hides the most Bibles on their leader wins. When

all the teams are ready, let them begin!

When the time is up, call the teams to stop. You may need to use a bell or a whistle or something similar to make sure everyone can hear if you have a large group!

Have the children sit down and bring all the leaders up to the front. First, check all the leaders to see if you can see any Bibles poking out – if they aren't completely hidden, they don't count! Then, ask each leader in turn to pull out the Bibles from their outfits and see how many Bibles have been smuggled by each leader. The team with the most hidden Bibles wins.

## TEAM TIME: SNACKS AND CHATS (20 MINS)

### You will need:

- Drinks and snacks for each child.

### Instructions:

Send the children back into their teams. This would be a good time to give them a drink and a snack.

**Question: Brother Andrew thought it was so important for Christians to have Bibles, he even risked being arrested to take them to places where the Bible isn't allowed. Do you know why Christians think the Bible is so important?**

Depending on the background of the children in your team, they may have some ideas, or they may not be sure.



Christians believe that God speaks to us through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we learn that God really loves us, and we can find out other things that He has said and done. Christians also believe the Bible can help you to know the best way to live your life. God can speak to us in other ways too, but if we don't have the Bible, it can be hard to remember the things that God has said and done.

**Question: Why do you think there are places where the Bible isn't allowed? It's just a book. It would be pretty hard to use one to hurt anyone. What do you think?**

*In some countries, the leaders of the country want everyone to listen to them, and no one else. Christians think that the most important person to listen to is God, and some country leaders don't like that. So they make Bibles illegal or hard to buy, to make it harder to follow God.*

**Question: Did you notice that Brother Andrew started his letter by saying 'Dear brothers and sisters'? And he also gets called 'Brother Andrew', even though he isn't our real brother. Why do you think that might be?**

*In the Bible, there is a verse that says:*

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)*

*The word 'lavished' means giving something really generously. God lavishing love on us means*

*He really, really loves us! He loves us so much that He wants to be our Dad. If God is our Dad, that means that we are all brothers and sisters. That's why Christians sometimes call each other 'Brother' or 'Sister'.*

If you have spare time, you might like to use some of these questions to help you get to know the children, and to help them get to know each other:

- Brother Andrew travelled all over the world visiting people. Do you have any friends or relatives who live in another country? Have you ever been to visit them?
- Have you ever travelled to another country for a holiday? Where did you go? What was it like?
- Do you have any real brothers and sisters?

## **ALL TOGETHER GAME: FAMILY FIGHT (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Nothing!

**Instructions:**

This is a game that everyone plays at the same time, and players change their role in the 'family' by playing games of 'rock paper scissors' against each other.

Everyone starts off as a 'baby', crawling on the floor. Each person should find someone to play 'rock paper scissors' with. The winner then

becomes a 'child', walking around on their knees, and the loser remains a 'baby'.

The 'baby' should find another 'baby' to play against, the 'child' should find another 'child' to play against. The 'child' that loses becomes a 'baby' again. The 'child' that wins becomes a 'parent', walking around on their feet with their hands on their hips.

The 'parent' should find another 'parent' to play against. The 'parent' that loses goes back to being a 'child'. The 'parent' that wins becomes a 'grandparent', walking around while miming a walking stick.

The 'grandparent' should find another 'grandparent' to play against. At this point, if you're short on time, you can say that the 'grandparent' that wins is the overall winner and the game is over. But if you have plenty of time, you can say that the winner remains a 'grandparent' and the loser goes back to being a 'parent' and the game continues.

This may sound complicated, but it's actually not that difficult to pick up once you get going, and children usually enjoy it!

## **ALL TOGETHER SECOND GAME (IF TIME): BROTHER ANDREW SAYS (10-20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Nothing!

### Instructions:

This is like the classic game 'Simon says', but using 'Brother Andrew says'. The leader gives instructions, but the children should only carry out the instruction if the leader begins by saying 'Brother Andrew says'. If the leader gives an instruction without saying 'Brother Andrew says' first, and a child still does the action, they are out.

You may wish to invite the children who are 'out' to come and help the leader think of the actions that the other children should do, so they can continue to be involved.

### ALL TOGETHER: SONGS AND RECAP (20 MINS)

Bring the games to an end and sing one or two songs. If the songs from earlier were new to most of the children, you may wish to repeat them to help the children to learn them.

Have the leader invite the children to share something they have learned today. If the children don't mention it, remind them that we have learned:

- The story of Brother Andrew, who smuggled Bibles into places where they weren't allowed
- The Bible verse "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

- That this God really loves us and wants us to be His children.

### TEAM ENDING ACTIVITY: FINISH TEAM SIGNS (20 MINS)

Send the children back into their teams to finish their team signs.

Once they're finished, each team should hang the sign in the area where the team is based.

If your team has already finished their sign, you might like to have a small game of 'Family fight' or 'Brother Andrew says' within your team, or just chat about what the children liked best about the morning.

### Don't forget:

- To tell the children that they will be using paints the next day, so they may wish to come in old clothes or to bring an apron. This would be good to share with parents as they pick up the children!

# TRAVEL TO IRAN

## DAY 2

**Aim for the day:** To learn about the story of Maryam and Marzieh, and why the Bible is important.

### TEAM STARTER ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN SUITCASE (25 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A shoe box or similar for each child – you may need to ask your church to help you start collecting these a few weeks in advance! You could also ask the children to bring in a shoe box of their own to use, but you will still need to have some spares for those who forget or don't have one
- Poster paints in pots
- Paint brushes
- Pots of water
- Scissors
- Thick string
- Paper
- Pens, pencils and/or crayons
- Glue

- Kitchen roll
- Wipeable tablecloths
- Brown tie-on labels, like the one you have on Brother Andrew's suitcase
- Optional: other decorations such as stickers, glitter, etc.
- Optional: card to make 'hinges' for suitcases.

