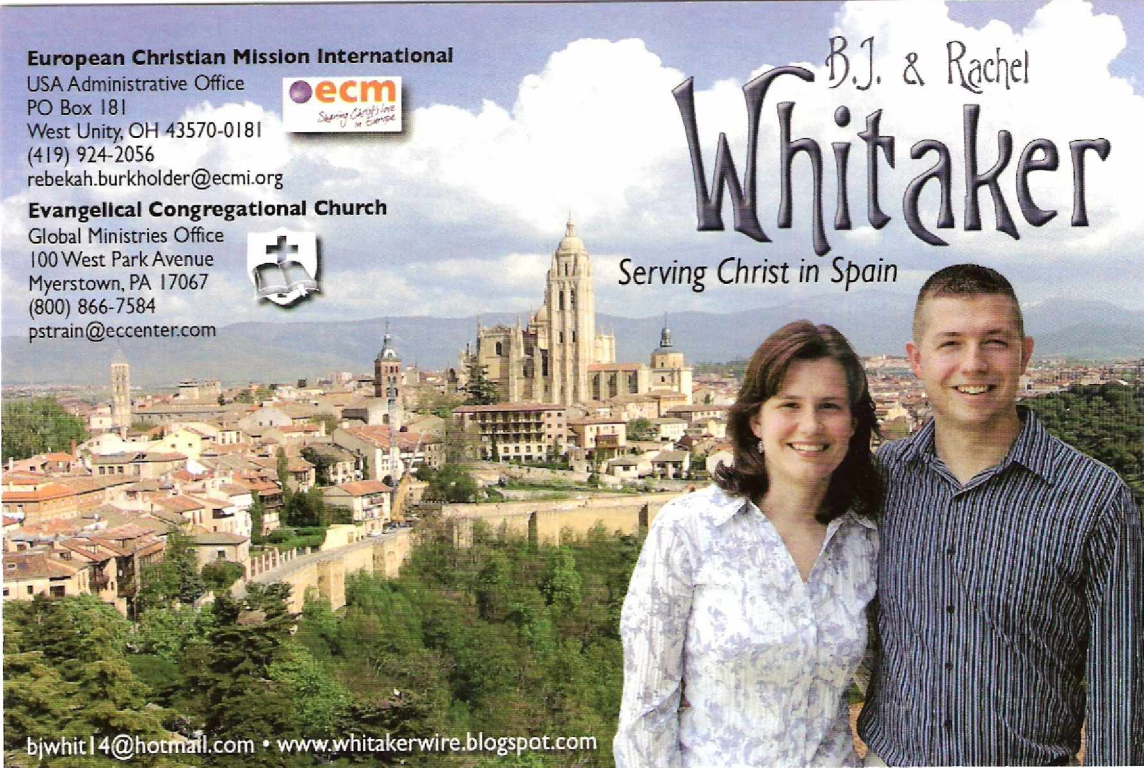


MISSIONARY LESSONS
FOR MISSION MINDED KIDS

THE WHITAKER FAMILY
SERVING IN SPAIN



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B.J. & Rachel Whitaker
Serving Christ in Spain

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The Whitaker Family in Spain

Goals for Lesson:

- Students will be introduced to E.C. missionaries, BJ and Rachel Whitaker, planting churches in Spain.
- Students will be introduced to the culture and history of Spain.
- Students will identify with Rachel and find comfort in knowing that all they need to do is put their “future in God’s hands, follow him, and he will take care of the rest”.

Verse for the Whitaker Family:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-7

When Rachel was a little girl, she tended to worry a lot so her grandmother gave her these verses to help in times of trouble. Rachel says, “I always find comfort in knowing that all I need to do is put my future in God’s hands, follow him, and he will take care of the rest!”

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Write “Rachel’s Verse” on a blackboard or large sheet of paper.
- Have a world map or globe in the classroom to show the location of Spain in relation to the U.S. and other countries you have studied.
- Make a copy of the blank Spain map for each student and one copy of the labeled map for yourself.
- Cut “Cordoba” page in fourths so that you can display one word at a time for students to copy onto their maps.
- Make a copy of the Spain map and flag page for each student. Cut out the colored map of Spain and attach to a small dowel rod to display in the room.
- Depending on how you will use them, make copies of the verse heart or the verse coloring page for your students. Collect needed craft supplies to complete the activity in class.
- Prepare Spanish foods for a tasting snack.

