

# **¡VIVA MEXICO!**

**South of the Border  
With Jesus**

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE

**Venga Con Nosotros A Mexico!  
(Come With Us to Mexico!)**

**Five Day Vacation Bible School  
Preschool-Grade Six**

# ¡VIVA MEXICO!

## ...south of the border with Jesus



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# ¡VIVA MEXICO!

## South of the Border With Jesus

¡Bienvenidos!

¡Vámanos! ¡Venga con nosotros a México!  
(Welcome! Come With us to Mexico!)

*Fill your church with sights and sounds of Old Mexico. Create a child friendly version of this colorful nation. Fiestas, Siestas, Haciendas, Plazas and Pueblos make VIVA MEXICO the perfect backdrop for an amazing week for kids.*

*The answer to your question is...NO! You do not have to speak Spanish in order to enjoy this event!*



It is impossible to include every aspect of Mexico in a five day Vacation Bible School. Have fun with a few broad themes designed to acquaint your children with the language and customs of Mexico. It is our desire to share with you part of Mexico's rich culture and heritage and to help you create a memorable event surrounding stories about **JESUS, THE MAN IN SANDALS!**

It would take a library to include all Mexican language, culture, history, music, art and daily life. We feature the best images of Mexico using some enjoyable stereotypes while avoiding those that would portray a negative image. Use colorful decorations and costumes as a tool to encourage children to attend. Be generous with color, traditional music and costuming.

**Your Spiritual Goal is to communicate that living for Jesus is exciting so that every child and adult will come before Him most gladly and will take home a deeper knowledge of our Savior and ways to serve Him better.**

# !BIENVENIDOS!

## WELCOME!

**VIVA MEXICO** is a Christ centered five day Vacation Bible School for pre-school and elementary children. Our Mexican theme is unique so enjoy the company of friends in a warm, welcoming *South Of The Border* atmosphere.

**VIVA MEXICO** students spend forty five minutes in each of five Bible Haciendas on separate days. Costumed leaders treat the children as if they are lost. **TIN CAN TOURISTS** finding their way home while learning about Jesus, The Man In Sandals. Haciendas include: **FELIZ NAVIDAD**...Life Begins At Christmas, **BAJA**...Desert Life, **¡FIESTA!**...Life Of The Party, **PUEBLO POTTER**...One Ordinary Life, **CASA MEXICANA**...Live Forever.

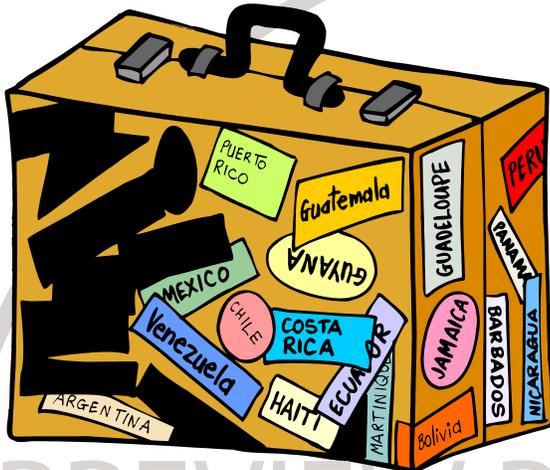


**VIVA MEXICO** features an assortment of fifteen minute daily activities. Gather at **PUEBLO PLAZA** Opening. Dine at **OLE CAFÉ** and play Mexican games at **TORO GAMES**. Listen to a Conley Twin adventure story told at **SIESTA TALES**. Sing praise songs in English and Spanish during **MARIACHI MUSIC**. Experience salvation activities in the daily **OJO DE DIOS** (*Eye Of God*) Hacienda.

**VIVA MEXICO** offers curriculum ideas for a preschool group named **MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS**. Students (*Ages 4-5*) participate in the same activities as older students with a special team of teachers. Suggestions are included for Nursery **BURRO BABIES** (*Birth-Age 3*) to arrange a safe, cheerful spot for toddlers of teachers and helpers.

# LET'S GET READY!

*Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Matthew 3:3 (NIV)*



*THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE A GUIDELINE. Be creative! Build an exciting Vacation Bible School using ¡VIVA MEXICO! Bible stories and activities. Teach God's Word from your perspective.*

**¡VIVA MEXICO! IS AN ACTIVITY BASED EVENT FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE SIX STUDENTS.** Involve Grade 7-12 Youth and College Students as helpers, team leaders and teachers as needed.

**STUDENT GROUPS BECOME COLOR CODED TIN CAN TOURISTS.** Becoming lost in Mexico is not threatening when individual groups display color coded name tags. Students stay in the same group all week.

**BIBLE HACIENDA TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECORATE AND PREPARE THEIR AREA.** The same lesson is repeated daily to a new group. As age levels change, adjust the teaching activities. A new student group arrives each day. Accompany the assigned group wherever they go. The groups must have a leader with them at all times.

**ACTIVITY TEACHERS SEE ALL STUDENTS EACH DAY.** Groups travel to music, snack and special fifteen minute activities. Activity teachers prepare five separate daily activities.

**PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED.** Give bills to the Director or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts, theme catalogs and scrap materials from backyards. Craft projects from S&S arts and crafts catalog may be purchased directly through **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** at reasonable prices. Use the church tax exemption number when purchasing materials locally.

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Make as many copies as needed for local church use. Give interested folks our order form, mailing address and toll free telephone number (1-888-CEM-LIFE). Your cooperation allows **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** to continue production of exciting, inspiring, positive Christian programs as a low cost to churches across the nation. Copyright-All Rights Reserved protected.

# BUT...I DON'T SPEAK SPANISH!

**DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!** Have fun with a little bit of the language. Use what is offered within the curriculum to add some interest to the week. Children pick up language quickly. Use Spanish sparingly. Sing a few simple choruses in Spanish and English, teach short scripture verses in both languages and teach every day phrases as desired.

If high school students or adults know some Spanish, involve them to make special announcements or to teach pronunciation. Since this is not intended to be a Spanish “class”, learning a new word or phrase should be fun. Use the phrases every day in every way.

## Hints for Spanish Pronunciation

- a:** always sound like a in “father”
- e:** always sounds like long a as in “hay”
- i:** always sounds like long e as in “me”
- o:** always sounds like long o as in “go”
- u:** always sounds like double o as in “moon”
- y:** always sounds like long e when it stands alone and like y in “yes” before another vowel.
- ue:** together sound like our long a in “hay”
- q:** sounds like “k”
- c:** sounds like “k” or “s”  
(As in English: ca/co/cu = k sound and ce/ci = s sound)
- h:** always silent

Accent marks indicate the syllable that gets the emphasis.



**Are you totally confused?  
Actually it is MUCH easier than English!**

USE THESE POPULAR PHRASES LIBERALLY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.  
IT'S LOTS OF FUN AND EVERYONE WILL LEARN BY REPETITION.

Jesus, I give you my heart with respect and love.  
Jesus, te doy mi corazón con respeto y con amor.

Hello–Hola! (OH-law)

Welcome–Bienvenidos! (B-N-bay-KNEE-those)

Good Day–Buenos Dias! (BWAY-nose DEE-aws)

Goodbye–Adiós (AH-thee-ohs)

How are you?--Cómo Estás? (COE-mow Ace-TOSS)

Please–Por Favor (poor faw-BORE)

Thank you–Gracias (graw-see-OSS)

Yes–Si! (See)

So Long–Hasta Luego (AW-staw loo-A-go)

You're Welcome–De Nada (day NAW-thaw)

I'm sorry. Lo Siento. (Low see AIN-toe)

Your friends–Sus Amigas (suess ah-me-goes)

God bless you. Dios les bendiga. (Dee-ose lace ben-DEE-gaw)

Go With God–¡Vaya Con Dios! (Bye-yaw cone Dee-OSE)

Every once in awhile encourage your group to shout for joy!

“Ole! Arriba! Viva! Hot Tamales!”

“Jesus me ama!” Jesus loves me

(Hay-SEUSS may aw-maw)

In Mexico, people answer the telephone, “Bueno!”

# MI MAESTRA MI AMIGA

## MY TEACHER, MY FRIEND

*...Has not the Lord anointed you leader over His inheritance? I Samuel 10:1b (NIV)*



*Become Teacher and Friend of a delightful Vacation Bible School event your community will remember for years. Take young students on a journey to Mexico via five Bible Haciendas and a variety of activities designed to teach students about Jesus, *The Man In Sandals*.*

Divided into reasonable tasks, this five day event is easily completed by a dedicated teaching team under the direction of **MI MAESTRO (A)**, **MI AMIGO (A)**--That's you!

Watch your church building bloom with color and atmosphere as the excitement of creating a Mexican Pueblo (town) catches the imagination of your dedicated staff.

**CHARACTER AND COSTUME.** Have fun dressing in traditional Mexican clothing. Follow curriculum costume suggestions. Become a friend who guides the **TIN CAN TOURISTS** on their Mexican journey. Teach a few Spanish words and phrases and create excitement with your own natural enthusiasm.

**\*PRONUNCIATION TIP:** My-a-straw (female teacher) My-a-strow (male teacher)

### BEHIND THE SCENES

*Direct your VBS team with focused determination and cheerfulness, helping them prepare their specific work areas. Be available to answer questions, order materials, make copies and secure appropriate props and costumes when necessary.*

**DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY.** This event is a team effort. Do not apologize when asking for help. Trust the staff to carry out their assigned tasks.

**PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH.** Statements like “*We can’t do it*”, “*We never did it this way*”, “*There is no money*” or “*No one will teach*” have no place in this program. If Mi Amiga’s attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

**PRAY!** Pray for your staff, students and the entire event effort. Take each detail before the Lord and then—Relax!!!

**PLAN!** Read the ¡VIVA MEXICO! Master Copy and note all areas requiring your special attention. List details you must handle personally. Meet with the staff four to six weeks before Vacation Bible School begins.

**ADAPT!** When it is necessary to adapt ¡VIVA MEXICO! to accommodate your local church, complete the changes during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

**SET UP!** Give the team adequate time to set up their Activity Area. Decorate during the week prior to Vacation Bible School making sure that everything is in place for opening day.

**STAFF PRAYER.** Plan a five minute session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend appreciate the “*upward boost*”.

**PRESCHOOL PREPARATION.** Give the MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS Preschool Team copies of decorating ideas, teacher information and lessons plans designed for older students. Speak to activity teachers to be sure projects are appropriate for this age group. Eliminate complicated or frightening activities. Choose age appropriate craft projects from S&S arts and crafts catalog or create your own projects using local craft store supplies.

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*Consider making preschool children one of the five major groups. There are several benefits: Less staff, easy planning, less expense and the “grown up” feeling preschoolers get when they become big kids. Provide Home Base where students rest and enjoy age appropriate crafts and stories if activities seem too difficult. Think about the best way to organize this young group of motivated students.*

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**PURCHASE OR MAKE THANK YOU GIFTS FOR STAFF MEMBERS.** This God given staff is vital to children’s ministry in your church. There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back. Pray for them sincerely and thank them privately and publicly.

**CLEAN UP.** When OPEN HOUSE is over, clean up begins. ¡VIVA MEXICO! is not complete until the church is in perfect order. Encourage your staff to remove their props immediately. Stay to help!

# CREATING MEXICO!

*For everything God created is good... I Timothy 4:4a (NIV)*



Create a simple yet colorful Mexican environment inside your church. When students and guests attend ¡VIVA MEXICO! SOUTH OF THE BORDER WITH JESUS, they should enter a small Mexican town complete with homes, shops, cafes, dusty street corners and colorful accessories.

**Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process.** Follow curriculum suggestions or develop your own *Old Mexico* style. Teachers in individual activity areas decorate their rooms. Special attention is given to **THE PLAZA** Opening area.

**Before purchasing props, ask friends, family, church and community members if you can borrow items.** Explain the program and ask for additional suggestions. Many attics, basements, old barns and sheds are filled with items that make perfect accessories in every area of Vacation Bible School.

**SIGNS!** Display signs outside each activity area. Use brown paper with ragged edges or travel posters to Mexico purchased online from web sites like **allposters.com** and **artposters.com** and **ebay.com**. Post messages throughout all general areas.

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!

¡Vámanos! ¡Venga con nosotros a México!

Come With Us To Mexico!

¡Buenos Días! Good Morning!

¡Jesus Me Ama! Jesus Loves Me!

¡Dios es Amor! God Is Love!

¡Ven A Jesus! Come To Jesus!

El Rey De Los Cielos. The King Of The Heavens

**SIGN POST!** Make one large cardboard sign post with arrows pointing various directions. Print the names of all the specific areas on the arrows.

**CARDBOARD FIGURES!** Make life sized figures from cardboard or posterboard. Use curriculum graphics as patterns or draw your own. Make transparencies with the church copier and place them on an overhead projector. Project images and trace onto large pieces of cardboard. Color with tempera paint and/or colorful markers. Cut out figures with a utility knife. Find more patterns in children's coloring books or online. Search online using MEXICO FOR CHILDREN in the search line. Check out library books on Mexico for inexpensive art resources.

BURROS  
PUEBLOS

CACTUS  
TRADITIONAL PEOPLE

**PROPS!** Find an assortment of simple items to create a rustic village. Here are a few suggestions but keep your eyes open for other items available in your local community.