#### Instructions:

Each child should have a shoe box.

The children should use the scissors to make two holes in one side of the box where they would like the handle to go. Don't put the holes in a place that will be covered by the lid. If your group is quite young, they may need help with this, or you may wish to make the holes in advance. Don't make the holes too big – just big enough to fit the string through.

Then give each child a thick piece of string which will be the handle. Feed the string through the holes on the outside and tie a knot on each end on the inside of the box.

Have the children write their name somewhere inside the shoe box and the lid, to make sure they can find their own box later. Then invite the children to paint the outside of their shoe boxes. Encourage them not to put the paint on too thickly – hopefully the boxes will dry during the session, and they will be able to add other decorations on

top of the paint at the end of the session.

### ALL TOGETHER: WELCOME, SONGS, 'WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?' AND 'PEG GAME' (25 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A couple of wooden pegs with 'Psalm 119:105' written on them
- A large world map or globe
- Brother Andrew's suitcase
- A pomegranate
- The second letter from Brother Andrew.

Bring all the children together, welcome them and sing one song – we suggest you keep the singing a bit shorter today to leave more time for other parts of the session.

Give some leaders one of the wooden pegs with 'Psalm 119:105' written on it. During the singing, have them put the peg on the clothes of a child without them noticing – try to pick children who will be confident to go out to the front later. If a child notices, ask them not to say anything, and explain that it's for a game later.

Once the singing is finished, the leader should then come out with Brother Andrew's suitcase.

**Leader: Who can remember who this suitcase belongs to?**



**That's right, it's Brother Andrew's suitcase! Yesterday we heard his story about smuggling Bibles in this suitcase, right in front of the guards who should have arrested him. Amazing!**

**And he said every day he would send us a story of someone else from another country, who had been on amazing adventures with God like him. Who would like to see what's in the suitcase today?**

Choose a volunteer. First invite them to shake the suitcase around and guess what's inside. Then invite them just to put a hand inside, but not look, and say what they can feel. Finally, invite them to look inside. Inside the suitcase should be the pomegranate, and the second letter from Brother Andrew.

**(Holding pomegranate) Who knows what this is?**

**That's right, it's a pomegranate. Does anyone know where pomegranates are grown?**

**Pomegranates are grown in quite a few countries around the world, but one of the places where they grow the most is Iran.**

**Hands up if you have ever heard of Iran.**

If anyone has, ask them if they think they could find Iran on the world map. If they can, invite them to come out and find it. If not, point it out yourself.

**Can anyone tell us anything they know about Iran?**

Perhaps a child from your group has a friend or relative from Iran, or has even been there themselves, and can share something about that.

Some children may have heard negative things about Iran from their parents or the news. Try not to dwell on these comments, but you may wish to gently correct them if it feels appropriate. For example, if a child says, "People in Iran hate Christians!" you might want to respond by saying, "Lots of people in Iran are friends with Christians, but you are right that the leaders of Iran don't like Christians."

**A few languages are spoken in Iran, but the most popular language is Farsi. We are going to learn how to say 'Hello' in Farsi. Repeat after me – Salam! ([You can find the correct pronunciation in this video.](#))**

**If you want to say 'hello' to someone this morning, let's try saying 'Salam' instead!**

**We have another letter here from Brother Andrew. Let's see if he has another story for us about someone from Iran.**

*Salam!*

*Today I would like to tell you about two amazing women from Iran. Their names are Maryam and Marziyeh.*

*In Iran, it is illegal to have the Bible in Farsi, the biggest language in the country. But Maryam*



*and Marziyeh became Christians, and they wanted everyone to have the opportunity to learn about God and how much He loves them. So they took a map of the city where they lived, Tehran, and divided*

*it up into squares. Then, each night, they would go to one square of the city, with 140 Bibles in a backpack, and post them through the letter box of each house!*

*Eventually, Maryam and Marziyeh were caught by the police and sent to a terrible prison. But now they are free, and they have moved to America where they are safe.*

*Why not think of a way that you can be like Maryam and Marziyeh, and 'smuggle' something good to someone you know?*

*Your brother in Christ,*

*Brother Andrew*

**That is a good idea from Brother Andrew. We have all been making our own suitcases this morning. Maybe tomorrow, you could secretly post something into someone else's suitcase, like a nice message, or a picture. Or when you get home, perhaps you could leave your grown-ups a picture or a note somewhere for them to find.**

**Your leaders have also been being like Maryam**

and Marziyeh this morning, and smuggling a little bit of the Bible on to some of you! Does anyone have a peg on their clothes?

The leaders may need to help the children to see who has a peg on their clothes.

**If you have a peg on you, come out here to the front.**

**What does it say on your pegs?**

(Younger children may struggle with the word 'Psalm' and the big numbers, so you may need to read it for them.)

**It says Psalm 119:105. That's a verse from the Bible. That verse says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**

**This verse helps us understand why Christians like Maryam and Marziyeh think the Bible is so important. It tells us that the Bible can help to guide us, like a light on a dark path. It also tells us that if we are ever having dark feelings, such as feeling sad or scared, the Bible can help to fill us with light again, reminding us that God loves us and He is with us.**

**Those of you with pegs – try to find someone else to put the peg on this morning. But don't let them see you! And the rest of you, if you find you have a peg this morning, try to put it on someone else!**

## **TEAM TIME: SNACKS AND CHATS (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Drinks and snacks for each child.

It would be fun for the children to try some foods that you would find in Iran. If you have someone from Iran in your church, or a shop in your town that sells Middle Eastern foods, perhaps they can help you with ideas for this. Baklava could be a good option if this is available.