Lesson Plan:

- Begin lesson time with prayer.
- Introduce the Whitakers, using the prayer card from the lesson cover and the picture of baby Miriam. Give students their own blank “Spain” map and a pencil to write with. Tell them to listen for the words to label their maps with as you tell them the story of the Whitakers.
- Read or tell the Whitaker family story, pausing where indicated to help students label each place on their maps. As each city is introduced, post the strip of paper on the board or in a visible place so that children can copy the word, placing one letter on each blank near the city marked on their map. If you wish, you may also add other instructions like, “draw an olive near Cordoba”, “draw a beach along the southern coast”, “draw a bunch of grapes near Madrid”, “draw an orange near Valencia”, “draw an Olympic symbol near Barcelona”, “color the ocean blue”, “label France on the northeastern border of Spain”, etc.
- Introduce “Rachel’s Verse” and tell the children how her grandmother helped her when she was a little girl. Read the verse aloud together as a class.
- Complete the heart verse craft, sing the verse together to the tune of “Amazing Grace”, and/or color the lantern page, depending on time available.
- Complete the map and flag page, using the colored flag to show them how it should look.
- Because of Spain’s climate, it is world-famous for some of its food exports. If you would like to let your students taste some of the foods of Spain, gather some different kinds of olives (get ones that say they are a product of Spain). See if you can find Valencian oranges or cheeses made in Spain. If not, serve fresh, peeled orange segments, fresh grapes (they turn most of their grape crop into world-famous wines), almonds and a few types of cheeses. Explain that the olives, oranges, grapes and almonds are very common crops grown in Spain, and they love to make and eat lots of different cheeses from goat, sheep and cow milk.
- End your time together in prayer for the Whitaker family and the people of Spain.

Story for Whitaker Family in Spain

Spain is an old, old country in Europe. **(Show world map, pointing out Spain)** During the time of Jesus, the Romans occupied that area, which was then called Hispania. It is believed that the apostle Paul traveled to Spain to bring the Gospel of Jesus there, and then in 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain to find the New World. For about 200 years after Columbus, Spain led the world in exploration of new territories and the building of colonies and became a very rich and powerful nation.

Although it is no longer a world power, today Spain is a very modern and beautiful country in Western Europe which attracts many tourists who want to experience the lovely countryside and rich culture and visit the very old cathedrals and palaces dating from hundreds of years ago. Modern Spain is well-known for its olive oil, grapes (mostly made into wine), oranges, its beautiful Mediterranean beaches and its slow pace of life. The 1992 Summer Olympics were in Barcelona, Spain. **(Help students locate and label Barcelona on their maps.)**

The daily schedule in Spain is much different than we are used to. The Spanish have breakfast around 8 or 9 a.m., and people are generally at work between 9 and 10 a.m. Usually, there is a mid-morning snack break around 11 a.m. which is called Almuerza. The mid-day meal is normally the big meal of the day, eaten around 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. Many people return home for this meal. People often return to work around 4 or 5 p.m., depending on the job, the part of Spain, and the season (summer hours are different from winter hours). Many times there is an afternoon snack, called 'Merienda,' around 6 p.m. Dinner, or 'Cena,' is eaten anywhere from 8 p.m. to midnight, depending on the location and the day of the week.

Rachel Whitaker grew up in Spain. She is the oldest daughter of missionaries, Ron and Brenda Anderson, who still serve through ECMI in Spain. When Rachel was a little girl, she and her younger brother and sister went to a Spanish public school near her home in Cordoba, where all of the teaching was done in Spanish. **(Show students Cordoba on your map and help them locate and label the city on their map.)** Since she spoke English at home with her family, she became very fluent in both languages. Rachel and the other children would go to school in the morning, and then come home for a long lunch and resting time. Later in the afternoon, they would go back to school for another few hours to finish their day.

When Rachel was 15 years old, her family moved to Madrid, which is the capital of Spain. **(Show Madrid on your map and help students locate and label the capital on their map.)** There, Rachel was able to attend an American school for missionary kids. In Cordoba, she had always been the only Christian in her class. Now for the first time, Rachel was in a class with other Christians. Since all of her schooling had been in Spanish so far, she was now able to get better at reading and writing in English. This experience also helped her to see how much the Spanish people needed to hear about Jesus. Although most of the people in Spain would say they were Catholic (99%) almost no one actually attends church on a regular basis, or has a personal relationship with Jesus.