WOODEN BENCHES

RAG RUGS/WOVEN RUGS

STOOLS

WILD FLOWERS

OLD CHESTS/TRUNKS

COLORFUL FLOWER GARLANDS

BALES OF HAY

CACTUS

SOMBREROS

PIÑATAS

LANTERNS

OLD WOODEN TABLES

STACKED WOOD

WOODEN TOOLS

OLD POTTERY/CROCKS

GREENERY

COLORFUL, WOVEN BLANKETS

STUFFED DONKEYS

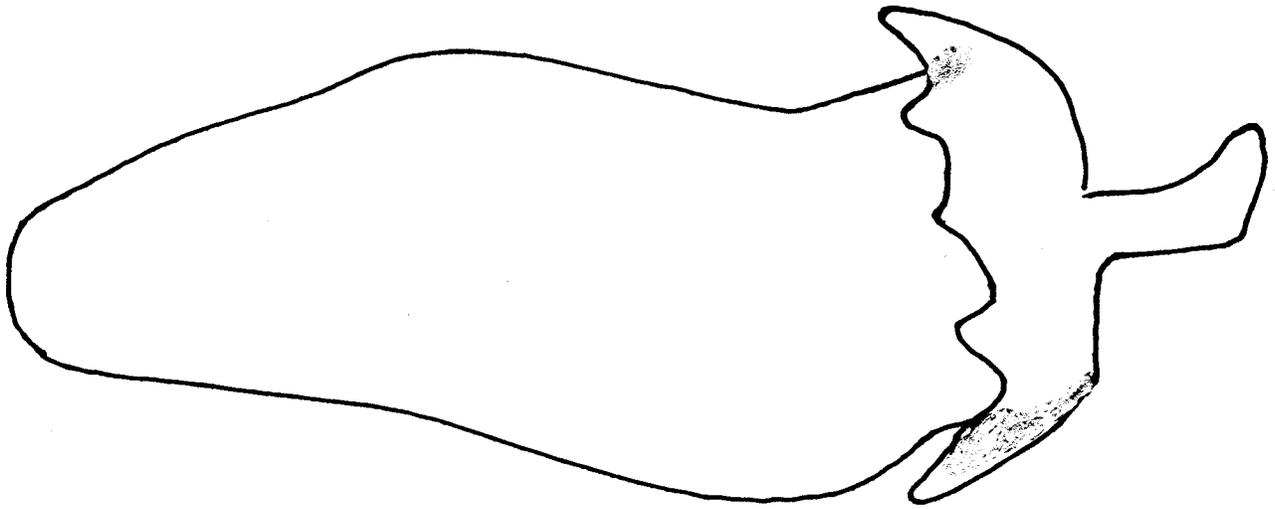
MEXICO'S NATIONAL FLAG

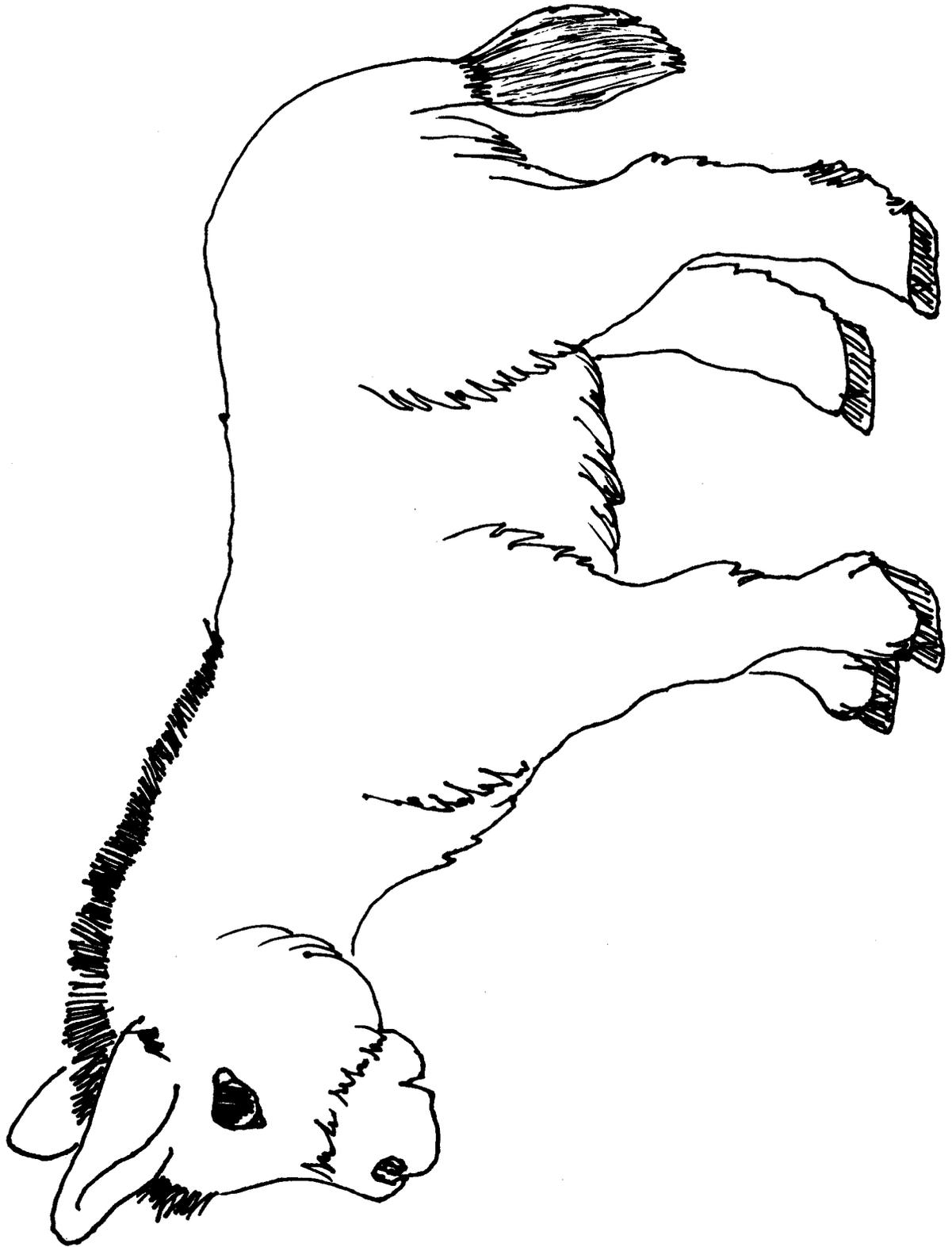
PARROTS

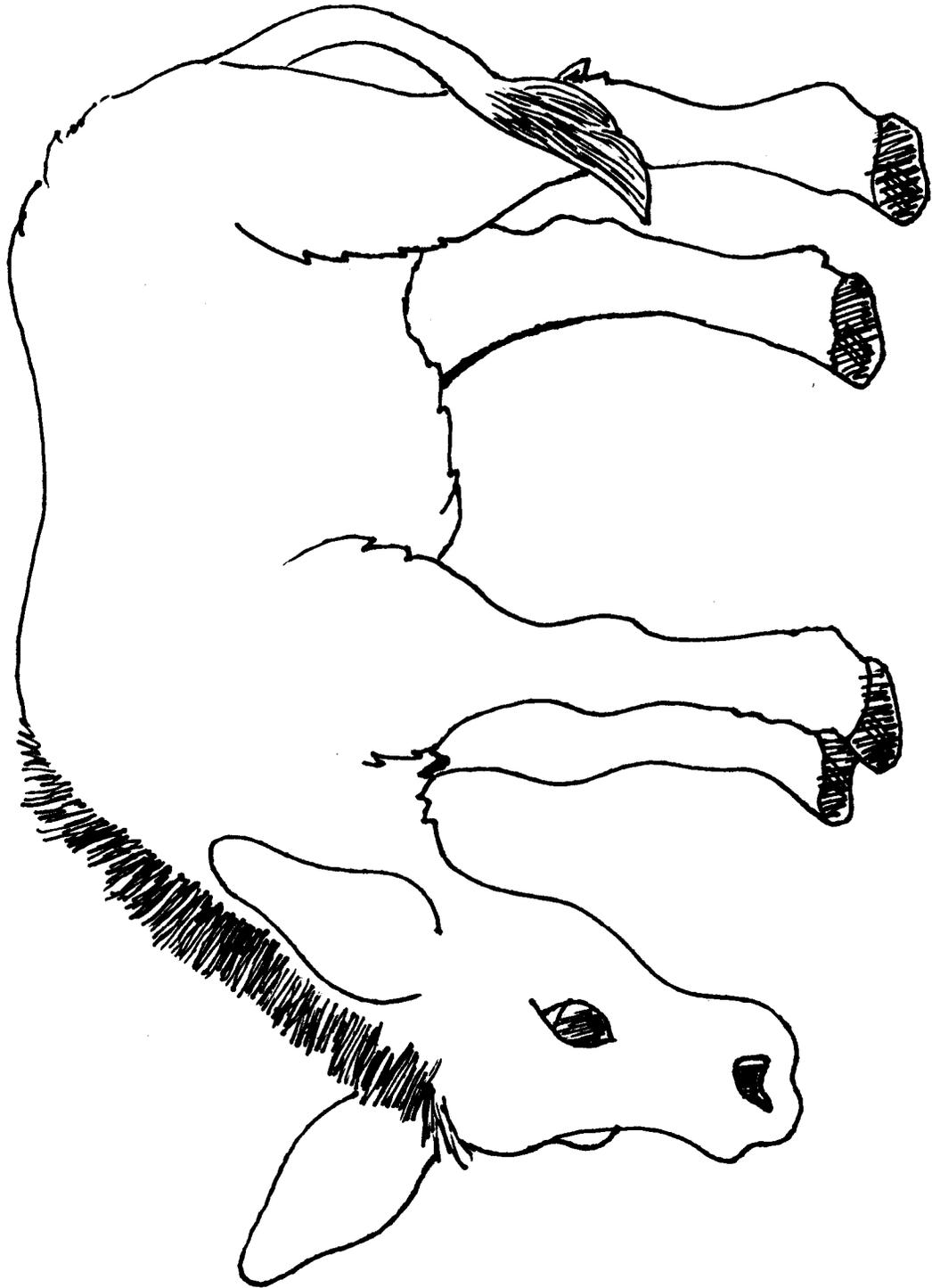
**Make large cardboard cactus plants.** Spray paint each one deep green and use a black marker to draw short cactus needles all over the plant. Attach a few pink tissue paper flowers to represent blooms.

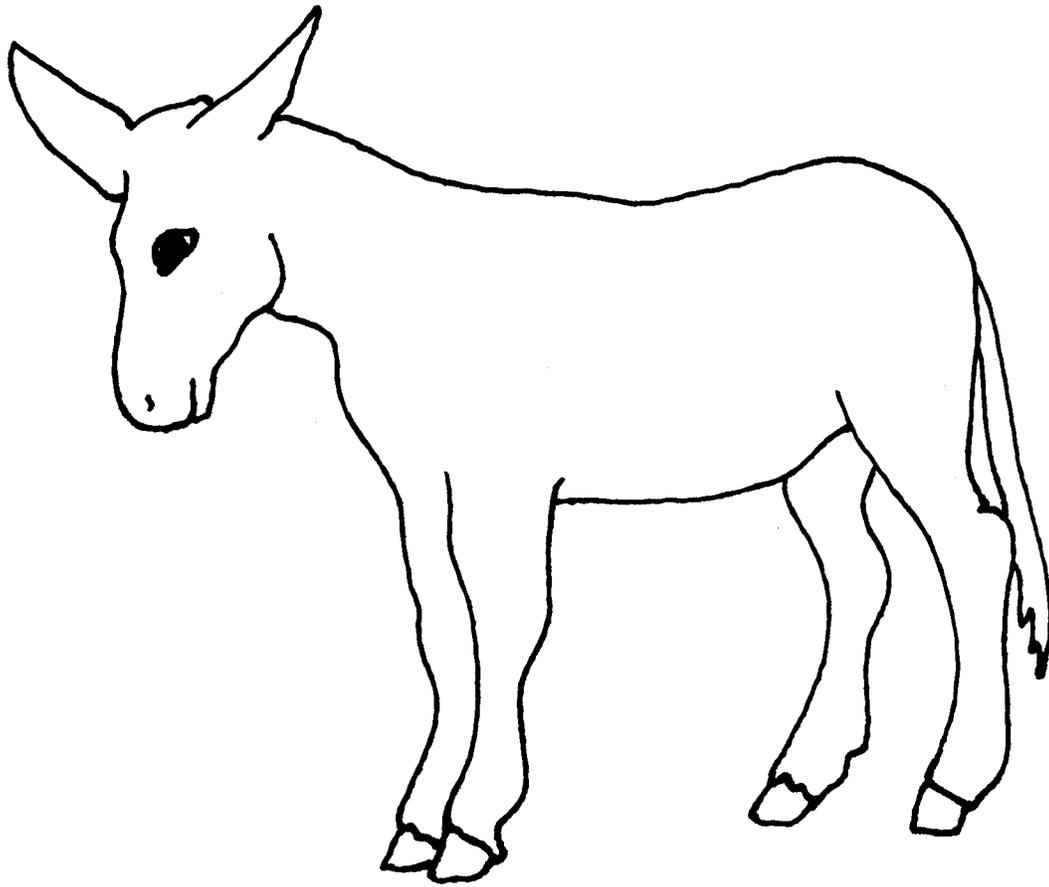
**BACKGROUND MUSIC!** Play CD's or audio cassettes of traditional Mexican music. Look at local stores (Wal-Mart or K-Mart) or online. If Christian music performed in Spanish style is available, use it. Play the music as everyone arrives and leaves.











S&S arts and craft catalog offers decorative items at excellent prices. For a free master copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. Or, order online: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) Here are a few suggestions from their Master Catalog.

Prices may change

PRINTED FIESTA BANNER. 8" x 35". EME-PY325 \$2.50 each.

CHILI PEPPER TISSUE GARLAND. 5 1/2" x 12 feet. EME-PY316 \$2.50 each.

SOUTHWEST BANDANAS. EME-SL1056 \$13.80 per pack of 12.

FIESTA PARTY CUTOUTS. Pack of 3–Sombrero, Maracas, Burro Pinata–12". EME-PY892 \$4.00 per pack.

ADULT EMBROIDERED SOMBREROS. Each has a chin cord. EME-PY525 \$2.80 each

PIÑATAS. Festive and fun pinatas include filling holes and are made from recycled paper.

SUNNY FACE PINATA 20" EME-SL457 \$6.50 each

BURRO PINATA 24" EME-SL459 \$6.50 each

FISH PINATA 18" EME-SL460 \$6.50 each

SMILE PINATA 17" EME-SL455 \$6.50 each

JUMBO PARROTS. Festive and colorful foam parrot decorations include hang cord. 20". CHE-SL5896 \$12.00 pack of 12

JOINTED PALM TREE. Heavy card stock palm tree is printed on both sides and stands over 6 feet tall. CHE-SL5758 \$3.00 each

ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY catalog offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. If you do not have their delightful free catalog, call toll free 1-800-228-2269. Order directly through the company. [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)

Prices may change

TISSUE SUN DECORATION. 15 1/2" x 14 3/4" Hanger included. AS-34/441 \$2.95 each

PLASTIC CHILI PEPPER LIGHTS. Includes ten 1" x 3" chili pepper lights. 8'. Light sets do not interconnect. UL listed. AS-23/87 \$5.95 each

PLASTIC FIESTA LIGHTS. Includes ten 1" x 3" fiesta lights (sombros and cacti) 7'. Light sets do not interconnect. UL listed. AS-23/3 \$5.95 each

NYLON CHILI PEPPER WIND SOCK. Large red pepper with face, moustache, arms and legs, sombrero. 35" AS-5/222 \$4.95 each

JUMBO TISSUE PARROT. 25 1/4" x 27". AS-34/318 \$4.95 each

TISSUE PARROTS. Add a tropical touch to your party. 15" AS-3/27 \$4.95 Unit (3 pieces)

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# CHOOSING THE STAFF

*Staff choice will make or break ¡VIVA MEXICO!*

*Do NOT be satisfied with “any warm body”.*

*Aim for the best people to fill each teaching spot.*

## RECRUIT

Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully. No sugar coating allowed!!!

## BULLETIN

Include a worship folder/bulletin recruitment insert for two or three Sundays. Give people with specific teaching requests their assignment immediately. Explain the insert during worship announcement time dressed in Mexican costume. Give this introductory effort the personal touch. (See Bulletin Insert Sample.)

## PICK AND CHOOSE

For the remaining vacant positions, call people you know will do a good job. The Lord will honor your attempt to have the best staff possible. Pray about staff choices and if someone says “No”, assume there is another person waiting to fill that place. Use young teens, older teens, men, women and senior citizens as staff members.

# GATHER THE GANG

## PLAN ONE STAFF EVENING TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED

Stress 100% attendance so no other meeting will be necessary.

## SEAT STAFF ACCORDING TO WORK AREAS

Distribute lesson plans to each group. Build in “chatter” time to create excitement as teachers and helpers plan the week.

## PREVIEW THE ENTIRE PROGRAM

The staff needs an overview of all events taking place throughout the church.

## BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, ASSIGN CLASSROOMS, GIVE INSPIRATION

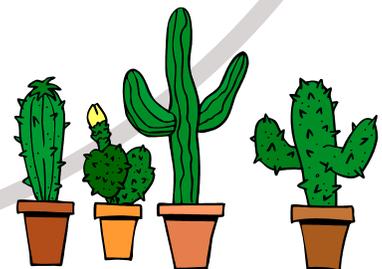
Be the person in charge—¡MI MAESTRA!

## AFTER THE MEETING, MI MAESTRA TURNS ATTENTION TO OTHER AREAS

Trust the staff to carry out their assignments.

## THE TELEPHONE IS THE STAFF LIFELINE

Call the leader of each work area to verify progress.  
Ask questions and check on how things are going.