If not, you could give the children fruits that are commonly grown in Iran - pomegranates, dates, figs, cherries, grapes and/or oranges.

**Instructions:**

Don't forget to greet the children with 'Salam!'

**Question: What do you know about the Bible? Do you know any stories or verses from the Bible?**

Invite the children to share what they know. Depending on their church background, they may have a lot to say, or not much at all.

*The Bible verse we just heard all together is Psalm 119:105. That verse says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."*

**Question: Can you think of a time when you had to walk somewhere in the dark? What helped you to see where you were going?**

*Christians believe that the Bible can help to guide us, like a light on a dark path.*

*We also believe that the Bible can fill our lives with light in dark times, by reminding us that God loves us and is always with us.*

At this point, if you feel able to, share about a time when the Bible has helped to guide you or encourage you, or about a favourite Bible verse or passage of your own.

*In a moment, we're going to play a game where we have to wear blindfolds, to help us imagine what it's like to be on a dark path and remember this Bible verse.*

If you have some time left, you may like to ask the children if they have any questions about the Bible. They might like to know who wrote it, when it was written, or more about what it says. Depending on their questions, you may have to do some research and answer them tomorrow!

## **TEAM GAME: BLINDFOLDED OBSTACLE COURSE (30 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Items to create a simple obstacle course for each team – this could be things you already have in the space, such as tables, chairs, pieces of paper, balls etc.
- A blindfold for each team.

**Instructions:**

Some leaders should be setting up the obstacle courses while the teams are having their snacks and chats.

Set up a fairly simple obstacle course for each team. Demonstrate how the obstacle course should be done – perhaps they have to go around a chair in a certain direction, stand on a piece of paper at a certain point, pick up a ball and put it on a chair at a certain point, etc.

The catch is, each person in the team will do the obstacle course blindfolded! Each team should nominate a ‘guide’ who will walk alongside the other team members as they do the obstacle course, telling them what to do. The guide doesn’t wear a blindfold. They can’t touch the team members, only talk to them. The guide doesn’t have to complete the obstacle course.

Each team should have the same number of team members completing the obstacle course to make it fair. If one team is slightly smaller than the others, a leader may need to take part in the race, or someone may need to do the obstacle course twice.

Each team member should complete the course, with the help of the guide, one at a time. The team that completes the course first wins!

### **ALL TOGETHER: SONGS AND RECAP (10-20 MINS)**

Sing your songs – you may wish to just sing one song to save more time for finishing the suitcases.

The leader should greet the children with ‘Salam!’

Have the leader invite the children to share something they have learned today. If the children

don’t mention it, remind them that we have learned:

- The story of Maryam and Marziyeh, posting Bibles through people’s doors in Iran
- That we can all be ‘smugglers’ of good things to the people we know, leaving them nice notes or pictures to find. Remind the children that they might like to do this for their grown-ups when they get home
- The Bible verse that says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105
- That the Bible is like a light on a dark path, helping to guide us and bring light to our lives when things look dark.

### **TEAM ENDING ACTIVITY: FINISH SUITCASES (25 MINS)**

#### **Instructions:**

You may want to leave a bit more time for this section than usual to make sure the children have time to finish their suitcases.

Hopefully the paint on the suitcases has dried. The children can now add other decorations to their suitcases. They might like to add more decorations in paint, draw designs on paper to cut out and stick on, or you may have stickers or other things they can stick on their suitcases. They can also add a brown label to their suitcase with their name on it, like the label on Brother Andrew’s suitcase.

If the paint hasn’t dried yet, have the children draw things on paper and cut them out, ready to stick on to their suitcase tomorrow. They could also do a fancy design for their name label.

Lastly, if you have time and have chosen to include it, you can use some card to help the children create ‘hinges’ for their suitcases. Put the lid on to the box, and then cut out two or three rectangular pieces of card. Use glue to stick one half of the card on the side of the lid, and the other half on the side of the box. Leave them to dry – don’t try to open the boxes again until tomorrow. Hopefully once the glue has dried, the card will bend like a hinge and keep the lid attached to the box. The children may like to draw on the hinges to make them look like they have been screwed in.



# TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA

## DAY 3

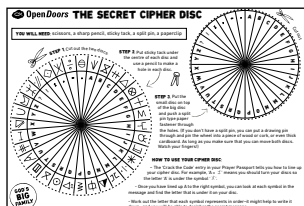
**Aim for the day:** to learn about the story of Min-soo, and how to be a lookout for ways you can help others.

### TEAM STARTER ACTIVITY: SECRET CIPHER (20 MINS)

**You will need:**

- The secret cipher wheel sheet ([download here](#))

- Scissors
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Drawing pins and blue tac or plasticine, or butterfly pins.



#### Instructions:

Cut out the wheels of the cipher wheel and pin them together. Butterfly pins are safer, but if you don't have any, you can use drawing pins stuck into a ball of blue tac or plasticine.

Have the children use the wheels to write out a short message in code. They will need to decide which symbol to line up 'A' with and write that down before they start. Then have the children swap and crack each other's codes.

(Some of the children may be keen to finish off their suitcases from yesterday. Let them know there will be time for them to do that at the end of the day.)

### ALL TOGETHER: WELCOME, SONGS, 'WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?' (25 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A large world map or globe
- Brother Andrew's suitcase
- A framed photo of Kim Il-sung (available on p24)
- A big sign that says 'An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka'
- The third letter from Brother Andrew.

Bring all the children together, welcome them and sing your songs for the morning.

Once the singing is finished, the leader should then come out with Brother Andrew's suitcase.

