

# ALPHABETI SPAGHETTI

**Aim:** to experience using an unfamiliar script and to teach that different scripts are used for Bible translation.

**Audience:** children, any number.

**Duration:**  
20 minutes.

**Description:**  
an activity sheet.

**Biblical Basis:**  
Psalm 119:130,  
Hebrews 4:12.

**Equipment:** activity sheets (photocopy masters provided), pencils, coloured pens, scissors, gluesticks, card.



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## Leader's Instructions:

1. In advance, photocopy enough of the activity sheet for everyone to have one each.
2. Hand out activity sheets and pens.
3. Explain the first activity:
  - work out the three words (The words are 'apple', 'orange' and 'banana').
  - work out the sentence (The message reads 'God's Word brings life').
  - write your own name in Devnagri Script.
4. Hand out scissors, gluesticks and card.
5. Explain the second activity:
  - colour in the bookmark
  - sign your name in Devnagri on it
  - cut it out
  - stick it onto thick card
6. Pray together for the Jirel people. Pray that many will come to know Jesus as they read the New Testament and that a strong Jirel Church will grow.

## Talk Back:

Encourage the children to keep the bookmark and use it as a reminder to pray for the Jirel people.

Be careful to point out the difference between what the children have written (which is English written in a foreign script) and the verse on the bookmark (which is a foreign language and a foreign script). Otherwise they may try to decipher the 'code' on the bookmark when they get home, and won't be able to!

## Ideas for Use:

1. Alphabeti Spaghetti works well:
  - as an introduction to a project on India.
  - as a 'take away' for children to do at home.
  - as a back up resource when you have more time left than you'd planned!
2. Depending on where you live, there may well be children in the group who are already know this script. If so, make the most of it.

*The Devnagri script has been simplified for the purposes of this activity.*

# ALPHABETI SPAGHETTI

Here is the Devnagri alphabet. It looks a bit like spaghetti:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N  
अ ब च ड ए फ ग ह इ ज क ल म न  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
ओ प कउ र श ट उ व व क्ख य ज

Here are some English words written with Devnagri letters. Can you find out what they mean?

अपपलए      ओरअनगए      बनअनअनअ

\_\_\_\_\_

Devnagri letters are joined up together to make whole words. Each word looks like a clothes line with washing hanging on it. Here's a whole sentence. Can you work out what the message says?

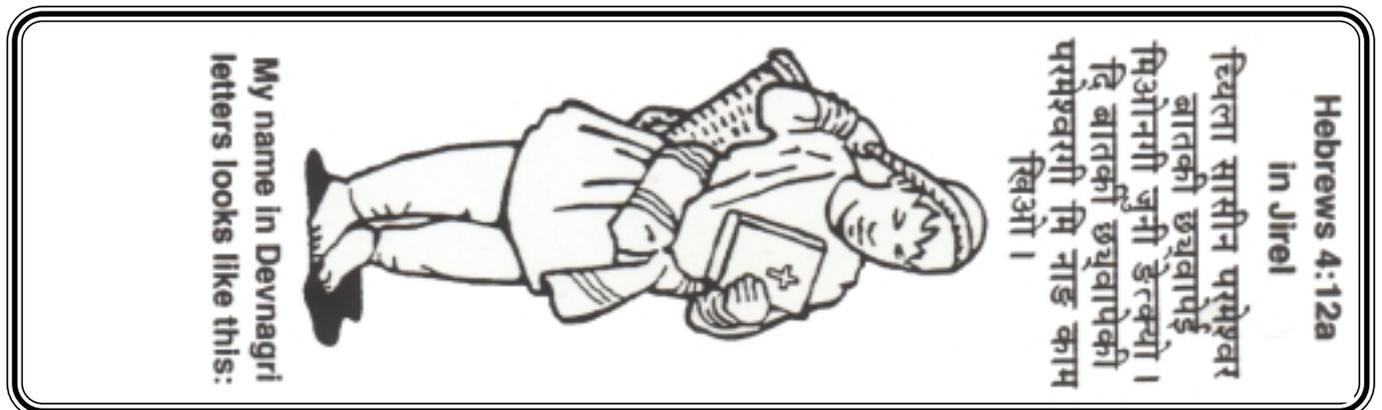
गओडश वओरड बरइनगश लइफए

Can you write your own name in joined up Devnagri letters?

**Facts:** The Devnagri script was first used to write the Hindu Scriptures. Devnagri means 'the writing of the gods'. Today this alphabet is used to write languages around North India.

**Facts:** The Jirel people of South Asia write their own language in the Devnagri script. Translators took 22 years to put the New Testament into the Jirel language. Now it has been published for the first time!

Here is a bookmark to colour and cut out and keep:



To find out what this verse from the Jirel New Testament says, read Hebrews 4:12a.