# ¡VIVA MEXICO! SOUTH OF THE BORDER WITH JESUS

*“Come over and teach us about Jesus, The Man In Sandals!”*

**Vacation Bible School is on the Move To Mexico!**

## VIVA MEXICO ASSIGNMENTS

...REGISTRATION	Help Students Sign In	LEAD/HELP
...ART CREW	Make and Set Up Decorations	LEAD/HELP
...MARIACHI MUSIC	Serenade Praise	LEAD/HELP
...PHOTOGRAPHY		VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS/DISK
...OLE CAFÉ	Sidewalk Snacks	LEAD/HELP
...TORO GAMES	Games of Mexico	LEAD/HELP
...SIESTA TALES	“Sky King” Conley Twin Adventure	STORY TELLER
...OJO DE DIOS	“Eye of God” Salvation Station	LEAD/HELP
...MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS	Preschool Fun (Ages 4-5)	LEAD/HELP
...BURRO BABIES	Staff Nursery (Birth-Age 3)	LEAD/HELP

## VIVA MEXICO BIBLE HACIENDA STAFF

...FELIZ NAVIDAD	Life Begins At Christmas	LEAD/HELP
...THE BAJA	Desert Life	LEAD/HELP
...¡FIESTA!	Life Of The Party	LEAD/HELP
...PUEBLO POTTER	One Ordinary Life	
LEAD/HELP		
...CASA MEXICANA	Live Forever	LEAD/HELP

- ...I HAVE PROPS YOU CAN BORROW! JUST ASK ME!
- ...I WILL DONATE SNACKS! TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED!
- ...I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION! IT WILL BE WORTH IT!
- ...I WILL PRAY FOR THE VIVA MEXICO TEAM! I CAN DO IT!

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES: TIME:

NEED MORE DETAILS? TALK TO MI MAESTRA, MI AMIGA! (My Teacher, My Friend)

# ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! ¡BUENOS DIAS!



# GROUPING STUDENTS

¡VIVA MEXICO! *Is broadly graded.*

*The goal when grouping students is to provide a preschool program and five Bible Hacienda groups of equal size.*

**BURRO BABIES (BIRTH-AGE 3):** Two choices are apparent when planning nursery. Will we open this for the community? Will we provide a babysitting service for our teaching staff? The choice depends upon whether you want a beehive of activity or a small group.

**MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5):** Curriculum ideas give young students free time, short lessons based on existing older student lesson plans and optional involvement in daily activities. Or, include these children as one of the five groups.

## COLOR CODE FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION.

<b>BURRO BABIES (BIRTH-AGE 3)</b>	<b>NO COLOR</b>
<b>MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS (PRESCHOOL)</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
1. <b>LITTLE AMIGOS (KINDERGARTEN)</b>	<b>YELLOW</b>
2. <b>TEAM TACO (GRADE 1)</b>	<b>ORANGE</b>
3. <b>SOMBRERO BAND (GRADE 2)</b>	<b>BLUE</b>
4. <b>HOT CHILI PEPPERS (GRADES 3-4)</b>	<b>RED</b>
5. <b>MARACA MANIACS (GRADES 5-6)</b>	<b>PURPLE</b>

**OVERLAP AGES IN ANY GROUP.** If twenty students are in one group and five in another group, switch some students regardless of grade. Keep neighborhood friends together for comfort. Visiting cousins appreciate joining family members in an unfamiliar situation.

## GROUPING OPTION FOR SMALL CHURCHES

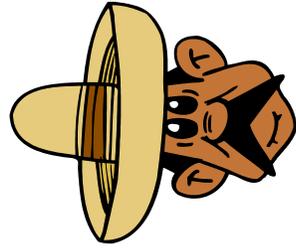
With twenty or less students and a few faithful teachers, consider running one ¡VIVA MEXICO! Bible Hacienda per day with all students in one group. The same teachers present a different station each day in the same teaching area decorated with the collective Mexican themes. Crafts can be adapted and offered in a separate area using the same teachers or a craft crew. Smaller groups have the luxury of treating students to craft projects carried over from day to day. Students travel to fifteen minute activities together.

# ¡VIVA MEXICO! ...South of the Border With Jesus

<b>STUDENT GROUPS</b>	<b>9:00-9:15</b>	<b>9:15-9:30</b>	<b>9:30-9:45</b>	<b>9:45-10:00</b>	<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>10:15-10:30</b>	<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>10:45-11:00</b>	<b>11:00-11:15</b>	<b>11:15-11:30</b>
<b>MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS</b> ages 4-5	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	OLE CAFE SNACKS	TORO GAMES	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	OJ DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	MARIACHI MUSIC	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	CLOSING
<b>LITTLE AMIGOS</b> Kindergarten	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	W O R K S H O P	O J O D E D I O S S A L V A T I O N S T A T I O N	O P	OLE CAFE SNACKS	TORO GAMES	MARIACHI MUSIC	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	CLOSING
<b>TEAM TACO</b> Grade 1	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	MARIACHI MUSIC	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	W O R K S H O P	W O R K S H O P	O P	OLE CAFE SNACKS	TORO GAMES	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	CLOSING
<b>SOMBRERO BAND</b> Grade 2	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	MARIACHI MUSIC	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	W O R K S H O P	K S H O P	O P	OLE CAFE SNACKS	TORO GAMES	CLOSING
<b>HOT CHILI PEPPERS</b> Grade 3-4	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	W O R K S H O P	R K S H O P	H O P	OLE CAFE SNACKS	TORO GAMES	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	MARIACHI MUSIC	CLOSING
<b>MARACA MANIACS</b> Grade 5-6	PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING	TORO GAMES	SIESTA TALES STORYTELLER	OLE CAFE SNACKS	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	MARIACHI MUSIC	W O R K S H O P	OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION	M O P	CLOSING

## ¡VIVA MEXICO! GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

BIBLE WORKSHOPS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>FELIZ NAVIDAD</b>	LITTLE AMIGOS	TEAM TACO	HOT CHILI PEPPERS	MARACA MANIACS	SOMBRERO BAND
<b>THE BAJA</b>	TEAM TACO	LITTLE AMIGOS	MARACA MANIACS	SOMBRERO BAND	HOT CHILI PEPPERS
<b>FIESTA!</b>	SOMBRERO BAND	MARACA MANIACS	LITTLE AMIGOS	HOT CHILI PEPPERS	TEAM TACO
<b>PUEBLO POTTER</b>	HOT CHILI PEPPERS	SOMBRERO BAND	TEAM TACO	LITTLE AMIGOS	MARACA MANIACS
<b>CASA MEXICANA</b>	MARACA MANIACS	HOT CHILI PEPPERS	SOMBRERO BAND	TEAM TACO	LITTLE AMIGOS



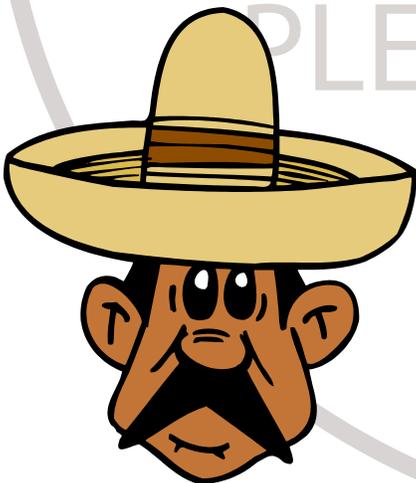
# REGISTRATION TEAM

*This team makes name tags and runs the Registration Table the first day of ¡VIVA MEXICO! This job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day of Vacation Bible School could be delayed as much as thirty minutes.*

Identify Registration Tables  
with individual group colors, group names and grades.  
Students line up at the appropriate table to receive a name tag.

**PRE REGISTRATION.** Registration cards simplify the first day by having name tags prepared for pre registered students. Register through the church newsletter, bulletin, a mailing and take home forms. Telephone neighborhood families and visit nearby neighborhoods. Ask for name, grade or age, emergency telephone number and emergency contact person. Consider adding space for environment or food allergy information. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address, parent names and specific information needed for the local church.

**CACTUS NAME TAGS** give each ¡VIVA MEXICO! group a name and color identity. Make Cactus shaped name tags in group colors. Cover with clear contact paper. Pin tags to students using huge safety pins found in craft stores. Collect tags at the end of each day and place them in THE PLAZA Opening area.



**HATS** are always a hit with elementary students. The Mexican theme lends itself well to sombreros. These popular traditional Mexican hats can be found in Oriental Trading Catalog or on their web site: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) at an affordable price. The hats become memorable take home keepsakes at the end of the week!

# PUBLICITY

*Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School. Be clear and concise. People must know WHAT is going on and WHEN it will be occurring. Assign a specific team of adults to be in charge of publicity.*

**CHURCH BULLETIN.** Begin advertising for team members. Include reminders in the weekly church bulletin until ¡VIVA MEXICO! begins. Include registration forms.

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER.** Print quick catchy announcements and include registration forms in the newsletter. For example:

**¡Vámanos! ¡Venga con nosotros a México!** (Welcome! Come With Us to Mexico!)



We are looking for Tin Can Tourists (Age 4-Grade 6) willing to travel south of the border to learn about **Jesus, The Man in Sandals**. Wear sombreros, simple sandals and ponchos. Discover the best of Mexican culture, learn a little Spanish, poke a few piñatas and eat delicious Mexican food. Meet on The Plaza and scatter to a variety of Mexican activities in the Pueblo (Town). Jesus said, “Mi Casa es su Casa” (My House is your House!) or something like it. Let’s find out what He meant! Olé!

**WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS.** Greet people coming into church for worship. This is a great reminder that ¡VIVA MEXICO! is coming. Dress in Mexican costume. Place a student wearing a large sombrero near the door. The person should sit on the floor with knees up and head down on arms in the traditional Sleeping Mexican position. However, this is the Christian version—Praying Mexican!

**LOCAL NEWSPAPER.** Take black and white photographs of your people in costume. Send a news release several weeks before ¡VIVA MEXICO! begins to insure publication. Invite a reporter and photographer to visit the school while in session. It makes a great feature story!

**COLORING CONTEST.** Sponsor a coloring contest in the Sunday School. Choose one picture. Award prizes and create excitement for the event.

**VISIT THE PULPIT.** Wear a Mexican costume and visit the pastor during announcement time. Give this a real Spanish flair so the congregation becomes excited about the event. Play lively background mariachi music as you enter the sanctuary. Speak a few words of welcome in Spanish. Announce dates, times and ages of students.

**LOCAL TELEVISION.** Ask a local television station to tape a feature story. This is great publicity and encouragement. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask! Use the local television cable advertizing station to print a few lines about your event. This is sometimes free or almost always inexpensive.

**LOCAL RADIO.** Radio stations have air time they are required to dedicate to local events. Send a short announcement to be broadcast several times a day. Christian radio stations announce Vacation Bible School so send information to the closest radio stations.

**NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.** Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be pleasantly surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

**SIGNS AND POSTERS.** These are the most common forms of publicity. Although considered the least effective, placing signs and posters in stores, offices and other well traveled spots brings attention to your program. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

**CHURCH SIGN.** Place a large sign outside the church announcing dates and times. Use the Mexican theme to draw attention to the sign by flying brightly colored flags and pennants around the area. Light the sign at night.

**¡VIVA MEXICO!**  
**SOUTH OF THE BORDER WITH JESUS**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**DATES                      TIME**  
**COME WITH US TO MEXICO!**

# PHOTOGRAPHY

*Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week. Ask the church photographer to wear a colorful Mexican costume and to enter each activity with enthusiasm.*

**ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS.** Amateur photographers usually stand at one side to take pictures and should not disrupt events. This is a good way to involve parents and church members who visit each decorated area.



**ASSIGN A PHOTOGRAPHY CREW** to take pictures for the church. Underwrite the cost of film and developing from Vacation Bible School resources.

**35 MM COLOR PRINTS.** Take staff and student pictures early in the week. Facial close ups are the most popular shots. Develop film at a fast developing center. Display the pictures at OPEN HOUSE.

**DISK PHOTOGRAPHY.** Make CD's that can be offered to families. These pictures may also be placed on the church's internet site.

**VIDEO.** Delegate one person to video tape all events. Some things can be staged for filming but it is more fun to record events as they develop.

**SELLING PICTURES.** Be prepared to quote prices. Do you want to cover the cost or defray Vacation Bible School expenses? Print a sign up sheet and display pictures so families may choose at OPEN HOUSE.

**DISPLAY PICTURES.** Consider viewing pictures during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be placed on a wall/bulletin board and video may be shown in the OLE CAFÉ snack area.

# COSTUMES DOWN MEXICO WAY



*Part of the fun of presenting ¡VIVA MEXICO! is making the Mexican theme come to life with props and costumes. This does not have to be difficult or expensive. Teachers, helpers and activity leaders should dress in costume. Follow a few tips and then let your imagination run wild.*

**Mexicans in large towns wear clothing similar to that worn in the United States.** Clothing in villages tends to be more traditional, simple and practical. Of course, Fiesta time brings out the most beautiful costumes including long, flowing embroidered dresses with wide skirts for women and tight pants with short bolero jackets for men.

## MEN

When it is very hot the men wear light colored, plain cotton shirts and pants with leather sandals called **huaraches**. A **sombrero** (*wide-brimmed felt or straw hat*) protects their head from the sun. If it is cold they wear a **poncho** (*blanket with a slit in the middle for the head*) or a **serape** (*colorful woven blanket worn over the shoulder*). Straw cowboy hats and embroidered cowboy shirts with jeans are also worn. The **bolero** is the short jacket worn during fiestas. It is part of the **charro** costume that is worn by the “mariachi” or the men in the Mexican Hat Dance.

## WOMEN

Women wear light colored cotton blouses much like peasant blouses and full skirts with plastic sandals or bare feet. They cover their heads with fringed shawls called **rebozos**. Rebozos are also used to wrap babies and tie them to the mother so she has her hands free.

**Both men and women love bright colors  
and hand weaving is still done in some villages.  
They are quite proud of their embroidered clothing.**

Ebay.com offers many Mexican accessories. Search “sombrero” to find wonderful bargains.

# PUEBLO PLAZA

## ...BUENOS DIAS

### (Good Day!)

*PUEBLO PLAZA is a daily fifteen minute Opening to introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. PUEBLO PLAZA skits establish a colorful Mexican village with interesting characters in the imaginary pueblo where the week's events take place.*

**SPEAKING SPANISH:** Begin each Opening with cheerful Spanish greetings. Teach the students how to say these phrases and use them each day so they can repeat them at **VAYA CON DIOS OPEN HOUSE**. It is more important to make the effort to teach Spanish phrases throughout the week than to omit it for fear of mispronunciation. Give it a try!



**¡Bienvenidos!–Welcome!**  
**¡Vamanos! ¡Venga con nosotros a Mexico!**  
 (Welcome! Come with us to Mexico!)

**Hola–Hello**

**Buenos Dias–Good Day**  
**Como Estas–How Are You?**

**Por Favor–Please**

**Gracias–Thank You**

**De Nada–You're Welcome**

**Si–Yes**

**Adios–Goodbye**

**Hasta Mañana - See You Tomorrow**

**Hasta Luego–So Long**

**Vaya Con Dios–Go With God**

**ADDRESSING THE TEACHERS:** Mexican school children address their teachers with “**Maestra**” or “**Maestro**”. This is usually followed with the teacher’s first name. For example, students may say “**Maestra Karen**” or “**Maestro David**”. Since the first name isn’t generally used in the United States by children towards adults, it is fine to simply leave it at “**Maestra**”. This is a very respectful term in Mexico and when one is a teacher one is generally addressed this way not only by students, but by all in the community. Teachers are accorded a tremendous amount of respect by the Mexican people.

**MI MAESTRA, MI AMIGA:** The Vacation Bible School Director becomes the maestra (o)–a for female and o for male--who directs all PUEBLO PLAZA activities. Dress in costume and maintain a cheerful attitude throughout the week.