**Leader: Who can remember how we were saying 'hello' yesterday?**

**That's right – Salam! We were saying 'hello' in Farsi, one of the languages spoken in Iran.**

**I wonder where Brother Andrew wants us to visit today. Who would like to see what's in the suitcase?**

Choose a volunteer. First invite them to shake the

suitcase around and guess what's inside. Then invite them just to put a hand inside, but not look, and say what they can feel. Finally, invite them to look inside. Inside the suitcase should be the framed photo and the third letter from Brother Andrew.

**(Asking volunteer) What's in the suitcase?**

**That's right, it's a picture of a man. Does anyone know who this man is? Would anyone like to guess?**

**This man is called Kim Il-sung. He was one of the leaders of a country called North Korea before he died.**

**Hands up if anyone has heard of North Korea.**

If anyone has, ask them if they think they could find North Korea on the world map. If they can, invite them to come out and find it. If not, point it out yourself.

**Can anyone tell us anything they know about North Korea?**

Some children may have friends or relatives from South Korea, or have been there. Let them share about this, but explain that North Korea is actually a different country from South Korea, although there are many similarities – people from both countries speak Korean, eat similar foods, and have some similar traditions.

Some children may have heard negative things

about North Korea from their parents or the news. Try not to dwell on these comments, but you may wish to gently correct them if it feels appropriate. For example, if a child says, “North Koreans want to bomb America!” you might want to respond by saying something like, “The leaders of North Korea do sometimes threaten to attack other countries. But most people in North Korea are just normal people like us, who want to live peaceful lives.”

**In North Korea, people speak Korean. We are going to learn to say ‘hello’ like a North Korean – but it might be a bit more tricky for us than ‘Salam’! An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka.**

(Use your big sign to help the children to say this. You may need to go over this several times to help everyone get it right – including the adults! [You can find a video of the pronunciation here.](#) It might help to say it in a slightly sing-song way, so that the first half and second half almost rhyme – An-yong-ha, sim-ni-kka!)

**I will leave this sign here to help us remember how to say it! If we can, let’s try saying ‘an-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka’ instead of ‘hello’ today.**

Going back to our photo of Kim Il-sung, if we were in North Korea, you would have all been able to tell me who this was. That’s because everyone has a photo like this in their home. There are also these photos in every school, office and factory. There are also big banners with his picture in outdoor places like parks, and big statues of him.

**In North Korea, the leaders make everyone treat Kim Il-sung like a god. They have to bow down to his statue. If the photo of him in your house was damaged, you could be arrested!**

**The leaders of North Korea want everyone to worship Kim Il-sung, and not Jesus. Being a Christian is not allowed. So if anyone wants to be a Christian, they have to keep it a secret. If they have a Bible, they might bury it in the ground, and then dig it up to read it secretly. Christian parents don’t even tell their children that they are Christians, it’s such a big secret.**

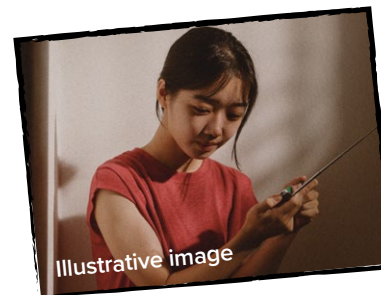
**We have another letter here from Brother Andrew. Let’s see if he has another story for us about someone from North Korea.**

*An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka!*

*Today I would like to tell you about a brave little girl from North Korea. Her name is Min-soo (That’s not her real name: we have to keep that secret to protect her.)*

*When Min-soo was small, she didn’t know that her parents were secret Christians. But one day, she found their Bible hidden in their house.*

*This was a big shock to her. She knew that everyone in North Korea was meant to worship Kim Il-sung, and that Bibles were not allowed.*



*She spoke to her father, and he explained that he and her mother were secret Christians. He also told her that Jesus loves her. Min-soo decided to become a secret Christian too.*

*After that, whenever her parents were having a secret meeting in their house with one or two other Christians, Min-soo would play outside and keep a lookout, so no one would catch them.*

*Even though Min-soo was young, God had an important job for her, being a lookout for her parents. I wonder what important jobs God has for you? You’re never too young to find out!*

*Your brother in Christ,*

*Brother Andrew*

## **TEAM TIME: SNACK AND CHATS (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Drinks and snacks for each child.

If possible, it would be fun for the children to try a food that they might find in North Korea. [You can find a list of suggestions here.](#) The easiest to obtain may be kim-chi.

### **Instructions:**

Don’t forget to greet the children with ‘An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka!’

**Question:** Min-soo’s parents asked her to help them keep their church meetings a secret.



### **Do your grown-ups ever ask you to help with jobs at home?**

The Bible says that God has good things for all of us to do. One verse says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

### **Question: What are some things that you’re good at that you can use to help other people?**

If the children aren’t sure, you could suggest things like looking out for younger siblings, being friendly to new people, making other people laugh, etc.

### **Question: What is something you could do today that would be helpful to someone else?**

Some suggestions could be helping to tidy up the plates and cups from snacks, being friendly to other people during the games, helping someone else to finish their suitcase later, helping their grown-ups with something when they get home.

If the children had questions yesterday about the Bible that you had to go away and research, don’t forget to tell them the answers you found!

### **ALL TOGETHER GAME: STUCK IN THE MUD (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Nothing!

### **Instructions:**

Select two or three people to be the taggers. Everyone else is trying to keep away from them to avoid being ‘tagged’ (touched by the taggers). If someone is tagged, they have to stop where they are and stretch out their arms each side of them – they are ‘stuck in the mud’. To be able to move again, someone has to run around them in a circle under each of their arms. They are now free to move again.

