

# Introduction Peru

The church in Peru is one of oldest mission works in Latin America. One of the key areas of ministry is in the Amazon jungle. The work in this area is to encourage the churches and plant new ones. There are 7 churches along the Amazon River and several outreaches. A key part of this ministry is to encourage and teach the Pastors and congregations. These are young churches with limited leadership but God is working miracles that no man could.

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# PERU

Capital—Lima



Religions—Catholic and Evangelical

Language—Spanish, Quechua, indigenous

Geography—a country in South America that is divided into three regions. The coast is the land next to the Pacific Ocean. The mountains include the Andes Mountains in the middle of the country. The jungle is part of the Amazon basin



Amazon River

Money—  
New Sol



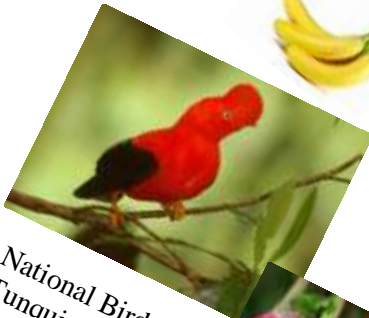
Musical instrument—  
Panpipes

Food—casava, plantain, fish, animals from the mountains, like wild pig, armadillo, tapir, lizard, chicken, potatoes. Salted meat, Beans with rice, potatoes and salted meat, Beans with rice and chicken wrapped in a leaf.



Typical house in the jungle

National Bird  
Tunki (Gallito de las Rocas)



National animal  
The vicuña—a member of the llama family



National Flower



Sports Soccer, Volleyball



Drinks—Chicha Morada is a drink made from purple corn cooked with sugar.  
Masato—is a drink made from cooked cassava with sugar



Animals—There are many animals in the jungles of Peru. There are jaguar, tayra, many types of snakes, dolphin, fish, lizard, tapir, peccary, monkeys, bats, manatee, capybara, and more.



Fruits—There are many fruits in the jungle, like papaya, many types of bananas, coconut, oranges, mandarins, watermelon, pineapple, guava and many more.



¿How many animals and fruits can you find on the page?

# Children's Story

## Ricardo

Ricardo Manuel was 12 years old.

From time to time he attended Sunday school. His grandmother would tell him to “get ready we are going to church.” But he did not want to go because it appeared boring and he preferred to stay with his friends in the street. Every time his grandmother talked about the church, he did not enjoy hearing it. He was very stubborn and rebellious.

Until Sunday March 21 of this year when he told Lucy, “I want to talk with you. It is something I cannot keep silent about, because it is always in my head.”

He said, “twice now I have been having the same dream, that my grandmother is telling me it’s time to go to church and I respond; I don’t want to go, it is boring, and she insists that I should go with her. So I followed her and when I was at the entrance of the church, I saw many people that were singing. The people and benches were moving and I was feeling that God was there. Suddenly I realized that some of the people singing were no longer there. Only a few were left and my grandmother was not there. So I returned running to my house, and she was not there either. I went running to the street. Only my friends a few people were in the street and I ran back into the house again and I met a large ugly animal.”

Then Ricardo said, “I don't want to be left here. What do I do so that I am not left behind? Lucy and Pastor Leiter prayed for Ricardo and then he accepted the Lord.

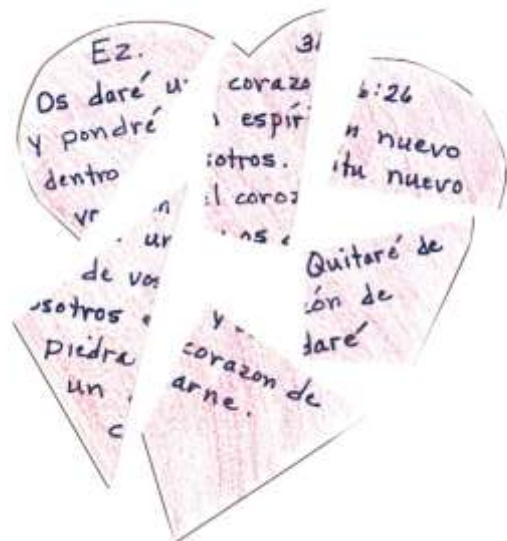
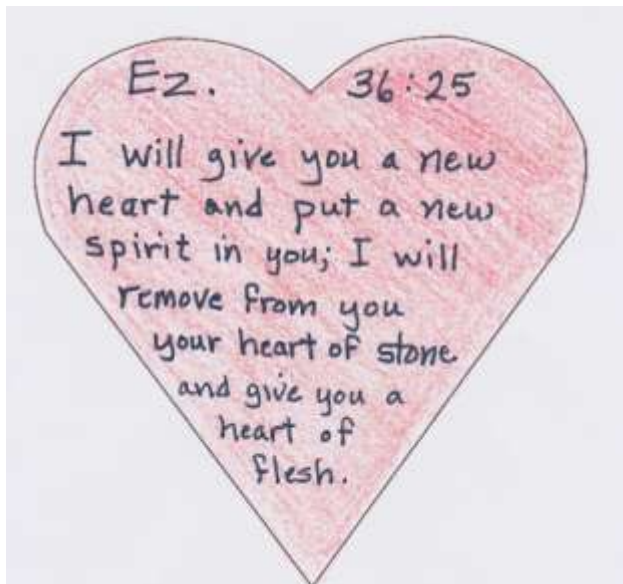
Now he wants to go to all the services and when the other children saw this, they too wanted to attend and to be prayed for.

# Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:25

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Give each child a paper with a heart drawing (resource p. 127). Have them write the Bible verse inside of the heart. Then, have them cut the heart into 6 pieces, and have them glue it back together on top of another piece of paper or cardboard. This will illustrate the idea of getting a new heart and spirit.



# Bible Lesson

## God's Special Gift – A New Heart

Ezekiel 36:26

*Ask the children to prepare a drama of the following scenario. If you have a large group of children, you could divide the group into drama teams, with at least 4 people on each team. The actors are: a rebellious young person, a Christian friend, a doctor, a nurse(s). After viewing the drama(s), ask the discussion questions that follow.*

Scenario: Two friends are talking. The one is a Christian and is talking to the other about his rebellious/disobedient life. The Christian lists several of the ways that his friend has gotten into trouble. The rebellious friend is nonchalant about the conversation. The Christian friend asks the other how he feels about his life. He responds "I don't feel anything. I haven't felt anything for a very long time." The Christian friend's answer is, "I know what is wrong with you. You have a heart of stone."

"How is that possible?" asks the rebellious friend. The Christian goes on to tell about the nation of Israel, how they had forgotten about God, had worshipped idols, and done all sorts of bad things. Yet, God never forgot about them. He told them that he would make them clean again; and take away their hearts of stone and give them a heart of flesh. In the same way, God is ready to help the rebellious friend too. If he wants a new heart, God can give him one.

The rebellious friend asks to receive a new heart. So, the Christian calls a nurse and doctor and asks them to make an appointment to do surgery – **to change his friend's heart of stone.**

They dramatically place the boy/girl on a table and prepare him/her for surgery; pretending to take out the heart of stone (using a rock) and making it clunk loudly when they take it out. Then they replace the heart with a heart of flesh (a red balloon or soft pillow). (The Dr and nurse should make funny comments and actions throughout the surgery.)

After the surgery, the rebellious youth is a changed person and is so excited that he can now **feel God's love and presence with his new heart of flesh.**

### Discussion

- Obviously, God does not take out our heart and give us a new one. Make sure that the children understand that God changes our thoughts, our desires, our actions; so it is like receiving a new heart.
- **Why do you think God used the term (in Ezekiel) "your heart of stone."**
- God wants to change our heart to be like flesh – to be teachable and open to His guidance in our lives. How can we have a heart of flesh?



## Game—Fruit Basket Upset

.All of the children need to choose the name of a local fruit: for instance banana, apple, mango, pineapple, etc. When each child has their fruit name, one of the children or the leader begins **walking around the room and saying "I am going to the Mercado and I am going to buy a banana.** The person who is banana gets up and follows the person as they continue calling out the fruits they are going to buy. Each fruit gets up as they are called and follows the leader. When there is a large group of the fruit/children following the leader, the leader calls out **"se rompe mi canasta," or "my basket broke" and all the children have to find there seat as quickly as possible.** The last one to sit down becomes the new buyer.

Game

Time

Time

for Prayer

1. For leaders to rise up in the area.
2. That the people are encouraged to follow the Lord despite their physical circumstances.
3. That we may one day have a teaching center for the pastors and leaders in Iquitos.
4. That God be glorified in all we do.
5. That we may reach as many people as possible with the gospel.
6. That our current churches grow strong and have their own church plants.

# Activity

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### Painted paperweight

You will need: a stone for every student, large enough to write Ez. 36:26 on the front. (Only write the reference, not the entire verse.)

Remind the students of the memory verse. Give them all a stone that they will paint red. (The color red will remind **them of Jesus' blood that was shed for their sins.**) Older children can outline a heart on the rock and paint within the lines. When the paint is dry, have them write with a black marker the Bible reference over the red paint – Ez. 36:26. This rock can be used as a paperweight and will always be a reminder of the new heart that we have as Christians.