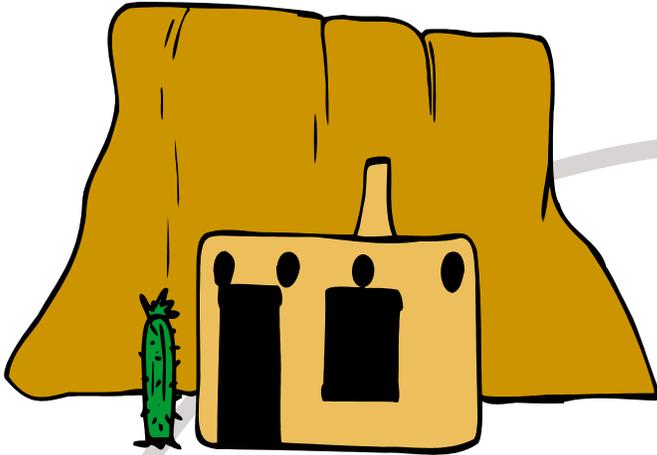
**INTRODUCTION FOR DAY #1:** Hola! Vamos! Venga con nosotros a Mexico! (Hello! Welcome! Come with us to Mexico!) It is a beautiful day in Mexico and we are ready to begin an amazing journey. You are TIN CAN TOURISTS. That means you are going to be traveling on a tight budget. No big hotels for you! Instead you will visit small, out of the way Pueblo village spots and may even experience life in the hot desert.

Your journey begins here in PUEBLO PLAZA. Pueblo means “town”. The Plaza is a Mexican town square. Lots of exciting things happen on the Plaza. If I were you, I would not miss one day in Pueblo Plaza or one day of life in VIVA MEXICO!

Our daily prayer is one which I hope you will be able to pray with your whole heart by the end of your journey to Mexico. Learn it with me in English and Spanish. (*This prayer may be printed on the top of music sheets so reading students learn it quickly or may be projected on an overhead projector or printed on a large sign.*)

**Jesus, I give You my heart with respect and love.  
Jesus, yo te doy mi corazón con respeto y con amor.**

**TAKE NOTE:** This is a sample introduction for Day #1. For Day #2-4 repeat the greetings and the prayer in Spanish. Allow the students to learn by repetition. Be patient and say the words slowly each day as necessary. You may be pleasantly surprised at how quickly the group catches on, especially if they are using these phrases in each activity area.



**DECORATIONS:** Design a visual South of the Border focal point for celebrating Jesus. **PUEBLO PLAZA** becomes an outdoor area with lots of large green plants, a cardboard building in the background and old wagons or benches filled with fruit and flowers in a marketplace.

**Add groupings of pottery, baskets and bird cages.** Some of the cages could contain live birds or fake parrots. Stack colorful blankets and fabric on a wooden bench or table. Make a huge cardboard cactus to place in one corner. The result is a simple Mexican market in the town square of a small village.

**Color, color, color!** Bright orange, red, green and yellow add to the festive Mexican atmosphere.

**Lighting:** Place small spotlights or lamps on the floor along the back wall. This soft “up lighting” will make the area look more dramatic.

**Microphone Stand:** Decorate the microphone stand with vining green silk plants and colorful flowers. Wrap the garland around the stand and attach firmly.

**Background Music:** Check the local music store to find recordings of upbeat traditional music. There may not be Christian music available, but there will be CD’s or audio tapes to establish the Mexican theme. Search online at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) for possibilities too.

**Collecting Offering:** Use brightly colored pottery or woven baskets. Ask two students or teens to hold containers as students enter **PUEBLO PLAZA**. Place money in the containers before they find their seat. Before Vacation Bible School, decide where to donate the offering. If a special mission is designated, let families know. If a contest between groups or boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to the students.

**Group Chairs/No Chairs:** If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, consider allowing student groups to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area with separate signs in group colors. One team leader or students holds a long pole with the group color attached. This walking stick is carried with the group wherever they travel in ¡VIVA MEXICO!

**Synchronize Watches:** Begin on time even if students and staff are still gathering. Welcome the group, sing songs, make announcements, perform one skit and dismiss. End on time to guarantee groups move to their first activity on time. Direct latecomers to their first activities as they arrive.

# PUEBLO PLAZA SKITS

## THE PRAYING MEXICAN!

*Rehearse before the week begins.  
Do NOT memorize the scripts. Speak clearly.  
Dress in costume for your character*

### CHARACTERS

One man portrays “The Praying Mexican” in every skit. If no men are available, a female may play the part.

Other characters may be portrayed by a series of people as available or ask the same team to change parts each day.



### COSTUMES

The “Praying Mexican” dresses in simple peasant costume—white cotton pants, cotton tunic, colorful serapi/poncho, sandals or bare feet and one huge sombrero. Other characters dress as casual tourists in shorts, t-shirts, summer hats and sun glasses. Carry large shopping bags or wear backpacks. Wear camera or binoculars around neck. Add props as desired.

# MONDAY AT PUEBLO PLAZA

## the praying mexican

*The Praying Mexican sits on stage with knees up, arms crossed across knees, head down with sombrero hiding the face. This position is sometimes known as “The Sleeping Mexican”. Do not move while the conversation takes place. Once the tourists leave the area, lift head and reveal your real purpose on the plaza!*

TOURIST #1: *(Excited)* We made it! We’re finally in Mexico! I never thought I would see the day! Look at the beauty, the ambiance, the charm!

TOURIST #2: *(Disgusted)* Yeah, look at the dirt, the dust ...the BUGS! Watch out! That is the biggest spider I have ever seen! I cannot believe you talked me into coming to this God forsaken place. I want my air conditioning. I want my computer!

TOURIST #1: You mean that little spider? Why, he wouldn’t hurt a fly. Mercy me, I cannot believe you. This is the opportunity of a lifetime. Lighten up! Enjoy!

TOURIST #2: I’m sorry if I don’t share your enthusiasm. Mexico is not my idea of a super vacation. It’s hot and dirty and nobody speaks English.

TOURIST #1: Sshhhh! That man over there might hear you. Don’t insult him.

TOURIST #2: Think about it. How can I insult him if he can’t understand me. Honestly, use your head. He doesn’t speak English. I don’t speak Spanish!

TOURIST #1: Well, you don’t have to insult *me!* I just mean that it’s possible he can understand us and will feel bad if you don’t like his country.

TOURIST #2: Who cares? He’s sleeping anyway.

TOURIST #1: I’ve got to get his picture! Go over there and stand by him. Hurry up!

TOURIST #2: I absolutely refuse. You will have to take your silly picture without me in it. I don’t even know the man. I’m going to look for a Pepsi before I die of thirst. You can catch up to me later. Make it quick. I want to find the first flight home. *(Stomps off stage and disappears.)*

TOURIST #1: *(Calling after Tourist #2....Whining....)* Home! Why we just got here! I

want to buy souvenirs! I want to ride a burro! Just give me time to spend the Pesos I have in my pocket. Give Mexico a chance!

*(Sadly....)* Oh, I'm so disappointed. I wanted this to be the perfect vacation. I planned for it and saved my money all year. Where did I go wrong? I love Mexico. Why can't (he/she) love it too? Why can't (he/she) just give this new experience a chance? What's so bad about trying something new? *(Sigh....)* I guess I'll take one picture and then arrange for the next flight home.

*(Snap photograph of the Praying Mexican and then leave the area.)*

PRAYING MEXICAN: *(Slowly raise head and look around. Speak directly to audience.)*

Hola! (O-LA) Welcome to Mexico! I imagine you noticed the tourists who just left. I have been praying for them. God's Word tells me, *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."* Matthew 21:22 (NIV) I must believe that these two friends will come to agreement in their travels. Can you imagine two people more different from each other? One is excited about exploring my country, although riding a burro is not all it's cracked up to be! And the other is just angry. Maybe that person should have stayed home.

I am The Praying Mexican. I meet many interesting people at PUEBLO PLAZA. God placed me in this dusty Pueblo for a reason. People come and people go. Most never notice *me* at all. They think I am sleeping under this big hat. Not so! I am awake and speaking to my Heavenly Father about them. My job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible.

I asked Jesus (Hay-seuss) to protect the cheerful soul who is trying so hard to please her companion. It is impossible to please unhappy people. She sounds discouraged. God will help her. He always answers my prayers.

The second tourist, the unhappy one....I asked God to make him into the kind of person who appreciates the companionship of friends. I will never know how God takes my simple words and uses them in the lives of those I meet. It is not for me to know God's answers. It is enough for me to obey and pray.

If you will excuse me, Por Favor (*Please*), I must get back to my praying. Do not fear. Others will come. Others always come to PUEBLO PLAZA. Adios!

*(Sit down in knees up position and place head down on arms in attitude of prayer. Stay in this position until after the Opening has concluded and students have left the area.)*

# TUESDAY IN PUEBLO PLAZA

## the praying mexican

*The Praying Mexican is in position on stage as tourists enter PUEBLO PLAZA.*



TOURIST #1: (*Worried...*) Have you seen anyone who speaks English?

TOURIST #2: No. Have you?

TOURIST #1: No. I'm beginning to panic. I think we are lost.

TOURIST #2: (*Sarcastically...*) Really? What was your first clue? Was it that rickety bus with a driver who kept smiling and pointing toward the Plaza? Was it the broken sign HOTEL THIS WAY? (*Yelling...*) Or maybe, it is just that we have been walking in circles for hours?

TOURIST #1: (*Crying...*) I didn't mean to get us lost! I have never been in Mexico. Everything looks the same to me. Small towns, deserts, everybody wearing a sombrero...If you can do better take the map. You be the boss!

TOURIST #2: Oh no. You got us into this. You get us out. I'm waiting right here until you get us "un-lost". Maybe I'll join our sleeping Mexican friend. A siesta sounds like a great idea. (*Sit next to the praying Mexican. Imitate the position and pretend to sleep.*)

TOURIST #1: (*Looking at map...*) Hmm, let's see. We turned left at Gracias Circle and then right at Burro Boulevard. That means we should be smack dab in the middle of Pueblo Plaza. Oh, I hope we're in the middle of Pueblo Plaza.

(*Tap Praying Mexican on shoulder...*) Oh sir, sir? I mean señor. I am "el-losto", ahem, I mean I am looking for a hacienda. I mean can you help me get "un-losto"? Is this Pueblo Plaza?

PRAYING MEXICAN: *(Slowly lift head and point off stage, silently. Then return to praying position.)*

TOURIST #1: What? What? Did you say something? I didn't hear you. Wake up! I need help. I'm...We're lost!

TOURIST #2: *(Peeking from sleeping position....)* I think he tried to tell you something. Did you look where he was pointing?

TOURIST #1: Good idea! *(Look offstage, shading eyes with one hand.)* I don't see much of anything over there. There's a stable and a small cactus and, and, I think that's a church. Can you see it?

TOURIST #2: Yeah, it's a church all right. Why he thinks we should find our way by going to a church is beyond me. Say something in Spanish. Maybe he didn't understand you. Hurry up before he goes back to sleep.

TOURIST #1: Okay. Let's see.... *(Very slowly and loudly....)* Señor. Buenos dias! Mi amigo and me are mucho losto. Mi boca es losto.

TOURIST #2: Oh, come on. You just said your mouth was losto. Where did you learn Spanish?

TOURIST #1: Sorry. I mean *(Slowly and loudly....)* Señor. Como estas? (How are you?) Estoy bien. (I am fine.)

TOURIST #2: You just said, "How are you? I am fine." This is hopeless. Maybe we should try the church thing.

TOURIST #1: I get it! He pointed to the church to tell us to PRAY! That's the answer. If we pray, we can find our way. Let's try it. Come on, we can ask God to help us!

TOURIST #2: You're right. Why didn't we think of it before? Let's pray at the church. I have a feeling this day is going to turn out fine after all. ¡Gracias, Señor! ¡Muchas Gracias!

*Both tourists leave the area smiling and pointing toward the church.*

THE PRAYING MEXICAN: (*Lift head very slowly and face the audience....*) Hola! Our lost tourists figured out all by themselves--with just a little help from me--that God can help anyone find their way.

Why is it that when we get into trouble, the very last thing we think to do is to pray? Prayer should be the first thing we do. God is always waiting to hear from each of us. Jesus (Hay-Seuss) prayed all the time. He understood that power comes from our Heavenly Father. On hard days, He went off by himself to pray.

Listen to my Bible verse: "*I love the Lord because he hears my prayers and answers them. Because he bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe.*" Psalm 116:1-2 (TLB)

As you journey through our little piece of Mexico today, remember to pray! Now if you will excuse me, I must return to prayer. Those tourists may need a little more prayer power help.

*Resume the prayer position on stage until all students have left the area.*

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE

# WEDNESDAY ON PUEBLO PLAZA

## the praying mexican

*The Praying Mexican is in position on stage as more tourists enter the Plaza.*



TOURIST #1: Whew! Did you know Mexico would be this hot? No one told me about the heat. I want a cool mountain stream and breezes to sway me to sleep. I didn't bargain for dust and heat and hot, spicy food. Just a burger, all I want is a burger.

TOURIST #2: Me too.

TOURIST #1: There's a little restaurant over there. Give me some money. I'll get both of us a burger and a cool drink of water.

TOURIST #2: No money.

TOURIST #1: Come on, this is no time to joke. Just hand me the money and sit over there by that sleeping Mexican until I get back.

TOURIST #2: No money.

TOURIST #1: Of course we have money. I saw it myself at the hotel. Quit joking and hand me the money.

TOURIST #2: No money.

TOURIST #1: You are not joking, are you? What happened to the money?

TOURIST #2: Big guy. Stuck his hand in my pocket. Took the money.

TOURIST #1: Why didn't you tell me when it happened? Do you see him? Is this the guy?  
(*Pointing to the Praying Mexican.*)

TOURIST #2: Nope.

TOURIST #1: Sometimes I wonder why I keep traveling with you. Here we are in a foreign country, no food, no money. How do you think we're going to get out of this mess?

TOURIST #2: Don't know.

TOURIST #1: Well, that's just great. You don't know. We are in big trouble and you don't know. Check your pocket again. Maybe there's something left.

TOURIST #2: (*Checks pockets....*) Nope.

TOURIST #1: (*To Praying Mexican....*) Señor, we are in trouble. Do you think you can help us? Our money was stolen and we don't know what to do.

THE PRAYING MEXICAN: (*Slowly raise head and put hands together as if in prayer. Lower head to arms again without speaking.*)

TOURIST #2: He says "Pray".

TOURIST #1: Oh, you're a real genius. How is praying going to get our money back?

TOURIST #2: Why not try?

TOURIST #1: Do you think God cares about two tourists in a dusty village in Mexico? Why would God listen to us?

TOURIST #2: He loves us?

TOURIST #1: (*Thinking....*) I think you may be right. Let's try. Hold my hand while we pray. "Dear Lord, we are in big trouble. Our money has disappeared. There is no one to help us except You. We depend upon You for everything. Please find our money."

TOURIST #2: Amen.

TOURIST #1: Amen. (*Looking around....*) Do you see any money flying by? Maybe God doesn't answer prayer after all.

TOURIST #2: Oops.

TOURIST #1: Oops? What do you mean oops?

TOURIST #2: Checked my other pocket. Here's the money. Big guy must have taken stuff out of my other pocket.

TOURIST #1: I cannot believe you. You make me crazy. I even bothered God for no good reason. Well, that's the last time *I* pray. I've used up all my prayer minutes....wasted....because of you. Come on. Let's go get that burger.

TOURIST #2: Okay.

*Both tourists leave the area.*

THE PRAYING MEXICAN: *(Slowly raise head and speak to audience....)* Hola! Do you think that tourist wasted God's time by praying to find the money? No. God never feels like His time is wasted when His children come to Him for any reason. If you lose your pet dog or bicycle or homework, God cares and He wants you to pray.

Even when God answers our prayer and we do not believe God is working, He continues to answer. God's Word says, "*God is there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it.*" Psalm 145:18 (THE MESSAGE)

God says we should pray without ceasing. Every minute of every day we have the ear of our Heavenly Father. I hope that tourist sees that it was God who found the missing money. They did not think to check the other pocket until they prayed. Gives you something to think about, doesn't it? Adios.

*Return to prayer position until students leave the area.*

# THURSDAY ON PUEBLO PLAZA

## the praying mexican

*The Praying Mexican is in his normal prayer position as tourists enter the Plaza.*



TOURIST #1: Look at this charming place. I have always wanted to shop in a real Mexican Marketplace. This Plaza is the perfect little spot to find souvenirs and gifts for the family.

TOURIST #2: I see someone over there. I'm sure he is sleeping. He doesn't move at all.