This is a game about being a lookout for who else you can help, not just protecting yourself. If everyone gets stuck in the mud, the taggers win!

You can allow this game to continue for as long as you like. You could add extra taggers as the game goes on to make it more difficult for the rest of the players to stay free, and more likely that the taggers will win eventually and bring the game to an end.

### **TEAM GAME (IF TIME): SHRINKING GROUND (15 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- A piece of card for each team. It should be big enough for a whole team to stand on.

**Instructions:** Give each team a piece of card to stand on. Everyone in the group must be on the card and not touching any other part of the floor, walls or furniture. (They can be touching each other.)

Cut or tear off a piece of each card and let them try again. Keep going until the piece of card is very

small and they cannot all fit on it any more. By the end, they may be on tiptoes or having to carry each other! The team that is able to stay on the smallest piece of card for at least five seconds wins.

### **ALL TOGETHER: SONGS AND RECAP (20 MINS)**

Sing your songs.

The leader should greet the children with ‘An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka!’

Have the leader invite the children to share something they have learned today. If the children don’t mention it, remind them that we have learned:

- The story of Min-soo, keeping a lookout for her parents’ secret church in North Korea
- That we can all be lookouts like Min-soo, looking out for good things to do to help others
- The Bible verse “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- That this means God made all of us to do good things.



## TEAM ENDING ACTIVITY: SECRET CODES AND FINISHING SUITCASES (20 MINS)

You will need:

- Glue
- Pens, pencils and/or scissors
- Paper
- Any other items you had for decorating the suitcases yesterday, such as stickers, glitter etc.
- North Korea colouring sheet – [you can download this here.](#)

### Instructions:

Those who didn't finish their suitcases yesterday could do this now. They may have already drawn some things yesterday that they would like to stick on their suitcases.

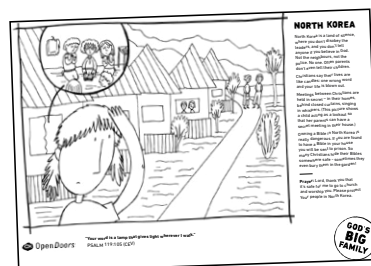
Those who did finish yesterday might like to add some 'secret codes' to their suitcases using their secret cipher wheel. They could also write their name in code on the back of their name labels.

Others may prefer to swap some more codes.

Others may like to colour in the North Korea colouring sheet, showing Min-soo being a lookout

for her family. [You can download this here.](#)

Have the children store their [secret cipher wheel](#) in their suitcases. Remind them that they can use each other's suitcases like post boxes, and post each other encouraging messages or more codes.



# TRAVEL TO CENTRAL ASIA

## DAY 4

**Aim for the day:** to learn about how some secret Christians in Central Asia meet together, and that everyone is invited to God's big party.

### TEAM STARTER ACTIVITY: PAPER CHAINS (20 MINS)

**You will need:**

- Lots of strips of colourful paper
- Tape and scissors.

#### Instructions:

Tell the children that we are having a party today, and we need decorations! So, we are making paper chains. The team that makes the longest chain will win a prize! Use the tape to stick the ends of a strip of paper together to make a circle, loop the next piece of paper into the first one, and so on. It can work well to have the leader cut up the pieces of tape for the children to use while each child makes a chain, and then you connect them all together at the end.

### ALL TOGETHER: WELCOME, 'WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?', SONGS (25 MINS)

**You will need:**

- Prizes for the team that made the longest paper chain
- A large world map or globe

- Brother Andrew's suitcase
- A party hat for each person
- The fourth letter from Brother Andrew
- A birthday cake with a candle
- Matches to light the candle.

The order of this section is slightly different today, with songs coming after 'What's in the suitcase?'

First, have a child from each team bring up their paper chain to compare which is the longest. The team with the longest chain should receive a small prize.

During 'What's in the suitcase?' some leaders should connect all the different paper chains and hang them up in the room. If you have a particularly large room, you may like to prepare some additional paper chains in advance to add to the one the children have made.

**Leader: Who can remember how we were saying 'hello' yesterday?**

**That's right – An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka! We were saying 'hello' in Korean, as they would say in North Korea.**

**I wonder where Brother Andrew wants us to visit today. Who would like to see what's in the suitcase?**

Choose a volunteer. First invite them to shake the suitcase around and guess what's inside. Then invite them just to put a hand inside, but not look, and say what they can feel. Finally, invite them to look inside. Inside the suitcase should be the party hats and the fourth letter from Brother Andrew.

**(Asking volunteer) What's in the suitcase?**

**That's right, it's lots of party hats. But I'm not sure what country they could be from – they could be from anywhere! Let's read Brother Andrew's letter to find out more.**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*Today I would like to tell you about some courageous Christians in Central Asia. They are secret Christians – so secret that I can't even tell you what country they are from! But if you'd like to see where they could be from, your leader can show you where Central Asia is on the map. Central Asia includes countries like Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.*

*This group of Christians are not allowed to meet together to talk about Jesus. So sometimes, when they meet together, they pretend that they are having a birthday party, so that if the police*



*turn up and ask them questions, it doesn't look suspicious.*

*And that is what you are going to do today! You are going to pretend to be having a birthday party, but secretly talking about Jesus. But look out – someone might be watching!*

*Your brother in Christ,*

*Brother Andrew*

**Okay, we have to pretend to be having a birthday party! Let's all get our hats on!**

Have a volunteer give out the hats.

**Is it anyone's real birthday today?**

If possible, check in advance if any of the children will be having a birthday on this day. If yes, you can pretend the party is for them. If not, ask if anyone would like to pretend it's their birthday and choose a volunteer.

