



MAMA'S SARIS

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Reading and Activity Guide



BEFORE READING

- + Today's story comes from a little girl who is Indian - her family and relatives come from the country of India. Find this country on a map or globe.
- + What is a **sari**? In our story, the little girl wants to wear a sari of her own, but Mama tells her - saris are only for grown-ups! A sari is worn by women in India, and each region in India has their own unique style. There are a number of different ways you can wear a sari, but most commonly, you wrap the sari around your waist and then drape the other end over your shoulder. Besides the long, draping cloth, you also wear a blouse ("choli") and a skirt. ([source](#))

DURING READING

- + Which events does Mama get dressed up in her saris for?
- + What is a **bindi**? A *bindi* is the decorative mark worn on the forehead of a Indian woman. Traditionally, it was a red dot that was a symbol of marriage in the Hindu religion; today it is considered a fashion accessory and is no longer restricted in color or shape (from inside of book).

AFTER READING

- + Have you played dress-up with your mom's or dad's clothes? Did you feel grown up in them? Think of a time you did feel grown up. Maybe you did something independently or took care of someone. What made you feel grown up?

SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Learn about saris! - [This website](#) explains the symbolism of the animal motifs found woven into saris, and [this website](#) shows how flowers inspire meaningful designs as well. Children can try drawing sketches of the animals, or [color their own Indian sari](#).

Activity #2: Learn about India! - What do Indians eat? Which games or sports do they play? What does their flag look like, and why? Which animals live here, and do they have mountains or rivers? What else do you want to know? Check out books, videos, coloring pages, and crafts or art projects!

Activity #3: On a Mission! - Not all people in India believe in God. They believe in different gods and have different religions. Just like Paul in the New Testament, some Christians today follow God's call in their life to spread the Good News of Jesus; they are called missionaries. Did you know India was the [first "foreign" mission field](#) in the LCMS's history? Things got started in 1895, but the first Lutheran missionary to India [came from Germany](#) in 1706! Learn about [God's work in India](#) today, and pray for the people of India as well as the missionaries serving them.