TOURIST #1: Better not disturb him. He may get angry. Let's walk this way.

TOURIST #2: No! I want to talk to this guy. What else is he doing? He's just sleeping. (*Shaking the Praying Mexican....*) Hey! Wake up! I want to talk to you!

TOURIST #1: Sssh! I told you he's sleeping. Don't be rude. Leave him alone.

TOURIST #2: (*Leaning over the Mexican....*) Hmmm, he seems to be mumbling. He's not sleeping at all. Why, he's talking to himself.

TOURIST #1: Talking to himself? Get away! Jump back! He might be crazy!

TOURIST #2: Nah, he's seems to be calm, quiet, even peaceful. What do you suppose is going on?

TOURIST #1: Could it be that he is praying?

TOURIST #2: That's it! He's praying. I can hear him say "Muchas Gracias, Jesus." He's thanking Jesus for....I can't hear him anymore.

TOURIST #1: You know, it has been a long time since I have prayed. How about you? When was the last time you prayed?

TOURIST #2: Let me think....yes....no....why, I can't remember. It has been a very long time since I felt the need to pray. Somehow I have never been sure that God would listen to me, let alone answer my prayers.

TOURIST #1: I have this guilty feeling inside as I watch this faithful servant praying publically and humbly in the middle of Pueblo Plaza. Where does he find the strength to pray? Why is he praying?

TOURIST#2: I wonder if he is praying for us. After all, many tourists travel through this Plaza. If he is a true believer in Jesus, he may be lifting each tourist before the Savior.

TOURIST #1: There is comfort knowing someone is praying for me. I hope he is praying for me. I need a lot of prayer. You need prayer too. Our daily problems are serious.

TOURIST #2: Let's pray together. "Dear Lord, we are inspired by this Praying Mexican. Help us to take more time in our days to talk to You. We know better than to forget how much you do for us. Guide us, keep us safe and God bless our Praying Mexican friend. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TOURIST #1: Amen. I think God heard our prayer. I plan to do a lot more praying every day. (*Tapping praying Mexican on shoulder....*) Thank you, Señor. ¡ Muchas Gracias! You have taught us a wonderful lesson. ¡ Muchas Gracias!

*The tourists walk off stage with heads bowed in prayer.*

THE PRAYING MEXICAN: (*Lift head slowly and speak to the audience....*) ¡Hola! Do what the best of Christians do. Pray every day. God's Word says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

Make the FIVE FINGER PRAYER part of your life. Put up your hand as we count off:

- 1. YOUR THUMB IS NEAREST TO YOU.** Begin by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is a "sweet duty".
- 2. POINTER FINGER.** Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

**3. TALLEST FINGER.** I reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry. These people who shape the nations need God's guidance. Include men and women in military service who always stand tall in the duty of defending us. They need God's strength and comfort.

**4. RING FINGER.** This is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.

**5. THE LITTLEST FINGER.** This represents "me". I should be the smallest next to God and others. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for all the other finger groups, your own needs will not seem so important and you will be able to pray wisely about yourself.

Trust Jesus to answer your requests as He pleases. Sometimes He says YES! Sometimes He answers prayer with NO! Other times our prayers are answered with WAIT! But on rare occasions, God gives a precious answer to prayer, YES! AND HERE'S MORE! We never know what God will do until we pray, pray, pray and then trust, trust, trust. Start praying today. Your life will change. I promise. I must return to prayer time. Adios until Mañana! Vaya con Dios—Go with God!

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE

# FRIDAY ON PUEBLO PLAZA

## the praying mexican

*Today The Praying Mexican stands alone to tell a memorable story.  
Tell the story in costume with enthusiasm and good humor.  
Stand in the middle of Pueblo Plaza to speak.*



Buenos Días! Good Day! This has been a very fine week in my small Pueblo. I am known as the Praying Mexican. You can be a person of prayer as well. It is not hard. Just pray and you will be The Praying Kid! Would you like to hear a story? *(Wait for a response.)* I am so glad because I have a great story to tell you.

A little boy and girl had gone to the country to visit their grandmother. The first day they were there the little boy was throwing some rocks and accidentally hit his grandmother's pet duck, killing it. He looked all around to see if anyone was watching. He saw no one. So he quickly buried the duck.

That night after supper when grandmother suggested he and his sister clear the table and wash the dishes, his sister said, "I don't feel like washing the dishes but my brother would love to."

Angrily the little boy whispered, "What do you mean you won't wash the dishes but I would love to?"

The sister whispered in his ear, "I saw what happened with the duck. I was looking out the window. If you don't do what I say, I will tell Grandmother."

So the little boy had to clear the table and wash the dishes. The next morning when grandmother called them to breakfast, the same thing happened again and the little boy found himself doing the dishes while his sister played.

At lunchtime, grandmother called them to come in and set the table and help with lunch. Again, the little girl said she didn't want to but that she knew her brother would love to. When he started to object she whispered, "Remember the duck."

At dinner time it was the same way. This went on for several days, and his vacation was being ruined. Finally he went to his grandmother and told her exactly what had happened and how sorry he was for it. She listened to him kindly, then with a smile she said, "I was wondering how long it would take you to tell me. You see, I was looking out the kitchen window and saw what happened. I was wondering how long you were going to let your sister make your life miserable for you. Now that you have told me what happened and how sorry you are, of course I forgive you!"

God sees everything we've ever done and He's willing to forgive. His Word speaks strongly: "*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*" Colossians 3:13 (NIV) But we must confess to him. And that means PRAYER! God is waiting to forgive YOU. All you have to do is ask Him. Are you ready to become The Praying Kid? Why not start today.

Muchas Gracias for your kind attention and for your presence in Mexico this week. Adios! Until we meet again. Vaya con Dios! Go with God!

Based on a story told by Mrs. Billy (Ruth) Graham in a home in Krakow, Poland for children with speech defects. Printed in "A Time for Remembering...The Ruth Bell Graham Story" by Patricia Daniels Cornwell, 1983.

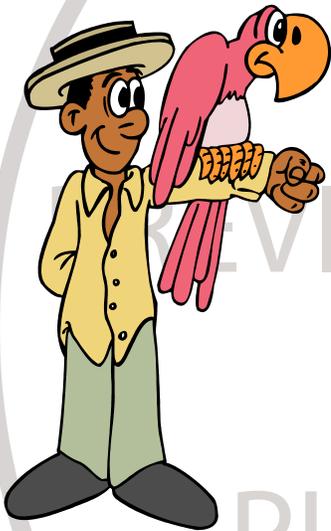
PLEASE PURCHASE

# VAYA CON DIOS! ...OPEN HOUSE

*Students and teachers show off their decorated workshops,  
sing songs and display their crafts at OPEN HOUSE.*

*Families wander through VIVA MEXICO,  
sampling snacks at OLE CAFÉ and enjoying the atmosphere.*

**All costumed teachers and helpers are responsible  
to be in their work area during OPEN HOUSE.**



Choose the time for OPEN HOUSE to get a high percentage of parents, church members and friends to attend. If the week ends on Friday, plan a Friday evening program. *(Do not eliminate students' last day of programming to present an OPEN HOUSE if VBS is taking place in the evening.)* Some churches present the OPEN HOUSE on Sunday morning. Eliminate OPEN HOUSE if no common time can be found.

## VAYA CON DIOS SCHEDULE

7:00 P.M.	WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
7:02 P.M.	DIRECTOR INTRODUCES ¡VIVA MEXICO! THEME
7:07 P.M.	STUDENTS SING _____
7:10 P.M.	RECITE SCRIPTURE VERSES
7:15 P.M.	STUDENTS SING _____
7:20 P.M.	OFFERING
7:25 P.M.	TEACHER APPRECIATION AND GIFTS
7:35 P.M.	STUDENTS SING _____
7:38 P.M.	CLOSE IN PRAYER
7:40 P.M.	DISMISS GROUP TO WANDER ¡VIVA MEXICO!
8:30 P.M.	STAFF BEGINS CLEAN UP

# SIESTA TALES

## ...THE STORY TELLER

*This fifteen minute segment provides rest time and a delightful story adventure.*

**WHAT IS SIESTA TALES?** This is a unique spot in **VIVA MEXICO** where kids hide away and hear a great five day story adventure in fifteen minute segments. The Story Teller greets each student cheerfully and tells the story for the week with great enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room far from the noise of Vacation Bible activity.

**HOW SHOULD I DECORATE?** Place a large, comfortable Story Teller chair in the room. Place colorful items using the Mexican theme in the area. Throw pillows on the floor where students rest while the story is told.

**WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?** Dress in Mexican costume. Use curriculum costuming ideas as a basis for choosing clothing.

**WHO HEARS THE STORY?** All **VIVA MEXICO** student groups visit fifteen minutes each day. **MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS** Preschool is scheduled to visit but if the continuing story does not interest them, substitute other stories. It may be desirable to choose another activity for their group. Choose five separate preschool stories from your local Christian Book Store or from a private collection. Discuss your choices with the Preschool team before Vacation Bible School.

**WHAT STORY SHOULD I TELL?** Our suggested story is “*Sky King*”, a five part Chip and Clare Conley adventure with complete script and large line drawings available through **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES**, 1-888-236-5433. As in other Conley twin stories, our modern day Christian kids face excitement and mystery.



# MARIACHI MUSIC

## ...SERENADE PRAISE

*“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:19*  
*“Cantando y alabando al Señor en vuestros corazones.”*



*The Maestro of MARIACHI MUSIC leads a fifteen minute daily music session. Individual student groups sing Christian choruses filled with eternal hope God gives His children. Choose upbeat songs performed in contemporary style. Lead with enthusiasm and good humor!*

**DECORATION.** Meet at PUEBLO PLAZA Opening. No additional decoration is needed. When using a separate room, check out the decorating ideas from the curriculum.

**MARIACHI PRAISE SINGERS.** Choose teens and adults to lead songs with microphones and music stands. They become the PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM for the week. This appealing contemporary style is enjoyed by all.

**COSTUMES.** Use VIVA MEXICO curriculum ideas to dress appropriately. Make the music team fun and weave the general Mexican theme through the activity. Decorate hand held instruments with colorful ribbons and silk flowers.

**RHYTHM INSTRUMENTS.** Purchase or make maracas. Tambourines, rhythm sticks and bells also perk up music time. Rhythm instruments are available in the Oriental Trading catalog and through S&S arts and crafts catalog.

*Make small maracas by using empty half pint water bottles. Dry the inside, fill about one third with colorful dried beans. Glue a short dowel rod the same width as the opening into the opening. For extra protection, tape the dowel to the opening with colorful tape. Decorate the maracas with paint or stickers. Wrap ribbon streamers around the dowel rod and then....shake, shake, shake!*



**SINGING IN SPANISH.** Even if you do not speak Spanish, teach a few repetitive choruses in Spanish. We have included words for a few familiar choruses. The kids will be proud to sing in Spanish and you will enjoy hearing them.

**Choose favorite choruses in English as well.** We have suggested some wonderful choruses but develop music of your own choice as well. The week's theme is JESUS...THE MAN IN SANDALS. Choruses about Jesus carry the Bible themes through music time.

**MUSIC.** Use CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES suggestions or create your own **VIVA MEXICO** music. Prepare the small groups to sing together for OPEN HOUSE at the end of the week. The music collection suggested comes complete with book for piano and words and options of CD's and audio cassettes. These books are excellent, fun and can be used for many other children's ministry efforts!  
**Call Ellen today: 1-888-CEM-LIFE (236-5433)**

**GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book One—Younger Kids**, 117 Fun, Exciting, Singable Songs for Younger Kids (Ages Preschool-Third Grade), Compiled by Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO 64141. *CD/Audio Cassettes available.*

- He Is The King of Kings, Page 1**
- Jesus, I Love You, Page 2**
- O How I Love Jesus, Page 8**
- I Like to Sing About Jesus, Page 9**
- Jesus Loves Me, Me, Me, Page 33**
- Into My Heart, Page 62**
- Jesus We Just Want To Thank You, Page 101**
- +Many More Great Songs For Younger Kids!**

**GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book Two—Older Kids**, 100 Fun, Exciting, Singable Songs For Older Kids (Fourth-Sixth Grades), Compiled by Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO 64141. *CD/Audio Cassette available.*

- Awesome God, Page 2**
- What A Mighty God We Serve, Page 3**
- Bless That Wonderful Name, Page 4**
- Step By Step, Page 8**
- No Other Name, Page 26**
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus, Page 72**
- + Many More Great Songs For Older Kids!**



**I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS**

**(Great Big Praise-Bk 2-Page 72 and All The Best Songs-Page 130)**

I have decided to follow Jesus, (Repeats 2 x) No turning back, no turning back.

**He de-ci-di-do se-guir a Cristo, He de-ci-di- do se-guir a Cristo,  
He de-ci-di-do se-guir a Cristo; No vuel-vo a-trás, no vuel-vo a-trás.**

**O HOW I LOVE JESUS**

**(Great Big Praise-Bk 1-Page 8 and All The Best Songs-Page 130)**

O how I love Jesus (Repeats 2 x), Because He first loved me.

**¡Oh, cuán-to le a-la-bo! ¡Oh, cuán-to le a-do'ro!  
Y siem-pre le si-go De to-do co-ra-zón.**

**INTO MY HEART**

**(Great Big Praise-Bk 1-Page 62 and All The Best Songs-Page 143)**

Into my heart, into my heart, Come into my heart Lord Jesus.  
Come in today, come in to stay, Come into my heart Lord Jesus.

**A mi corazón. A mi corazón. Ven a mi corazón, Jesús.  
Vente hoy. Quédate aquí. Ven a mi corazón, Jesús.**

**LITTLE CHILDREN IN MEXICO**

**(All The Best Songs-Page 63)**

Little children of Mexico, Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you.  
Little children of Mexico, Won't you love Jesus too?

**Niños Mexicanos, Jesús los ama, Jesús los ama.  
Niños Mexicanos, ¿no amarán a Jesús también?**

**JESUS LOVES ME**

**(All The Best Songs-Page 104)**

Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

**Jesus me ama, yo lo sé, Si lo sabes, cuéntame.**

**Historias de la Biblia y de su amor eterna.**

**Si, Jesús me ama. Si, Jesús me ama.**

**Si, Jesús me ama. Lo dice la Biblia.**

**WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE**

**(All The Best Songs–Page 93)**

What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve.  
Angels bow before Him. Heaven and earth adore Him.  
What a mighty God we serve.