**Okay, so if anyone asks us, this is a birthday party for (name).**

**We're going to sing our usual songs now, but if anyone interrupts us, we need to quickly change to sing happy birthday to (name). Don't forget!**

Sing your usual songs. In the middle of the second song, have someone burst in. This is the 'Hunter'. They will need to be distinctively dressed. Perhaps they could be dressed like a soldier. Or maybe

in a black suit and black tie like a Secret Service officer. It might be good to use someone who the children have not met, rather than one of the helpers. Or they could wear a balaclava to disguise their face.

**Hunter: What's going on here then? I think I can hear people singing songs about God!**

Have the person leading the songs quickly switch to 'Happy birthday'.

**Hunter: (Sarcastically) Oh I see, it's a birthday party is it? Then where's the birthday cake?**

A leader frantically runs out with a cake and presents it to the person who is supposed to be having a birthday. Another leader lights the candle. They give big, over-enthusiastic smiles to the Hunter.

**Hunter: Hmm. Well, I don't like people singing about God, talking about God, reading the Bible – any of that Christian stuff! Do you know what I like to do to Christians? I like to pie them in the face!**

**I'm going to come back later to check that you really are having a birthday party. And I'm going to bring one of my pies. I'll be back! (Storms off.)**

**Leader: Oh dear! I wonder who that was! Well, I really don't want to be pied in the face, so we'd better not let them hear us singing about God. Why don't we finish that song we were singing, but we're going to sing it in whispers.**

Sing your second song again as quietly as possible, with very small actions if it's an action song. Then send the children back to their teams.

## **TEAM TIME: SNACKS AND CHATS (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Drinks and snacks for each child. It would be great if this could be given out on party plates. Don't forget to give out the birthday cake!

**Question: How did you feel when that person barged in?**

This is a good chance to check that none of the children were genuinely frightened by the Hunter, especially if you have very young children in your group. If you find that anyone was upset, assure them that it's just a game, and they won't really get in trouble with this person. You could tell them who the Hunter really is if the child knows this person from your church. If they're all okay, this is a chance to help them imagine what it must be like for real secret Christians.

We're just pretending here today. But there are secret Christians in some parts of the world who really do have to keep their meetings secret, and who could be hunted down, arrested and go to prison if they get caught. It must be scary for them to keep meeting together, when they know it could get them into trouble. But it also must be really important to them to keep meeting together and talking about Jesus, to take such a big risk.

**Question: The Christians Brother Andrew told**

**us about in Central Asia sometimes pretend to have a birthday party when they meet together. What's the best party you've ever been to?**

*In the Bible, in Matthew 22, Jesus says, "God's kingdom is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. He invited some people to the feast. When it was ready, the king sent his servants to tell the people to come. But they refused to come to the king's feast. After that the king said to his servants, 'Go to the street corners and invite everyone you see. Tell them to come to my feast.'"*

*The Bible tells us that when we decide to follow God, we really are joining a big party that He is throwing. And everyone is invited!*

## **TEAM GAME: BALLOON RELAY RACE (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- A blown-up balloon for each team.

**Instructions:**

Remind everyone that you need to keep pretending to be having a party, and parties have balloons! So we are going to play a game with balloons.

Have each team line up. The person at the front of the line should be given the balloon. When the race starts, they should pass the balloon over their head to the next person. The next person should pass the balloon under their legs. The children should alternate putting the balloon over their head or under their legs until it reaches the person

at the back. This person should then run to the front of the line with the balloon and begin again, passing the balloon over their head.

Once the team is back to their original order, they have finished. The first team to finish wins.

If you find this game is over quickly and you have time, you could do another race where the children have to pass the balloon back through the line without using their hands or letting the balloon touch the floor. When the balloon gets to the back of the line, the person must come to the front of the line, still carrying the balloon without using their hands, and do the same again until the line is back to its original order. If anyone drops the balloon or touches it with their hands, the balloon has to go back to the person at the front. The first team to finish wins.

## **ALL TOGETHER GAME: PASS THE PARCEL (WITH THE HUNTER) (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- A small gift wrapped in several layers of paper, with a Bible verse and a sweet in between each layer of paper. You may wish to have more than one parcel if your group is quite large
- Music that can be easily stopped and started
- A 'cream pie'. This could be a paper plate covered in shaving cream or something similar
- Bible verse in pocket of leader.

**Instructions:**

Have the children sit in a circle, or more than one circle if you have a large group.

Explain that we are playing 'pass the parcel', but with a difference. We are using the game to smuggle Bible verses to each other – there will be a Bible verse on a piece of paper between each layer. When they find the Bible verse, they should hide it on them somewhere – in a sock, up a sleeve etc. so the Hunter won't find it if they burst in.

Begin the game. The children pass the parcel around when the music is playing. When the music stops, whoever is holding the parcel should open a layer of paper, take the sweet and hide the Bible verse.

As the game finishes, have the Hunter burst in again, carrying the 'cream pie'.

**Hunter: What's going on here then? Playing pass the parcel? Hmm, that does seem like a game you would play at a birthday party, but I'm still suspicious. You, empty your pockets! Do you have any Bible verses on you?**

The Hunter should put down the cream pie and 'search' some children, making them empty their pockets, take off their shoes etc. If possible, point out some children to the person before they come in who are more confident and won't be worried by this.

After searching two or three children, the Hunter

should demand that the leader empty their pockets. The leader should reluctantly hand over the Bible verse.

**Hunter: I knew it! This whole party was just an excuse to talk about Jesus! And you know what I do to people who want to talk about Jesus!**

The Hunter should then pie the leader in the face, laugh maniacally, and leave.