BJ Whitaker grew up in a small town (Buffalo) in Illinois. He attended the public school there and enjoyed playing and watching all kinds of sports. He also enjoyed playing the guitar, and when he later attended Asbury College in Kentucky, his guitar helped him to meet Rachel. While her parents still served as missionaries in Spain, Rachel had come to the U.S. to attend Asbury College to get a degree in Social Work. Since Rachel plays the piano, she found herself helping to lead worship with BJ and his guitar. During college, Rachel and BJ also went on some mission trips together, and found that God was calling them to serve together on a foreign mission field. They felt that God was asking them to plant churches in the many villages of Spain which had no evangelical witness.

Following their marriage and approval as E.C. missionary candidates, BJ and Rachel spent several years visiting many church congregations, raising support funds, attending intensive training courses, and completing the many details needed to actually get to Spain. In May of 2009, they were finally ready to make the move to Cordoba.

After a year of language school for BJ and the addition of baby Miriam to the family, the Whitakers moved north to the small village of Alcora in the area of Valencia. **(Help students to locate and label Alcora on their map.)** Here, Rachel and BJ will work together to build relationships, teach people about Jesus, and work toward planting a church.

Pray for the people of Alcora who need to know that they can have a personal and loving relationship with Jesus Christ, and pray for BJ and Rachel and baby Miriam as they work towards planting a church in Alcora, Spain.

Spain is about twice the size of our state of Oregon. It is divided into 50 small provinces. Even though Spanish is the common official language of Spain, several other languages are also spoken in the different regions. Where the Whitakers live, in the region of Valencia, Valenciano is spoken, especially in the smaller towns. It's kind of like a mixture of Spanish and French. In the region of Catalonia, around Barcelona, Catalán is the chief language, and it is quite similar to Valenciano. In Galicia, which is in northwestern Spain, Gallego is spoken, and it's something like a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese. And in northern Spain, in the Basque Country, Basque (also known as Euskadi) is spoken, and it's unrelated to any Western European language group.



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Cordoba

Madrid

Alcora

Barcelona

Introducing...

MIRIAM JOY WHITAKER!



The tiny wonder was born at 11:10 p.m. on June 17, 2010, weighing in at 5 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 17¾ inches long. Thank you to all who have been praying for her and for us as we've prepared for her arrival--we have truly experienced the hand of God at work in our lives throughout this new adventure. Your continued prayers for all of us would be appreciated!