**Po-de-ro-so es nues-tro Dios, Po-de-re-so es nues-tro Dios.  
An-ge-les le a-do-ran, Cie-lo y tie-rra a-do-ran,  
Po-de-ro-so es nues-tro Dios.**

**MAJESTY**

Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

**¡Ma-jes-tad! ¡Glo-ria-a su Ma-jes-tad! Dad a Cris-to to-da glo-ria, hon-ra y lo-or.  
¡Ma-jes-dad! Au-tor-ri-dad re-al...sa-le-de El, con gran do-der. ¡Vi-va-el gran Rey!  
A-la-bad, glor-ri-fi-cad su san-to nom-bre; e-xal-tad, mag-ni-fi-cad a-a-quél que-es Señor.  
¡Ma-jes-tad! ¡Glo-ria-a su Ma-jes-tad! El que mu-rió, re-su-ci-tó, hoy es el Rey.**

**HE IS LORD (EL ES REY)**

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**El es Rey, es Señor. Cris-to ya re-su-ci-tó y es Se-ñor.  
De ro-di-llas to-dos hoy con-fe-se-mos: ¡El es el Se-ñor!**

**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME**

**(Es Jesús nombre sin par)**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's just something about that name!  
Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim:  
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name

**Cris-to, Je-su cris-to es un nom-bre sin i-gual.  
Verbo, Dios es Cris-to, co-mo-o-lor a lluvia es El.  
Cris-to, Jesu cristo, cie-lo-u tie-rra glo-ria den.  
Re-yes, rei-nos al fin pu-sa-ran, mas su nom-bre es e-ter-nal.**

**IN MY LIFE, LORD**

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today.  
**En mi vida gloria te doy, gloria te doy. En mi vida gloria te doy, Señor.**

In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In my song Lord, be glorified today.  
**En mi canto gloria te doy, gloria te doy. En mi canto gloria te doy, Señor.**

In you church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In your church, Lord, be glorified today.  
**En tu iglesia gloria te doy, gloria te doy. En tu iglesia gloria te doy, Señor.**

**FATHER, I ADORE YOU**

Father, I adore You; Lay my life before You, How I love You!  
**Pa-dre, te a-do-ro; An-te ti doy la vi-da; Yo te a-mo.**

Jesus, I adore You; Lay my life before You, How I love You!  
**Cris-to, te a-do-ro; An-te ti doy la vi-da; Yo te a-mo.**

Spirit, I adore You; Lay my life before You, How I love You!  
**San-to Es-pí-ri-tu, An-te ti doy la vi-da; Yo te a-mo.**

**GOD IS SO GOOD**

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me!  
**¡Cuán bue-no es Dios! ¡Cuán bue-no es Dios! ¡Cuán bue-no es Dios! Que a su Hi-jo en-vió.**

I love Him so, I love Him so, I love him so, He's so good to me!  
**Yo le amaré; Yo le amaré; Yo le amaré, Por él viviré.**

I praise His name, I praise His name, I praise His name, He's so good to me!  
**Yo le adoraré; Yo le adoraré; Yo le adoraré; Gloria le daré.**

**SEEK YE FIRST**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Allelujah.

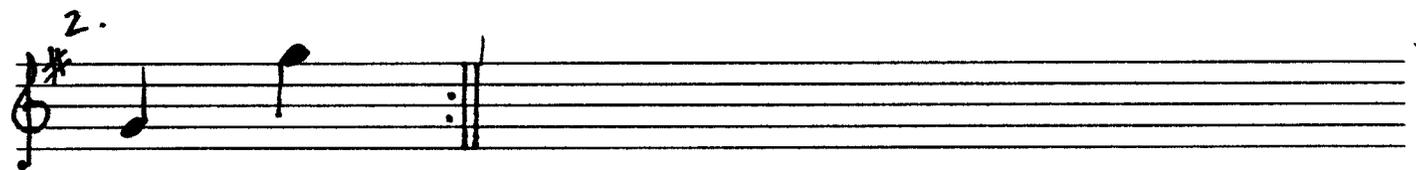
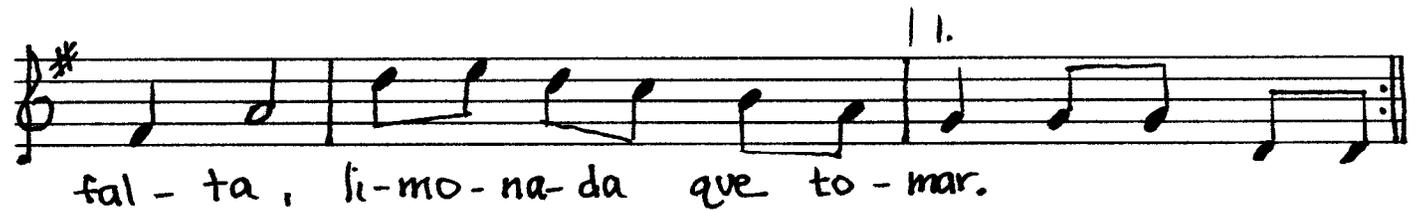
**Buscad primero el reino de Dios, Y su perfecta justicia,  
Y lo demás anadi-do se-rá, A-le-lu, a-le-lu-ya.**

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, allelujah.

**Pedid, pedid y-se-os dará; Buscad y halla re-is.  
Llamad, llamad y la puerta se a-bri-rá. A-le-lu, a-le-lu-ya.**

South Of The Border <sup>With Jesus</sup> La Cucaracha

¡VIVA MEXICO!



Translation: The cockroach, the cockroach  
Can no longer walk.  
Because he hasn't, Because he hasn't  
Lemonade to drink.

¡VIVA MEXICO! Words: When Jesus saved me,  
When Jesus saved me  
I became a child of God.  
And now I'm happy,  
So very happy -  
Living in the land of God!

# Sandals

## South Of The Border With Jesus

John E. Walvoord

## ¡VIVA MEXICO!

Don Wyrzten

1. The man in san-dals came — To help the poor and lame; —  
2. To-day He walks with men, — His foot-steps come a - gain; —

No one could stay the same. — af- ter they spoke His name. —  
He comes to live with-in — and change ment's lives from sin. —

\*Chorus (sing twice after each verse)

San-dals, San-dals on His feet, Dust-y roads where peo-ple meet — San-dals

san-dals came to me, — steps that lead past Cal-va-ry. — Cal-va-ry. —

# TORO GAMES

## ...The Games of Mexico

*TORO GAMES is a daily fifteen minute game and activity time. Decide what activities your team feels comfortable doing. Use active, fast paced games that encourage running, jumping, laughing and comradeship. Some games suggested are actual games played in Mexico. Many are also popular in the USA.*



**COSTUME:** Use curriculum suggestions for costuming. Wear comfortable clothing to allow freedom of movement during game time.

**DECORATION.** Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for running, jumping, ball playing and circle games. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Encircle the area using brightly colored vinyl pennants. Available in Oriental Trading catalog or at their web site: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)

**EQUIPMENT.** Collect items needed for individual games before Vacation Bible School. Practice each game and adjust event rules for your group. Print the description for each game on a 4 x 6 card for easy daily organization. Place equipment within easy reach in moveable tubs.

**REWARDS.** Award stickers to winning students and winning teams. At the end of each session, treat everyone, including losing teams. Pieces of soft candy are popular prizes. Gather a variety of candies like Hershey Kisses, Twizzlers, candy corn or other small treats that will not become lodged in small children's throats. (Some children are allergic to peanut based foods.)

# LET THE GAMES BEGIN...



Use our suggested games and plan personal favorite local games. Purchase a game book for more ideas. Choose games that children of all ages enjoy. It may be possible to play more than one game so plan accordingly. It is better to over plan in case a particular activity falls flat. Don't forget to plan a few rainy day games. You never know when a stray cloud will chase your gang indoors.

## TORO, TORO

**Players make a circle with one child in the center (toro).** Children call to him, "Toro, Toro, are you ready?" Toro answers, "No, I must put on my (Spanish name for an article of clothing)!" Each time, Toro must do the motions of putting on the article of clothing he is saying. Suddenly, he says, "Here I come!" Children run to the safety area (a place that is chosen before the game) before Toro can tag them. When a child is tagged, he becomes Toro. Write the names of clothing on a board and help the child with names when help is needed. Toro may come to you for a whispered name before entering the circle.

**OPTION: Instead of Spanish, use English!**

Hat—Sombrero	Shawl—Rebozo, Poncho
Sandals—Huaraches	Bolero—Jacket
Woven Blanket—Serape	Pants—Pantalones

## BULL RING

**The players form a ring around the bull, holding hands.** The bull tries to break through the ring. He may rush, lunge or pull to try to break the ring. If the bull escapes, the players take chase! Whoever catches the bull becomes the new bull. It is not fair for the bull to duck under the circle of players.

## BURRO TAILS

**EQUIPMENT:** One cloth strip per player, whistle, treasure

**Players are evenly divided into two or more teams.** Each player has a cloth strip slipped through his belt or placed in a pocket or waistband. At the whistle, all players rush to a central point where there is a treasure—candy or counters of some kind. Players try to get some of this treasure and return with it to their home base.

**A player may be taken out of the game by an opponent pulling out the tail.** Any treasure in the hand of the player is not valid and must be replaced in the center. Players are safe when home. Players must protect their tails while at the same time they are trying to capture the tails of opponents and pick up some of the treasure. At the end of the game, each counter counts one point. Each tail counts five points.

### **MEXICAN HAT DANCE**

**EQUIPMENT:** Place a sombrero in the middle of a taped off circle about five feet in diameter. Recorded music.

**Ten to twelve players form a ring around the outside of the hat and taped off circle.** To signal the start of the game, play some lively music. The object of the game is to keep out of the circle and to try to pull some of the other players into it. When a player steps into the circle, that player is out of the game.

### **BURRO TAG**

**Five to ten players link arms and become the burro.** They try to encircle the other players one or more at a time. When they do, the players caught add themselves to the burro. This continues until all players are caught. Boundaries are decided before the game begins.

### **AMIGO AND BURRO RACE**

**One player is the amigo and mounts the back of another player who is the burro.** With legs around his waist and arms around his shoulders, the amigo rides the burro to the goal. When they reach the goal they exchange positions and race back to the starting line. Students of similar sizes should be paired into teams.

### **SOCCER (FUTBOL)**

**EQUIPMENT:** Soccer Ball, whistle

**One of the most popular games in Mexico is soccer.** Play a simple version of the game by establishing goals on both ends of the playing field. Divide the group into two teams. Choose two players for the kick off and then, using feet (no hands allowed), the teams must kick the ball into their goal for one point. Play until you have reached 5 or 10 points.

### **TAG ARRIBA!**

The tagger is required to hold one hand on the spot touched when he was tagged while he tags another person. It is just too bad if he was tagged on the heel!

### **WALL BALL**

**EQUIPMENT:** Nerf or Beach Ball, Wall

One player bounces a ball against a wall and calls the name or number of another player. That player tries to catch the ball on rebound before it touches the ground. If he succeeds, he bounces the ball. If the called player fails, the bouncer throws the ball again and calls another name.

# Olé CAFÉ

## ...Mexican Sidewalk Snacks!



**VIVA MEXICO** students and staff are waiting to be *WOWED* with a variety of authentic Mexican foods served with colorful flair by South of the Border waiters. Make this fifteen minute snack break an enjoyable cultural experience. Serve simple Mexican treats and enjoy the company of every small group each day.

**DECORATION.** Create a rustic sidewalk café. Scatter card table and chairs along an imaginary sidewalk. Use curriculum suggestions for general decor. Set each table with a variety of brightly colored tablecloths (orange, yellow, red, green). Centerpieces may be a variety of sombreros, parrots, colorful pottery, tropical fruit, maracas and candles.

**COSTUMES AND SERVING.** Follow curriculum costume suggestions. Wear simple peasant costumes in bright colors. Learn a few welcoming words in Spanish. Make **Olé Café** loads of fun by entertaining guests with language and dance.

¡Buenos días! Good morning!

¡Cómo estás? How are you?

¡Estoy bien! I am fine!

Apple–Manzana  
Butter–mantequilla  
Cookies–galletas  
Food–comida  
Knife–cuchillo  
Orange–naranja  
Salad–ensalada  
Strawberries–fresas

Bacon–tocino  
Cake–torta  
Corn–máiz  
Grapes–uvas  
Lunch–almuerzo  
Potatoes–papas  
Salt–sal  
Toast–pan tostado

Beans–frijoles  
Carrots–zanahorias  
Dessert–postre  
Ice cream–helado  
Melon–melón  
Peach–durazno  
Snack–la merienda  
Tomato–jitomate

Bread–pan  
Coffee–café  
Eggs–huevos  
Juice–jugo  
Milk–leche  
Rice–arroz  
Spoon–cuchara  
Watermelon–sandía

**MUSIC.** Play recorded Mexican tunes in the background. Many choices are available in music stores and on the Internet. The musical mood should be cheerful and upbeat.

**TABLEWARE.** Use brightly colored plates and cups. Add serving baskets, wooden bowls and platters. Beverage served in pottery jugs and treats offered family style at each small table make the area intimate and authentic.

**MENU.** Give **Olé Café** a special touch by naming each snack appropriately. Use our simple recipes or search your own cook book for appropriate Hispanic dishes. It is not necessary to serve an entire lunch. Sample portions of each food are enough to provide a light snack. Have fun with each food and the preparation. Several recipes are included for cooks who enjoy making snacks from “scratch”. Decide what works according to time and ability and budget. Choose from the variety of suggestions and set up the menu before the week begins. Ask for donations and purchase the rest of the food locally.



**GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE OLE CAFÉ TEAM**

Do not provide alternative “safe” snacks for students who refuse to try unique menu items. Most students are willing to try a “No Thank You” helping. Refill when students want more. Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes. Complainers often become enthusiastic telling everyone they tried something new. The only exception should be for students with health concerns and their parents should make their desires known before their child arrives.

# Olé CAFÉ SNACKS

*Choose fresh ingredients and easy to prepare snacks. Organize the ingredients before the week. It may be appropriate to make a test batch . Substitute available ingredients for hard to find items.*



## Buñuelos

This is a tasty little dessert that is sure to please every visitor to Olé Café. It is possible to make the tortilla from scratch but to save time: Deep fry one or two flour tortillas until golden for each person. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon and eat! Add vanilla ice cream for a wonderful taste!

## Chocolate Mexicano

Chocolate is a popular beverage in Mexico. The Mexicans make this treat quickly and easily.

**½ square unsweetened chocolate**

**2 t. sugar**

**¼ t. cinnamon**

**1 cup milk**

Heat all ingredients in a double boiler until the chocolate melts. Beat with an egg beater or pour in blender and blend until foamy. Yum!

**An easier version is chocolate milk with a bit of cinnamon and sugar added and then blended until foamy.**

## Christmas Eve Salad

### Ensalada De Noche Buena

This traditional Christmas Eve salad used to be served in Mexico with just a touch of sugar sprinkled on top. Nowadays it is often served with french dressing or mayonnaise.

**1 head lettuce, shredded**

**3 sliced cooked beets**

**3 sliced red apples**

**3 slices pineapple, quartered**

**2 peeled oranges, sliced**

**2 bananas, sliced**

**½ cup roasted peanuts**

Spread the lettuce on a large plate. Arrange beets and fruits in a symmetrical pattern, alternating colors. Sprinkle with nuts and pomegranate seeds. Serve dressings separately. (Serves 8)

## Mexican Turnovers

### Empanadas

Use any pie pastry—ready made pastries are just fine. Cut the pastry into 3" circles. Fill with a spoonful of the desired filling, moisten the edges of pastry with water, fold over and press edges firmly with a fork. Deep fry at 400 degrees until brown or bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, until brown. Dust with powdered sugar while still warm.

**Some delicious fillings are:** Crushed, drained pineapple mixed with grated coconut, if desired. Applesauce mixed with chopped nuts. Mashed, cooked yams mixed with coconut and crushed pineapple. Chopped raisins or dates mixed with chopped nuts bound together with a bit of jelly or syrup. Think up your own filling!

### Tacos

The word “taco” means snack in Spanish but is more popularly known as the sandwich made of tortillas, meat and cheese. Tacos are an every day event in Mexico with many different fillings. Use your favorite ingredients. Offer the ingredients separately so students can build their own taco with foods they will eat.

**Tortilla—soft or hard, flour or corn**  
**Cooked hamburger, shredded lettuce,**  
**chopped tomatoes, grated cheddar cheese, chopped onion, bottled salsa**

Warm the taco shells in the oven, microwave or in a lightly oiled frying pan. Fill taco shells with meat and desired condiments. Beans, peppers and onions are delicious additions to the mix.

### Cheese Tortillas

#### Quesadillas

These delicious little handfuls are popular snacks! Sprinkle grated cheddar cheese on half a flour tortilla. Fold over, toast in 350 degree oven for 10 minutes or microwave on high for 45 seconds and enjoy. OR, purchase jumbo flour tortillas, fill with cheese and warm full and flat. Use a pizza cutter to cut into quarters. Serve on a small plate.

### Enchiladas Con Pollo

Enchiladas are rolled soft tortillas filled with any combination of meat, cheese and/or vegetables. Once rolled, top with sauce and cheese. Shredded chicken and cheese is popular as a filling. Set each enchiladas side by side in a baking dish, top with tomato sauce and bake until bubbly—about 20 minutes. Top with more cheese and bake until cheese melts. Serve with sour cream.