**Leader: Oh dear! They found out that we're not really having a birthday party after all! Well at least now we can sing our songs as loudly as we like. Let's sing some songs!**

### **ALL TOGETHER: SONGS AND RECAP (20 MINS)**

Sing your usual songs.

Have the leader invite the children to share something they have learned today. If the children don't mention it, remind them that we have learned about:

- The story of the secret Christians in Central Asia who pretend to be having a birthday party when they meet together
- That when we decide to follow God, we are joining the big party that God is throwing. Everyone is invited to God's big party!

### **TEAM ENDING ACTIVITY: CHOCOLATE GAME (20 MINS)**

**For each team, you will need:**

- A knife and fork
- Gloves, a hat and a scarf
- A dice
- A big bar of chocolate.

#### **Instructions:**

One last party game to finish!

Each team should sit in a circle on the floor or around a table, with the chocolate (still in its packaging), clothes and cutlery in the middle. Each person takes it in turns to roll the dice. When someone rolls a six, they should put on the hat, scarf and gloves, and use the knife and fork to open and eat the chocolate. As soon as someone else rolls a six, the first person's turn is over and they should give the clothes and cutlery to the next person. The game ends when the chocolate is gone!

# TRAVEL TO CHINA

## DAY 5

**Aim for the day:** to learn about Ming from China, and to invite the children to begin their own adventures with God.

### TEAM STARTER ACTIVITY: WRITING TO CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD (20 MINS)

**You will need:**

- Paper
- Pens and/or pencils
- Information from the Open Doors website about someone who needs a message of encouragement
- Information about any of your church's mission partners who may appreciate some letters and cards from the children
- Optional: stickers, colourful paper such as wrapping paper, glue, scissors, other decorative items.

#### Instructions:

Ask the children if they can remember some of the Christians they have learned about this week. Hopefully they will remember some of the stories of Brother Andrew, Maryam and Marziyeh, Min-soo, and the Christians from Central Asia.

Tell them that, now, you are going to draw pictures or write letters to some other Christians who live around the world. Share the stories you have found on the Open Doors website of Christians who need messages of encouragement, and/or about your church's mission partners. Then invite the children to write a message, make a card or draw a picture to send to one of them.

### ALL TOGETHER: WELCOME, SONGS, 'WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?' (25 MINS)

**You will need:**

- A large world map or globe
- Brother Andrew's suitcase
- A pair of chopsticks
- The fifth letter from Brother Andrew.



Bring all the children together, welcome them and sing your songs for the morning.

Once the singing is finished, the leader should then come out with Brother Andrew's suitcase.

**Leader: Who can remember how people from Iran say 'hello'?**

**That's right – Salam! And can anyone remember how people say 'hello' in North Korea?**

**That's right – An-yong-ha-sim-ni-kka!**

**And where were we talking about yesterday?**

**That's right – Central Asia! But the Christians Brother Andrew wanted to tell us about were so secret, he couldn't tell us which country they were from, so we couldn't learn how they would say hello.**

**I wonder where Brother Andrew wants us to visit today. Who would like to see what's in the suitcase?**

Choose a volunteer. First invite them to shake the suitcase around and guess what's inside. Then invite them just to put a hand inside, but not look, and say what they can feel. Finally, invite them to look inside. Inside the suitcase should be the chopsticks and the fifth letter from Brother Andrew.

**(Asking volunteer) What's in the suitcase?**

**That's right, it's a pair of chopsticks. People in many countries in Asia use chopsticks to eat with, instead of a knife and fork. Does anyone know some of the places where people use chopsticks?**

**One of the countries where people use chopsticks is China.**

**Hands up if anyone has heard of China.**

If anyone has, ask them if they think they could find China on the world map. If they can, invite them to come out and find it. If not, point it out yourself.



## Can anyone tell us anything they know about China?

Perhaps a child from your group has a friend or relative from China, or has even been there themselves, and can share something about that.

Some children may have heard negative things about China from their parents or the news. Try not to dwell on these comments, but you may wish to gently correct them if it feels appropriate. For example, if a child says “Chinese people hate Christians!” you might want to respond by saying something like, “Actually, there are nearly 100 million Christians in China! But you are right that the leaders of China can make life difficult for Christians.”

**In China, people speak many languages, but most people speak Mandarin Chinese. We are going to learn to say ‘hello’ like a Chinese person – ‘Ni-hao!’** [\(Pronounced ‘knee how’. You can hear the pronunciation here.\)](#)

**If you want to say ‘hello’ to someone this morning, let’s try saying ‘Ni-hao’ instead!**

**There are lots of Christians in China – nearly 100 million! But that’s not even that many compared to all of the people who live in China, which is almost one and a half BILLION! It’s the country with the second most people in the world. The only country where more people live is India.**

**The leaders of China are suspicious of Christians. That’s because China’s leaders want**

**everyone to do what they say, but Christians think it is most important to do what God says. So sometimes they make it difficult for Christians to meet together, or have a Bible. You’re not allowed to go to church until you’re 18 – so none of you would be allowed to go to church.**

**We have another letter here from Brother Andrew. Let’s see if he has a story for us about someone from China.**

*Ni-hao!*

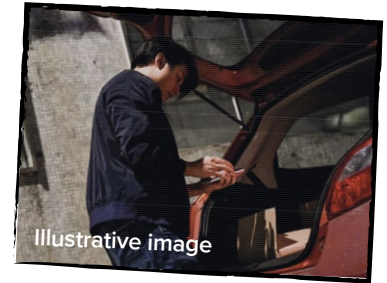
*Today I would like to tell you about a man from China. We are going to call him Ming, but that’s not his real name. We have to keep his real name a secret, because he’s a Bible smuggler like me!*