Much love,
B.J., Rachel & Miriam

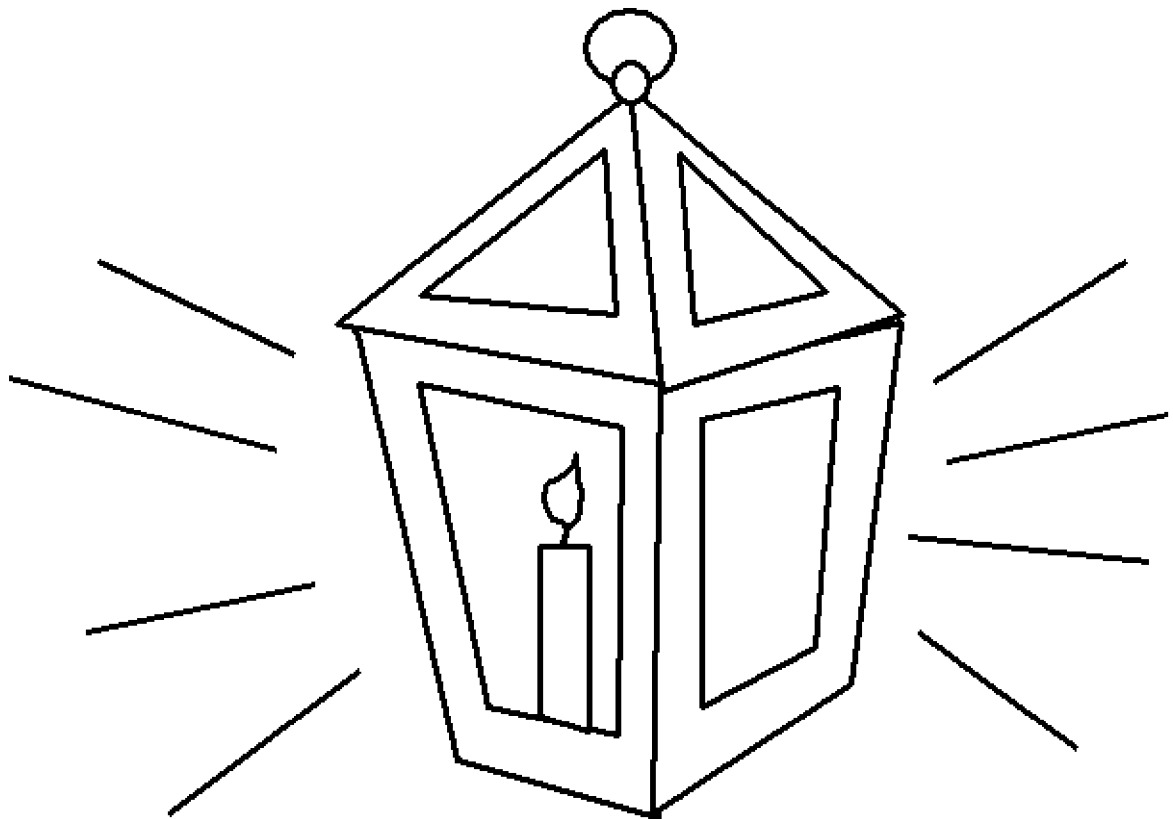
****This picture and greeting was sent shortly after Miriam was born. You may use it as it is or by the time you teach this lesson, they may have a new prayer card with Miriam on it. You may also look for updated pictures at <http://whitakerwire.blogspot.com/>*

Trust in the Lord

Sing Proverbs 3:5,6 to the tune of "Amazing Grace".

Trust in the Lord, with all your heart.
Lean not on your own understanding.

In all your ways, acknowledge Him,
and He will direct your paths.



Directions for Heart Verse Craft

Needed Supplies:

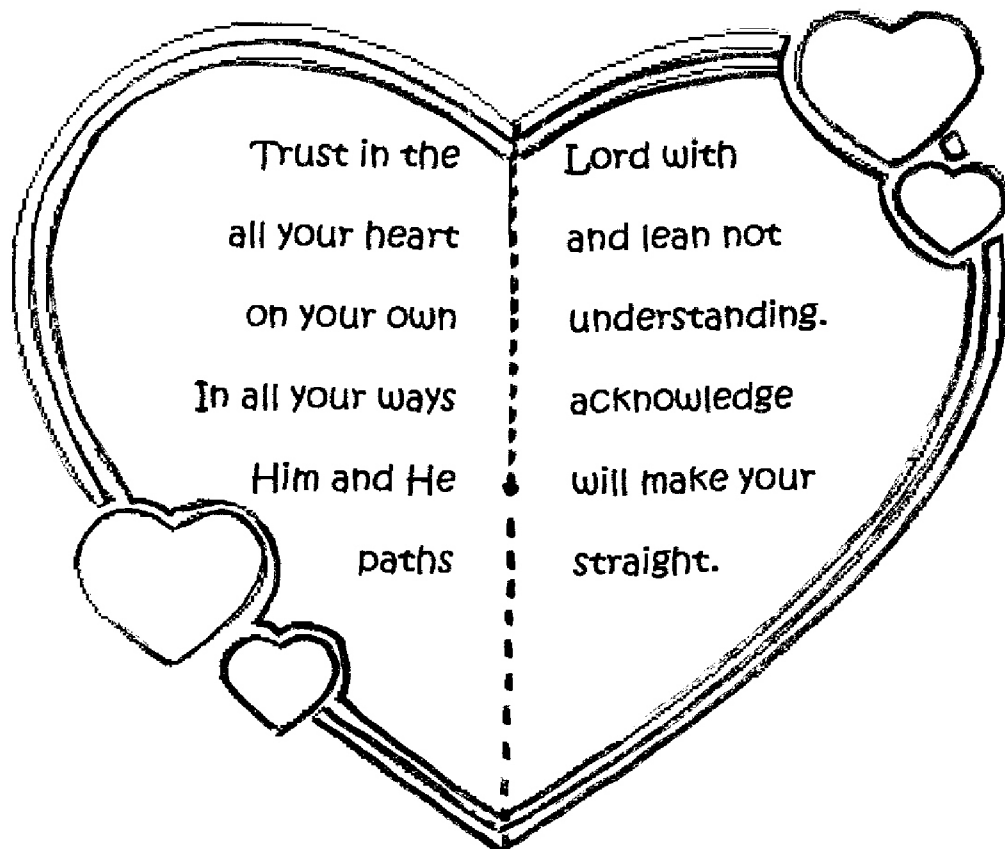
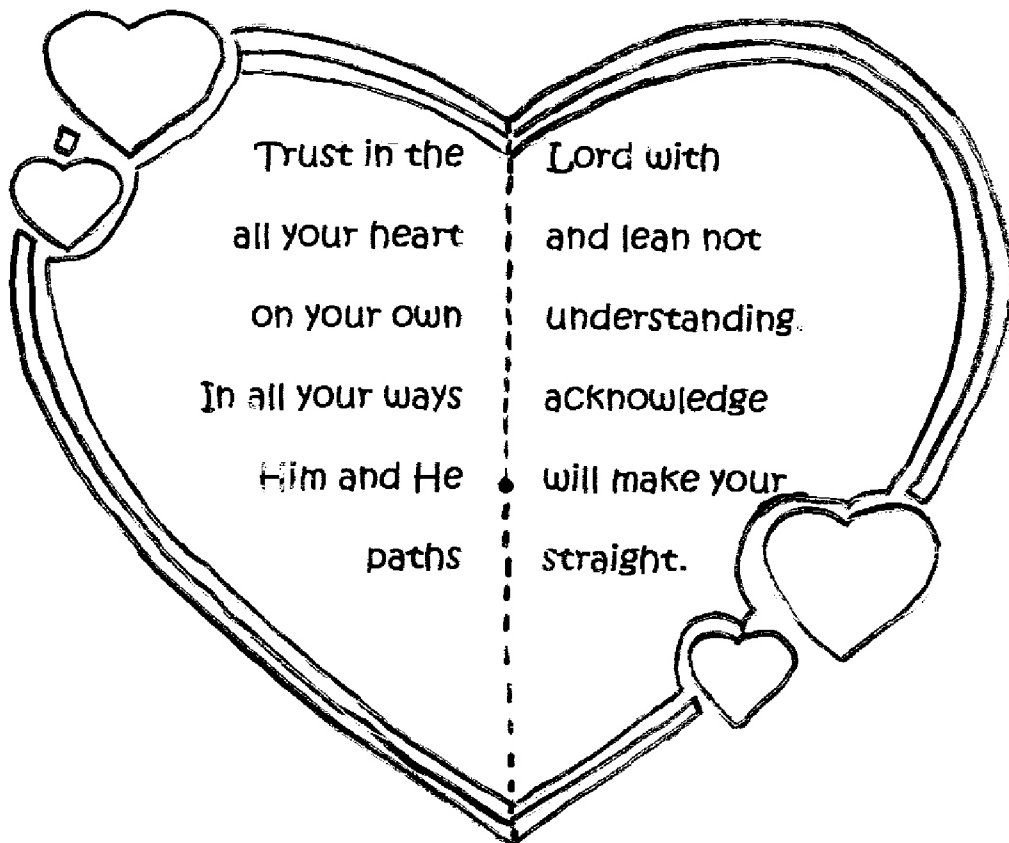
- Scissors
- Markers or Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- String or Yarn for Hanging

Before Class:

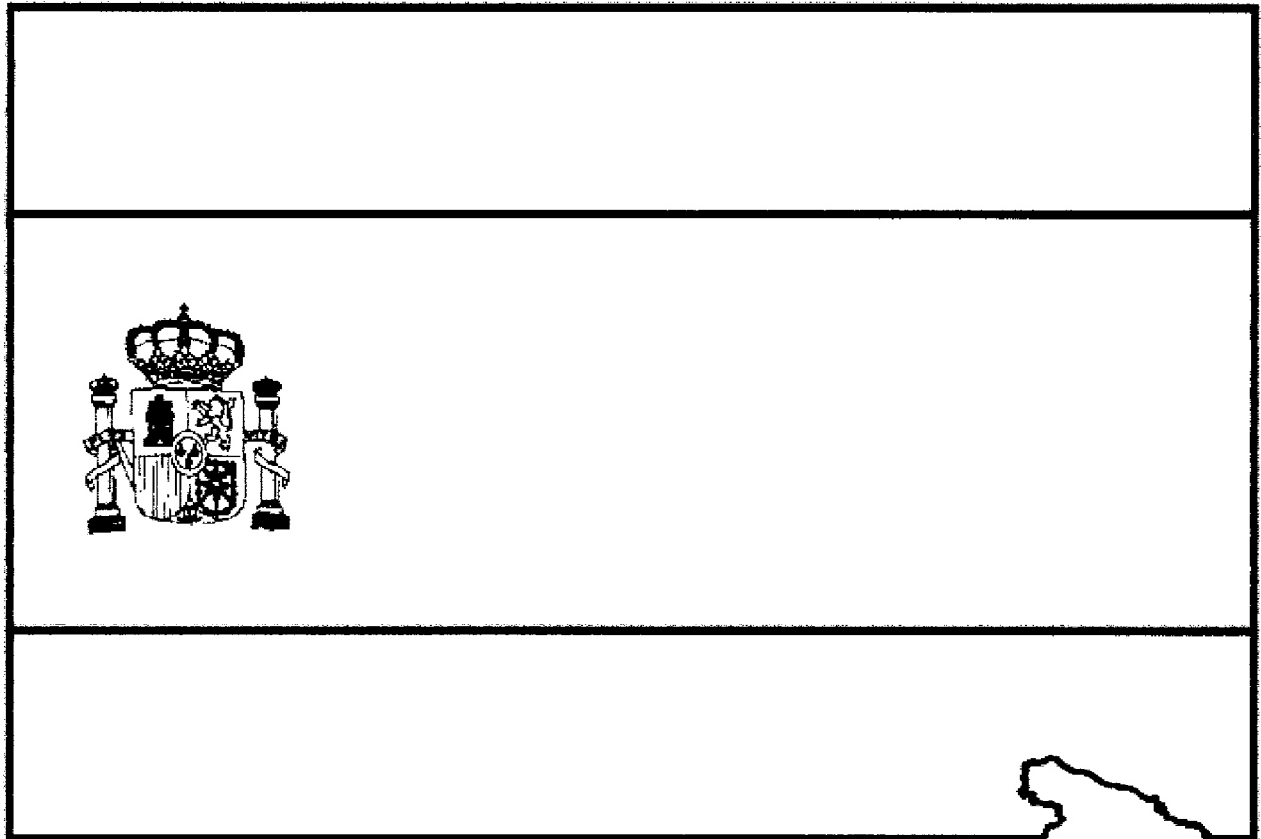
- Copy the heart page, making enough for four hearts for each student. You can use construction paper, colored or white printer paper or colored cardstock. Notice that the hearts are reversed so that they will fit together back-to-back.
- If you have very young children, you may want to pre-cut or partially pre-cut the hearts to save time and help them.
- Gather scissors, glue sticks and any markers or crayons you may want to use. Cut string or yarn into 12 inch lengths for hanging.
- Make a sample of the craft to show the kids what theirs should look like.

During Class:

- Give each child four hearts. Read the verse together again, reviewing its meaning and how it helped Rachel.
- Depending on the paper you used to copy them, you may give the children a few minutes to decorate their hearts, making sure they do not cover the words. Have children cut out hearts with scissors. **Don't cut on the dotted lines yet.**
- Children will glue two hearts back-to-back, making two double-sided hearts. Double the 12 inch piece of yarn or string and lay the cut ends in the top of one heart before gluing the other one on top. This will make a loop for hanging.
- After hearts are glued together, carefully cut the heart **without** the hanger **from the top to center dot** along dotted line. Cut the heart **with** the hanger **from the bottom to center dot** along dotted line.
- Carefully slide one heart onto the other, with the two meeting in the middle. Open hearts to make a 3-D hanging heart. The verse will be able to be read from all four sides.



SPAIN flag & map



To color the flag of Spain, use Crayola® Crayons, Colored Pencils or Markers. Color the top and bottom stripes red and the middle stripe yellow.

Did you know...?

Spain is located in southwestern Europe. The climate is hot in the summer and cold and cloudy in the winter. In Spanish the word Spain is España. The country's products are grain, vegetables, olives, and it is one of the largest producers of cork.