## Mexican Rice Sopa Seca

Arroz Mexicano (Mexican rice, is often referred to as sopa.) Cook until all liquid is completely absorbed into the rice. Serve as part of a Mexican meal before the meat course. Adjust amounts according to your group size. Omit any ingredient you think will not be enjoyed by kids. Add ingredients you think they will like.

<b>Uncooked white rice</b>	<b>2 T. Oil</b>
<b>4 C tomato juice</b>	<b>4 T butter</b>
<b>½ t. ground cumin</b>	<b>1 t. salt</b>
<b>½ chopped green pepper</b>	<b>2 garlic cloves, minced</b>
<b>1 ½ c. chopped onion</b>	
<b>2 large tomatoes, chopped or canned</b>	

Saute rice until golden. Heat tomato juice in sauce pan and add the rice. Add all chosen ingredients, cover and simmer on low heat until juice is absorbed and rice is soft. (20-30 minutes). Serves 4-6 Mold the rice into a dixie cup and turn over onto plate.

## Mexican Beans--Frijoles

<b>1 lb Mexican pink or pinto beans</b>	<b>6 c. water</b>
<b>½ t. ground cumin</b>	<b>2 garlic cloves</b>
<b>2 t. salt</b>	

Cover beans with water, add cumin, garlic and simmer on low heat for 1 ½ hours. (Add H2O if beans are getting dry.) Add salt and continue to simmer until beans are tender. Serves 6

## Rice Pudding--Rice With Milk

### Arroz Con Leche

<b>½ c. white rice, uncooked</b>	<b>½ cinnamon stick</b>
<b>1 ½ c. water</b>	<b>1 c. sweetened condensed milk</b>
<b>2 ½ T. Raisins</b>	<b>Cinnamon</b>

Place rice, cinnamon stick and water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer until water is absorbed (about 15 minutes). Add milk and raisins. Cook uncovered until milk is absorbed into rice (about 15 minutes). Remove from heat, take out cinnamon stick and cover. Let sit for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with cinnamon.

## Mexican Punch

12 oz can thawed frozen orange juice      48 oz can cranberry juice cocktail  
 2 liters lemon-lime soda                      24 oz. Water

Mix well

## Cheese Nachos

Sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese on top of tortilla chips. Bake at 350 degrees until the cheese has melted. Serve hot.

## Guacamole

Peel a large ripe avocado and remove the pit. Mash the avocado with a fork in a bowl. Add ½ c. chopped tomato, ½ t. minced onion and 1 T. Fresh lemon juice. Stir well and eat.

## Rice With Corn

### Arroz Con Maiz

Cook white rice with chicken bouillon and 1 T. Soy sauce. Add corn and mix until heated and tender. Serve hot.

## Chicken Tostadas

Tostadas are a favorite dish served by street vendors around Mexico. Made with a variety of toppings, this “open faced sandwich” is held together by refried beans. For 6-8 servings:

**Oil for frying                      8-6" Corn Tortillas**  
**1 1/4 C. Refried beans, heated according to directions**  
**2 C. Shredded lettuce      1 lb. Shredded cooked chicken breast**  
**1 C. Chopped tomato      1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted, chopped (optional)**  
**Garnishes: Sour cream, shredded mild cheddar cheese, mild salsa**

Preheat oven to warm. Heat ½" oil on medium in a small skillet and fry the tortillas one at a time for 30 seconds on each side. Drain on paper towels and keep warm in the oven until ready to use. Spread 3 T. Refried beans on each tortilla. Divide the lettuce, chicken, tomato and avocado among the tortillas. Garnish with salsa, sour cream and cheese, to taste. Portions for children may be reduced to ½ tostada with refills available upon request!

## Beef or Chicken Fajita

Shredded Beef or Shredded Chicken  
Sautéed Onions  
Shredded cheese  
Mild Salsa

Shredded Lettuce  
Chopped tomato  
Sour Cream  
Soft Tortillas

Warm the tortillas before serving. Fill with a small bit of each ingredient. Roll the tortilla. Serve with tortilla chips, corn chips and mild salsa.

## FIESTA FRUIT BOWL

Mix a variety of tropical fruits into one large bowl. Add sliced banana and mango (Mangos are from Mexico!). Serve with a sparkling beverage.

## Plátanos Maduros

These deep fried bananas are a popular Hispanic side dish. The trick is to buy ripe bananas.

3 ripe plantain bananas, peeled  
Oil  
cinnamon sugar

Using a sharp knife, cut the bananas diagonally into 1" pieces. Fill a pan with 1" of oil and heat to about 350 degrees. Fry 6 pieces at a time for 90 seconds. Drain between paper towels, pressing them into the towels to get rid of the excess oil. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar and serve.

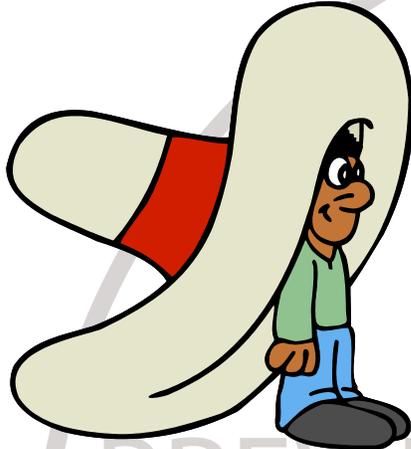
**ANY OF THESE RECIPES MAY BE ADJUSTED  
OR REPLACED WITH PERSONAL FAVORITES.  
SERVE DELICIOUS SNACKS WITH MEXICAN ZING.  
ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE AND EAT WELL!**



# SALVATION STATION

## ...OJO DE DIOS

### EYE OF GOD



*Students gather at **OJO DE DIOS** fifteen minutes each day to make a traditional Mexican craft. As they add yarn to their God's Eye, each specific color represents God's good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. By the end of the week, each student will be able to explain God's plan of salvation. Their personal project may be displayed at home to remind them that God is watching at all times.*

### DECORATIONS

**This is a Mexican workshop where students make their OJO DE DIOS (Eye of God) while hearing a short explanation of salvation.** Place one or two long tables in the middle of the room with chairs on one side facing the teacher. Craft supplies are placed on the tables within easy reach of the students.

**Use curriculum suggestions for decorating this area.** Place colorful blankets against wooden benches. Scatter colorful rugs, lanterns and green plants to represent a rustic home. Make one huge God's Eye to hang in front of the group. This example should have the exact colors that the students will be making in their projects throughout the week.

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVE

Each day students visit **OJO DE DIOS** is a day they learn more about Jesus and the plan for our salvation. While students work on their project, gently explain how to be come a Christian. Offer an opportunity to accept Christ through prayer at the end of the week.

### CREATIVE OBJECTIVE

*Each student completes a stick and yarn project following simple instructions. In order to complete each weaving section in the fifteen minute activity session, organize materials so that students can work quickly while you speak.*

**YARN:** Purchase skeins of yarn in the following five bright colors: BLACK, RED, WHITE, GREEN, YELLOW. Each color represents one point in the gospel story.

**STICKS:** Purchase two dowel rods per student about 5-6" in length. The length is approximate since you may choose any length you desire as long as five colors may be woven. A unique and inexpensive way to get sticks is to gather twigs, as straight as possible. Popsicle sticks may be used but tend to make very small projects.

**BAGS:** Give each student a clear plastic zip lock bag. This bag protects the project and assures proper distribution in each group. Provide a 3 x 5 card where students print their names on both sides. Slip the name card inside the bag and keep group bags separate.

**FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO WEAVE AROUND THE STICKS. MAKE THE WEAVING SIMPLE FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS AND ASK OLDER STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR TIME SMOOTHING EACH LAYER AS THEY WRAP.**

**STEP 1:** Cross the sticks at the center. Tie them together with the end of a piece of BLACK yarn, making an X but don't cut the yarn off its skein. Tie yarn in back of the 2 crossed sticks. *You may want to glue the sticks together before class or attach them with tiny nails or tape them together. Use any method you desire to help the children begin the project as easily as possible.*

**STEP 2:** Always weave in the same order around the sticks. You can mark the sticks with 1-2-3-4 if that helps keep track of where you are weaving.

**STEP 3:** Wrap the yarn once around 1, once around 2, once around 3 and once around 4. Continue on in the same fashion until you are happy with the first layer of the eye. Snip the first color of yarn in preparation for tying on the next color.

**THAT'S IT FOR DAY ONE.**

**STEP 4:** Each day thereafter, tie on the color for the day and continue weaving.

**STEP 5:** On the last day, tuck the last color under previous weaving. A dot of glue may hold the project together permanently.

## MONDAY AT OJO DE DIOS ...BLACK AS SIN

### SCRIPTURE VERSE

*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* Romans 3:23



WELCOME TO OJO DE DIOS! (O-ho day dee-os) which means “Eye of God”. Let’s have fun making a traditional Mexican craft while we talk about how to become a Christian...a follower of Jesus...a believer. Every day you will add a new yarn color to your cross. Each color represents something about salvation. When you take the OJO DE DIOS home to display in your bedroom, remember what each color represents. Then you will understand salvation through Jesus!

**MONDAY PROJECT ITEMS:** 2 Sticks or dowel rods or popsicle sticks per student (Option: pre-cross with glue, tiny nails or tape), black yarn, scissors, gallon zip lock bags, 3 x 5 cards, markers.

HELP EACH GROUP BEGIN THEIR PROJECT BY CROSSING THEIR STICKS AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS TO BEGIN THE EYE OF GOD WITH BLACK YARN REPRESENTING SIN.

**BUENOS DIAS!** While you weave the black yarn around the center of OJO DE DIOS, let’s talk about SIN. In Mexico the word for black is “negro”. God’s Word says we all sin. “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*” Romans 3:23 Since all of us sin, we better figure out why we continue to disobey God’s best plan for us.

**CAIN AND ABEL from Genesis 4:** The very first family God created struggled with sin. Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden when they chose to listen to the serpent’s lies about God instead of obeying their Creator. Their boys Cain and Abel also struggled with doing the right thing in God’s eyes.

**Cain was Adam and Eve’s oldest son.** Eve was thrilled with her baby boy. She said, “*I have gotten a man, with God’s help!*” What a happy mom! Time passed and Cain grew to become a man. He worked hard in the fields to provide food just as God commanded Adam to do.

**Abel was Cain’s younger brother.** He became a farmer like his brother. Abel raised animals for meat and milk and clothing. Both men knew God and both men understood what pleased God.

**God required offerings burned on an altar as an extravagant gift.** Cain brought God an offering from the produce of his farm. Abel did the same thing but he brought the very best of firstborn animals from his herd, including the choicest cuts of meat.

**God liked Abel's attitude and offering but Cain and his offering did not get God's approval.** Cain lost his temper and began sulking. God seemed puzzled when He confronted Cain. (*God spoke directly to people in those days.*) *"Cain, why are you throwing this temper tantrum? If you do better, won't you be accepted? Learn from this experience. If you don't live well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; sin is out to get you. Cain, you have got to master this."*

**Now, if God gave me words of advice..in person...I think I would consider His words carefully.** However, Cain argued with his brother which may have sounded like, *"Hey, little brother, so you think you are such a big shot. Gotta please God like a good little boy. Why do you always have to make me look so bad. Well, I've got news for you. You won't do that again."*

**Because they were working in the field, there were no witnesses.** Cain became so angry that he came at Abel with some kind of weapon, or his bare hands, and killed him. God knew immediately that Abel was dead. He found Cain. *"Cain, where is your brother?"*

Cain replied, *"How should I know? Am I his babysitter?"*

**God said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is calling to me from the ground."** As punishment Cain was sent away to become a homeless wanderer on Earth. It was a horrible punishment. God put a mark on Cain so that no one who met him would kill him. And that was the end of Cain's close relationship with God.

**WHAT DOES SIN MEAN TO ME?** God's big warning is given in the Bible. *"For the wages of sin is death..."* along with a big promise... *"But the gift of God is eternal life."* Romans 6:23 Most people deny they have sinful thoughts and deeds just like Cain. They make up reasons for the way they act and the thoughts they think.

**Just like God's good advice to Cain, we can experience God's forgiveness for sin.** His only requirement? ASK! We cannot please God and continue to do things that separate us from Him. He wants us to experience His peace and life when we decide to follow Him.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
ADIOS! VAYA CON DIOS!  
Goodbye! Go with God!**

# TUESDAY AT OJO DE DIOS ...RED IS THE COLOR OF JESUS' LOVE

## SCRIPTURE VERSE

*I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.*

John 10:10B

**WELCOME TO OJO DE DIOS!** Red is the color of Jesus' love. There are not many who will offer their life to save your life. That is exactly what Jesus did when He was willing to die on the cross to guarantee forgiveness of our sin. Jesus died for all the people who had ever lived, for all those living at that time and for all of the people born after His death. That means you and me!



**TUESDAY PROJECT ITEMS:** Student projects in bags, red yarn, scissors.

ATTACH RED YARN TO THE TAIL OF THE BLACK YARN FROM MONDAY. STUDENTS CONTINUE WEAVING THEIR OJO DE DIOS WITH RED YARN FOR SEVERAL ROUNDS.

**BUENOS DIAS!** I suppose you are wondering why the Cross of Christ is the centerpiece of Christian faith. The cross is where all people begin their journey to heaven. God loved the world so much that he provided the best sacrifice...better than Cain or Abel's offering...when He offered His only Son, Jesus. **Today's color is RED. In Spanish, ROJO.**

**Jesus began His human life in Bethlehem.** What a night! Angels and shepherds welcomed Him. He grew up in Joseph and Mary's home, learning to become a carpenter in a large, loving family. Jesus understood His place in our world and was obedient to God's plan because of love.

**Jesus proved He was God with miracles healing the sick, interrupting nature and raising the dead.** Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him"* John 14:6,7

Jesus never gave options for getting to heaven. Being good, becoming the smartest kid in school, doing good deeds...these are nice but the only way to God is through Jesus.

**NICODEMUS from John 3:** One wise, old Jewish leader considered the words of Jesus. He met Jesus at night to confront Him. Nicodemus said, “*No one could do all the God pleasing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.*” Jesus agreed and explained that unless a person is born from above, they cannot understand God’s love. How puzzling!

**Nicodemus must have scratched his beard.** “*How can anyone be born who has already been born and grown up? You can’t do that again! What is all this ‘born from above’ talk?*” We may have asked the same questions if we had been in on the conversation that night.

**Jesus patiently explained that God’s presence is like the wind.** We feel it, hear it, enjoy it. Yet we cannot see it. God is Spirit and lovingly deals with us gently as the wind blows in and out. Sometimes God’s love blows softly, sometimes strong like a storm. Jesus said, “This is how much God loved the world; He gave his Son, his One and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.”

**Those threatened by Jesus’ love, plotted to kill Him.** He died on the Cross of Calvary for our sin. It was God’s plan. Jesus was willing to die for us. Having someone give up their life for us gets our attention in a big way! Red, the color of blood, is also the color of Jesus’ love.

**WHAT DOES JESUS’ LOVE MEAN TO ME?** The typical way people respond to Jesus’ love is that they run for the darkness of sin because they are not really interested in pleasing God. Many do not understand how special the Cross is for all humans. God has given us a wonderful opportunity to accept His plan, live a great life and move on to spend eternity in heaven with Him. What love!

**Accepting Jesus’ great love is the most important decision you will ever make.** Your mom cannot make this decision for you. Neither can your dad, grandparents or friends. I cannot choose Jesus for you. You alone are in complete control of this decision. Of course, you want to understand what this decision to become a Christian means. We’ll think about that tomorrow!

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
ADIOS! VAYA CON DIOS!  
(Goodbye! Go with God!)**

# WEDNESDAY AT OJO DE DIOS ...WHITE IS THE COLOR OF SALVATION

## SCRIPTURE VERSE

*...If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:9



**WELCOME TO OJO DE DIOS!** So far we have discovered **BLACK** represents **SIN** that separates us from God and **RED** is the color of **JESUS' LOVE**. Today we discover **WHITE IS THE COLOR OF SALVATION!** What is salvation? Let's find out!

