

Introduction Mexico

The church in Mexico started with Pilgrim Holiness missionaries in 1920, so we are getting close to our 100th anniversary. We now have almost 7000 people in about 160 churches. After this many years, Mexico does not need missionaries in leadership roles. The missionaries who work in Mexico are there at the invitation of the Mexican leaders to help train pastors.

84% of the population declares itself to be followers of Jesus Christ through the Roman Catholic church. Nevertheless, the country suffers daily from corruption, organized crime, drug traffic and violence. Does this sound to you like a country where most of the people say they love and serve Jesus?

There are more than 60 languages spoken in Mexico besides Spanish.

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Many of the people in our Wesleyan churches speak another language like Mazateco, Nahuatl or Huasteco.

- Match the cuisine with the image**
- 1 Taco
 - 2 Tortilla
 - 3 Burrito
 - 4 Chalupa
 - 5 Frijole—beans
 - 6 Quesadilla
 - 7 Sopa de Mondongo—Stomach soup
 - 8 Guacamole
 - 9 Tamale
 - 10 Nopales—cactus



Mexico has many pyramids that represent key cultural groups and eras. The Aztec, Maya and Toltec. Cholula is the largest but it cannot be seen because it is buried under a hill with a Catholic

Mexico City has a population of 22 million—third largest city in the world.



Mariachi Band—Typical Mexican musical group



Toltec Cholula



church on top. It is larger in dimension than the pyramids of Egypt.



3

Special Holidays
 September 16 - Independence Day
 May 5 - Defeat of French
 March 21 - Birthday of Benito Juarez
 Famous Mexican President



10

World's smallest volcano Cuexcomate—43 ft



4

AZTEC



1

National Flower—Dahlia



2

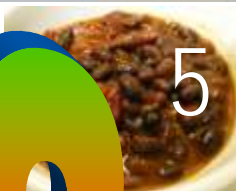
Currency
 12.8 Pesos = \$1 US



9



5



8



Several familiar foods had their origin in Mexico. Can you find the chocolate bean, tomato, peanut and vanilla bean?



Mayan

1. Taco 2. Tortilla 3. Burrito 4. Chalupa 5. Frijole 6. Quesadilla 7. Sopa de Mondongo 8. Guacamole 9. Tamale 10. Nopales

Children's Story

Isaac

It was all over the news -- "Popocateptl volcano is showing intense activity. It could erupt! All of the towns that are around the mountain should be ready to evacuate." You could see the fine gray powder falling from the sky, in your hair, on your clothes, on the cars, and irritating your eyes, reminding you that "Don Goyo" (a nickname for the Popocateptl volcano) was up to his old antics, and sending out big showy clouds of ash. On the news every day the reporters would give their story from the side of the mountain, from the little villages, interviewing the people who live there. "Yes, we are really scared we will have to leave our homes, or that something bad will happen to us." Everybody, big and little, watched the news with wide eyes, to see the images of the red, incandescent rocks flying out of the top of the volcano at night. Will lava come out? Will it come down to where our house is? What will happen to us?

Isaac, who is 11, was at his grandma's house after school, like he was every day, doing his homework and helping with the chores. Everybody was talking about old Popo. "Well, I'm not scared if anything bad happens" piped Isaac. "If the volcano blows up, I'm going with Jesus." Isaac's grandma smiled as she heated up the tortillas, so glad that she had been bringing Isaac and his little brothers to her church every Sunday to learn about Jesus.

"On Sunday when we had the special church service and party to celebrate that Jesus came alive again and is not in that grave, our teacher reminded us that Jesus was going to come back and get us and take us to heaven with him, and that even if we had already died, he could make us alive again just like he came alive again."

Grandma reflected on how odd it was that so many of the neighbors made such a big to-do during Holy Week, the week before Easter Sunday, decorating the streets in the town with flower petals, decorating their homes with bright purple and white crepe paper, parading a statue of Jesus through the streets in the day and night, and on Friday staging elaborate productions about when Jesus was crucified. Even all the news programs showed these fancy passion plays from all over the country. On Friday night, the news reporters said, "And that brings to an end the Holy Week festivities in Mexico this year, the most important week in the year for us." Grandma was sad to think that for so many people Good Friday was the end of the festivities and on the truly Most Important Day, nobody did anything special -- no special church services, no special meals. It was just another Sunday. But she knew that the Day of the Resurrection (as they call it in Mexico -- they don't have the word "Easter") was the Most Special day, and her hope to be in heaven with Jesus forever.

Children's Story

Isaac

Isaac was also glad in his heart that he had invited his best friend from school, Cesar to church, and last Sunday Cesar had prayed to receive Jesus into his heart as well. He was so excited that Cesar was now not just his friend, but his Christian brother as well, and they would be together forever in heaven! He said a small prayer to himself, "Jesus, thank you for what you did for us, and that you want us to be with you forever. I pray that my mom and dad, and Cesar's mom and dad will want to be with you forever too. Amen."

Memory Activity

John 20:29

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Have each child make a puppet. There are many ways to make a puppet.

1. Use a small paper bag and color eyes and nose on the bottom of the bag.
2. Use an old white sock.

Have the children practice "talking" with their puppet.