*It’s very hard to get a Bible in the part of China where Ming is from. But Ming is able to secretly collect Bibles for people who need them. He takes his car down a hidden alley, and when no one is looking, he loads up his car with Bibles. He has to use a secret code to let his friends know that he is on his way with the Bibles, in case spies are checking what he says. He tells his friends, “I’m going to the old place,” and they know where he means.*

*Ming’s work is very dangerous. He has been arrested before, and his house has been searched by the police. But he has never stopped following God and trying to do what God says.*

*People like me and Ming have been on many*

*adventures with God. Sometimes it has been hard. Sometimes it has been scary. But we know that God loves us, and He is always with us.*



*And God loves you too. Perhaps you would like to start your own adventure with God. Wherever your adventures take you, God will always be with you.*

*Your brother in Christ,*

*Brother Andrew*

## TEAM TIME: SNACKS AND CHATS (20 MINS)

**You will need:**

- Drinks and snacks for each child.
- Optional – a set of chop sticks for each child to try to eat their snacks with!

If possible, it would be fun for the children to try some foods that you would find in China. [You can find a list of suggestions here.](#) An easy option could be prawn crackers (and a vegetarian alternative if required).

**Instructions:**

Don’t forget to greet the children with ‘Ni-hao!’

**Question: What is the biggest adventure you have ever been on?**

Read John 10:10 – “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

**Question: What do you think it means to have a full life?**

*When we think of having a ‘full life’, we might think of all the good things we can have in life – family, friends, eating nice food and doing fun things. Those are all good things that God gives us.*

*But Christians believe that our lives won’t really be full until we know God.*

*We believe that God made each one of us, and that He loves us and wants us to know Him. But we all do things that are wrong, and that stops us from being able to know God. That’s why God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross. He was punished for everything that everyone has ever done wrong, so that we don’t have to be punished. God will forgive us for the things that we do wrong if we ask Him to. And if we trust our lives to Him, He promises He will always be with us.*

*Some people think that deciding to follow God will make your life boring. But Ming and Brother Andrew definitely didn’t have boring lives when they decided to follow God!*

*If any of you would like to, you can pray and say sorry to God for anything bad that you’ve done,*

*and He will forgive you. You can give your life to Him, and you can start your own adventures following God. Following God isn’t always easy. But it won’t be boring! God loves you, and He will always be with you.*

Depending on what your group is like, you may like to invite the children to pray such a prayer right there and then. Or you may feel it’s more appropriate to say that they can come and speak to you later if they would like to pray this prayer with you on their own. The prayer could be something like this:

*Dear God,*

*Thank You that You love me. Thank You that You sent Jesus to be punished for the things that I have done wrong. Please forgive me for the times I have done things that have made You sad. I want to trust You with my life. Please help me to follow You. Thank You that You have promised to always be with me.*

*Amen.*

**ALL TOGETHER GAME:  
BIBLE TAG (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- A big notebook with ‘Bible’ written on the front in big letters.

**Instructions:**

Everyone is a Bible smuggler or a spy in this game. It’s a game of tag, but with a twist.

One person is the spy. They try to tag the person holding the ‘Bible’. The rest of the group are the Christians, and can pass the Bible between them, but someone always has to be holding it – they can’t just drop it on the ground, for example; it has to be passed to someone else. If they drop the Bible, the person who dropped it is out. The spy wins if they can tag someone while they’re holding the Bible. The game can then begin again with someone else being the spy.

You can also add more spies if the person in that role is finding the game too difficult.

**ALL TOGETHER GAME:  
WHAT’S MY NAME? (20 MINS)**

**You will need:**

- Post-it notes
- A pen or pencil for each child.

**Instructions:**

Remind the children that we had to use a pretend name for Ming, because he has to keep his Bible smuggling a secret. Now we are all going to give each other a pretend name!

Give each child a post-it note and a pencil or pen, and ask them to write down the name of a famous person or character, or someone you will all know. When they are finished, tell them to stick the name on the back of someone else. Once everyone has a new name, they must go around the room and ask other people to answer questions about their new name, to help them work out who they are. They can only ask questions that can be answered

‘yes’ or ‘no’. They should only ask the other person one question, then move on to someone else.

If some of the children are not very confident at reading and writing, you may need to ask a leader to help them with writing their post-it note and reading the names on other people, or you could ask another older child to work together with them.

Once a child has worked out their new name, they can continue to help others work out who they are.

### **ALL TOGETHER: SONGS AND RECAP (20 MINS)**

Sing your usual songs.

Have the leader invite the children to share something they have learned today. If the children don’t mention it, remind them that we have learned about:

- The story of Ming, a Bible smuggler in China
- The Bible verse where Jesus says ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)
- That we can all decide to follow Jesus and begin our own adventures with God – and they can start today!

### **TEAM ENDING ACTIVITY: ‘20 QUESTIONS’ GAME (20 MINS)**

You may like to give your group a choice of how to finish. They may wish to finish the letters and

pictures they were working on at the start of the day, or to make some more for other people you told them about.

Alternatively, you could play the ‘20 questions’ game.

#### **You will need:**

- Nothing!

#### **Instructions:**

One person thinks of a famous person, and the rest of the group can ask 20 questions with a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer to try and work out who they are. After 20 questions, if the group hasn’t already worked out the answer, they have to guess. If someone guesses correctly, they win. They can be next to think of a famous person.

### **TAKE AWAY**

Don’t forget to give the children their suitcases and [secret cipher wheels](#) to take away.

As an extra, you could also give each child a copy of ‘Secret Smuggler’ to take away. It’s an illustrated booklet telling the real story of Brother Andrew.

[You can order free copies on the Open Doors website.](#)