Then Inside the mouth of the puppet write 1 or 2 words of the memory verse. How many words will depend on how many children there are. When saying the verse each person must say only the words written in the mouth of their puppet.

Have the children say the words one after the other, saying the whole verse, repeating it several times. You can even have groups who compete in making the puppets and then saying the verse correctly.



Bible Lesson

John 20:1-18 The Resurrection

Jesus had done nothing wrong, but there were so many people who didn't like him. They wanted to kill him. So they did. They hung him on a cross and he died. Late that afternoon, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross. He was wrapped in long strips of cloth and was buried in a rich man's tomb. A large stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb, and soldiers were put outside to make sure that nothing happened to Jesus' body.

Let's read what happened next in John 20:1-2. (The teacher may read, or ask a student, or several students, to take turns reading)

Why do you think Mary ran away from the tomb? (Was she afraid? Was she confused or excited?)

Let's continue reading in John 20:3-9. (Children, again, may read)

(Ask the children to stand up and run in place really fast for thirty seconds. Tell them that they are pretending to be the two disciples as they raced to the empty tomb. When the time is up, they may sit down again)

Why do you think the friends ran to the tomb? (Were they shocked? Was it hard to believe what Mary had told them? Were they worried?)

The Bible tells us that the second friend "...saw and believed" (John 20:8). What did he believe? (Jesus had been dead, but God raised him back to life!)

Ask the children - Do you believe that Jesus is alive? (Pause)

Read John 20:10-14. Why do you think that Mary cried? (She was confused. She thought that Jesus was dead, and now his body was missing too!)

Read John 20: 15-18 Mary finally understood. It was Jesus! He had been dead. But now he was alive! Now Mary believed! She wanted to touch him and hug him! But Jesus said, "Not yet. I'm going to the Father. And he is your Father too!" Then, Mary ran away.

Why do you think Mary ran this time?

Yes, Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We must be very, very thankful for that. But, even better, He rose from the dead. Because of that, we know that He is the Son of the Almighty God, He is our Savior, and He is our Lord. We have so much to be thankful for!

Colorinas

A small hole is dug in the ground if played out-of-doors, or a bowl placed on the floor if played indoors.

A line is drawn about 8 feet away from the hole. The players take a handful of little red beans called colorinas and stand on the line.

Each player must each have an equal number of beans to start the game. One at a time the players see how many beans they can throw into the hole.

The whole handful of beans must be released at one time. If any fall into the hole, the player picks them up and puts them in the palm of one hand. Then with a jerk he or she throws those beans into the air and tries to catch them on the back of the hand: then once again he or she throws them and catches them in the palm. The player who has the greatest number of beans in the palm after the last person throws is the winner.

Game
Time

Time for Prayer

- Many Mexicans know about Jesus, and even believe in Him, but do not understand about being saved by grace. Pray that many Mexicans would understand that they are not saved by going to church, or having been baptized as a baby.
- The Mexican Wesleyan church has more than 6000 people, but does not have enough pastors, and many pastors have to take care of two or even three congregations. Right now fewer than 20 people in the whole country are studying to be pastors in our churches. **Some churches don't have a pastor at all,** and many churches only have a person who wants to help, but is not a pastor. Please **pray that many Mexicans would obey God's** call to be pastors.
- In Mexico, many false groups like the **Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are growing** and spreading false teaching, even among the Christians. Pray that the believers would grow to maturity and read their Bibles so as not to be fooled by false teaching.
- Mexico has 32 states, but we only have churches in eight of them and one church in Mexico City (which is a Federal District, different from a State – kind of like our Washington DC), . Please pray that we would grow and be church planters in many other places in the country.

Activity

Mexican Food Search

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T A N F H I M J I F N A E O H P Z J G N
I O G A O H A B O R H L D M T M F N E R
K D A N C L L E R I G L K U P I S O I N
E O P F A H Z O G J J I N G S A R U U K
G R X P F H O Y P O K D W A R U N R X O
F I E A D V C S S L M A L I L V I A U B
Q N F M W J Q I N E C S X Q C F T B D B
A C Z Q D X U W M S A E R W H H W C Q A
M Z F D O E H B V I Q U O U D M W G T U
Y O M V E A V Z O O H Q K J M X E X M G
I H K Q T A U C E Z V C A T J X N J J Q
C L Y I R Y E L F Z J N R C L X V C I U
R F J K W U O Z X G N U T W I M Q N P D
J A P R G M L O U F T G V V X X U I I Z
F X L Z A E T O R T I L L A L S T B C I
Q K H C O L P E P P E R O Y Y W X N H U
B S A F N A P F T D H L G F K F P J U W
K U O D U M G Q E D F X I Z U B N P R U
G Y I X V A D S A D A T S O T F L Y R S
T G Q Q G T D Z Y O C A T Q F C M L O T

Words are in any direction

BURRITO
CHIMICHANGA
CHURRO
EMPANADA
FAJITA

FLAN
FRIJOLES
GUACAMOLE
JALAPENA
QUESADILLA
SALSA

TACO
TAMALE
TORTILLA
TOSTADAS
NACHOS