**WEDNESDAY PROJECT ITEMS:** Student bag with project, white yarn, scissors.

**BUENOS DIAS!** **WHITE** in Spanish is **BLANCO!** While you weave **BLANCO/WHITE** yarn into your **OJO DE DIOS**, let's talk about salvation. An easy way to understand what salvation means is: **CHOOSE JESUS!** Choosing Jesus is as easy as agreeing with Him that we need to make a change in how we live. We must turn from **BLACK/SIN** and toward His love **RED/JESUS' LOVE**. When we open our hearts, He gladly enters and lives with us. He cleans us up and makes us pure and **WHITE** inside!

Jesus said, *"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me."* Revelation 3:20

**WOMAN AT THE WELL from John 4:** Worn out by a long trip, Jesus sat down in the middle of a hot day at a well in Samaria. A Samaritan woman came to get water. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. She was shocked. Jewish men did not speak to Samaritan women. She said, *"How can you ask me for a drink?"*

**Jesus smiled.** *"If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."* This woman looked around and saw He didn't have a bucket. She sniffed that there was no way he could give her this "living" water.

Taking the perfect opportunity to speak to her about salvation, Jesus said, *"Everyone who drinks water from this well will get thirsty again. I am talking about water that is so good you will never get thirsty again."*

**Now she was interested.** *“Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, and won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”* Jesus told her stories about herself that she was surprised He knew. She tried to trip him up with religious talk but Jesus wouldn’t take the bait. He told her, *“It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for; those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him as they worship Him.”*

**Eventually this woman recognized Jesus as her Savior.** She ran to her village and the people followed her to the well. Many Samaritans from that village believed in Him because of the woman’s witness: *“He knows me inside and out!”* They asked Him to stay and He stayed two days. Lots more people were saved once they heard what Jesus had to say about sin and salvation and heaven. What a happy day in that small village and in the hearts of each new believer!

**WHAT DOES SALVATION MEAN TO ME?** *“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9 Saved from what? Saved from foolishness, a lonely life, sin and most of all, saved from permanent separation from God. I don’t know about you, but I want to spend forever in heaven with Jesus! Are you ready for Salvation?

**ADMIT YOUR NEED!** Say to God, *“I am a sinner.”*

**TURN FROM YOUR SIN!** Say *“I’m sorry. Please forgive me”* to God.

**BELIEVE JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.** God’s Word tells us about the gift Jesus gave us when He died on the Cross. Three days later He arose from that grave forever.

**INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE.** Ask Jesus to come into your life as Savior and Lord. If you understand my words, you can accept Jesus as your Savior. Let’s pray together:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sin. I’m sorry I have sinned. I invite You to come into my life to give me a new beginning as a believer in Your great love. I trust You as my Lord and follow You as my Savior.**

**In Jesus Name, Amen.**

**Join the large crowd of people who have come before you.** Stand up and be counted for God. Tell someone that you have become a real Christian on this very day!

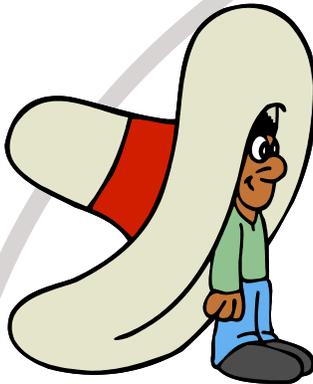
**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
ADIOS! VAYA CON DIOS!  
(Goodbye! Go with God!)**

# THURSDAY AT OJO DE DIOS ...GREEN IS THE COLOR OF GROWTH

## SCRIPTURE VERSE

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

II Peter 3:18



**WELCOME TO OJO DE DIOS!** So far we have learned about BLACK/SIN, RED/JESUS' LOVE and WHITE/SALVATION. Today we add bright GREEN to the OJO DE DIOS—Eye of God. Green represents growing in Jesus. Just like grass and flowers grow strong and healthy, we can grow strong in our faith. There are ways to grow in Jesus that are fun and important. Today we learn how to GROW!

**THURSDAY PROJECT ITEMS:** Student project, green yarn, scissors.

TIE THE GREEN YARN ONTO THEIR WHITE YARN. THEY WEAVE WHILE YOU TALK TO THEM ABOUT GROWTH.

**BUENOS DIAS!** GREEN in Spanish is VERDE! God is offering an invitation to you today to receive the free gift of salvation and become a member of His ever increasing family, a child of God. If you did not pray yesterday, but you feel ready to become a Christian today, pray now:

**Dear Father:** I truly believe You raised Jesus from the dead and I say right now, “Jesus, You are my Lord.” According to Your Word, I am saved now. I am Your very own child. Thank You, Father, for saving me and accepting me as Your very own.

**What a wonderful day and week for those of you who are now truly children of our Heavenly Father.** But....there's more!!! Now that we are in God's family, we must choose to follow Him. How can we do this?

**PRINT THEME PHRASES ON PAPER IN THE SHAPE OF A BRIGHT SUN AND ATTACHED TO ALUMINUM FOIL COVERED CARDBOARD. USE BRIGHT COLORED MARKERS: RED, GREEN, BLACK, YELLOW.**

**READ YOUR BIBLE!** We cannot know and understand God unless we read His message to us. Read a little bit every day and think about God's words. As you learn to read, you will get better at understanding God's message through the Bible's stories and wise words.

**TALK TO GOD!** The greatest Christian is one who spends much time on his knees. God waits to hear our voices. Prayer is better than a telephone. The moment you pray, He hears you.

*If my people, which are called by my name, humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*  
II Chronicles 7:14

**GO TO CHURCH!** It is very hard to grow in faith all by yourself. You need the help of good friends who also love the Lord.

**LOVE EACH OTHER AND LOVE GOD!** Genuinely care for people you see every day. Even if they are hard to love, our feelings for them will make them want to know the Lord too! Love God who loved you so much He sent His only Son to take your sin away.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
ADIOS! VAYA CON DIOS!  
(Goodbye! Go with God!)**

# FRIDAY AT OJO DE DIOS

## ...YELLOW IS THE COLOR OF HEAVEN

### SCRIPTURE VERSE

*Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

*You know the way to the place where I am going."* John 14:1-3



**WELCOME TO OJO DE DIOS!** We will finish our OJO DE DIOS today! What a beautiful reminder of all God wants us to know about Salvation. Let's think about what each color means: BLACK/SIN, RED/JESUS' LOVE, WHITE/SALVATION, GREEN/GROWTH. There's only one more thing to discuss and that is...HEAVEN! The very reason Christians believe in Jesus is to experience all the blessings God promises and the best blessing is living forever in heaven.

**FRIDAY PROJECT ITEMS:** Student project bags, yellow yarn, scissors.

TIE YELLOW YARN ONTO THE TAIL OF THE GREEN YARN FROM THURSDAY. IF SOME STUDENTS ARE BEHIND IN COLORS, HELP THEM CATCH UP AND COMPLETE THEIR PROJECTS.

**BUENOS DIAS!** (*Ask students-wait for answers*) YELLOW in Spanish is AMARILLO. Where is heaven? What does heaven look like? How do you get to heaven? When will you go to heaven? Why do you want to go to heaven? Who will be in heaven? Who will not be in heaven?

**JOHN SEES HEAVEN from Revelation 21:** As far anyone knows, John is the only person who has ever seen heaven before death. God gave him permission to tell us what he saw. Here is John's description of heaven:

An angel carried me away to a mountain great and high and showed me the Holy City. The City shimmers like a jewel. It has a wall majestic and high with twelve gates. At each gate stands an angel.... The City is a perfect square. The wall is jasper, the color of Glory and the City is pure gold, as shiny as glass.

Around the foundation is every precious gem imaginable. Main street is pure gold. Heaven doesn't need sun or moon for light. God's glory is the light, Jesus is its lamp. Its gates will never be shut by day and there won't be any night. Nothing dirty will get into the City and no one who deceives. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will get in. The Water of Life River, crystal bright, flowed from the Throne of God right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life is planted on each side of the river, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The Throne of God is at the center. Servants are surrounding Him, praising and worshiping Him.

What an amazing picture of the place where followers of Jesus will spend eternity. When we become Christians, God says we become citizens of heaven, His home. Even if you live in a beautiful home right now, it is nothing like God's Home being prepared for those who love and follow Him. If you live in a house that needs a little repair work, just wait until you see what God has prepared for you!

**If you know these choruses, teach the students.**

**HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE**

HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE, FILLED WITH HIS GLORY AND GRACE.  
I WANT TO SEE MY SAVIOR'S FACE 'CAUSE HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!

**HEAVEN IS BETTER THAN THIS**

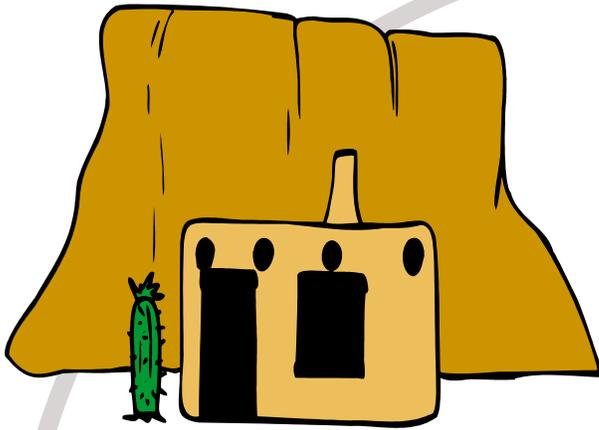
HEAVEN IS BETTER THAN THIS. PRAISE GOD WHAT JOY AND BLISS.  
WALKIN' ON STREETS OF SOLID GOLD,  
IN THAT LAND WHERE WE'LL NEVER GROW OLD.  
HEAVEN IS BETTER THAN THIS PRAISE GOD WHAT JOY AND BLISS.  
I LIKE LIVIN' FOR JESUS DOWN HERE BUT HEAVEN IS BETTER THAN THIS.

**Get ready for heaven!** Ask Jesus to be your Savior today. Live for Jesus your whole life long. Serve Jesus by loving other people. Hey! Let's make plans to meet in heaven someday at the corner of "Angel and Cross" Streets.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
ADIOS! VAYA CON DIOS!  
(Goodbye! Go with God!)**

# VIVA MEXICO

## BIBLE HACIENDA TIPS



*Each VIVA MEXICO Bible Hacienda represents a remarkable location in an imaginary Old Mexican town. What fun teachers and students have as they explore an interesting and colorful Mexican culture south of the border of America while hearing stories about JESUS, THE MAN IN SANDALS. Student groups visit a different Hacienda each day for forty five minutes and enjoy a bit of Mexico, hear a Bible story about Jesus and complete a craft.*

Bible Hacienda teachers and helpers accompany their group and serve as extra “helping hands” in the daily fifteen minute activities. Highlight decorations, costuming and building relationships with each group. Lead your children on an amazing journey where they learn to follow Jesus, The Man in Sandals.

### **BIBLE HACIENDA #1: FELIZ NAVIDAD** **...LIFE BEGINS AT CHRISTMAS**

**Memory Verse:** “Glory to God in the highest.” Luke 2:14

(¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas!” Lucas 2:14)

**Bible Story:** Luke 2--Jesus, Baby In A Manger

**Craft**

### **BIBLE HACIENDA #2: THE BAJA** **...DESERT LIFE**

**Memory Verse:** “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

(Fortaleceos en el Señor y en el poder de su fuerza. Efesios 6:10)

**Bible Story:** Luke 4--Jesus, Hero In the Desert

**Craft**

### **BIBLE HACIENDA #3: FIESTA!** **...LIFE OF THE PARTY!**

**Memory Verse:** “This amazed everyone and they praised God.” Mark 2:12

(Se asombraron y glorificaron a Dios. Marcos 2:12)

**Bible Story:** John 2: Jesus, Wedding Guest

**Craft**

**BIBLE HACIENDA #4: PUEBLO POTTER  
...ONE ORDINARY LIFE**

**Memory Verse:** “Christ is all, and is in all.” Colossians 3:11  
(Cristo es todo y en todos. Colosenes 3:11)

**Bible Story:** Matthew 5:1-10: Jesus, Man For Ordinary People  
**Craft**

**BIBLE HACIENDA #5: CASA MEXICANA!  
...LIVE FOREVER**

**Memory Verse:** “I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone...opens the door, I will come in.” Revelation 3:20  
(Yo estoy a la puerta y llamo; si alguno...abre la puerta, entraré. Revelaciones 3:20)

**Bible Story:** Jesus, Guide To Heaven  
**Craft**

**DECORATE:** Follow our decorating suggestions or design your own colorful Mexican decorations to create the specific theme within the Bible Hacienda. Borrow appropriate items from church members, family and friends. Make some of the decorations from construction paper, poster board and cardboard. Use dramatic lighting to make your specific area mysterious and exciting.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Follow instructions in the curriculum. Borrow, rent or make simple costumes.

**MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:** Teach a scripture verse in each hacienda area. If you prefer a different teaching game, story or activity, use it. Shorten the verse to match the age group. Take on an added challenge to teach the words in English and Spanish. If you are uncomfortable, just teach it in English.

**BIBLE HACIENDA STORY:** The students must be seated and quiet. Ask questions to encourage active involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may read scripture and participate in discussion.

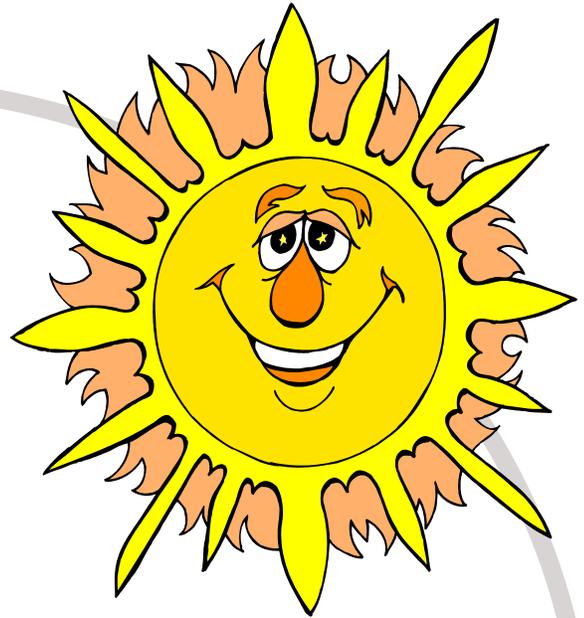
**CRAFT:** Choose a craft from our list or create your own Mexican craft project. Reserve one corner to complete a simple keepsake. Divide craft parts into kits. Place the kit in front of them. Helpers assist young students. Students not attending Open House may take their completed project home any time.

**TIME MANAGEMENT:** Student groups must complete their Bible Hacienda activities in one session. If all suggested activities cannot be completed comfortably within the forty five minutes allotted, choose the most important details and eliminate the rest.

**BIBLE HACIENDA  
CRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Each VIVA MEXICO Bible Hacienda includes time for a craft activity. Choose one craft from the following list to complete with each group. If another appropriate project appeals to any teacher, develop that project. Homemade crafts are fun and inexpensive so ask crafty folks in your group to create five separate projects and gather materials for the Bible Hacienda teachers.*

*These suggestions are from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Prices may change. For a current MASTER S&S catalog or for a copy of their CHRISTIAN S&S catalog, call 1-800-9232. Check out their easy to use web site at: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com).*



**MOSAIC TILE FRAMES.** Unique picture frames encourage self expression and thinking “outside the box”. Colorful, polished porcelain tiles can be arrange in countless ways for an original creation every time. Frame 4 ½" x 5"; Picture opening 2 ¾" x 3 ½".

**CHE-GP1094 \$11.88 per pack of 12. 99 cents per project.**

**CHRISTIAN COLORING CARDS.** Even your youngest groups can connect with the stories of Jesus through these exciting learning tools. No needles required; simply lace yarn through the 1/4" holes by hand for an inspirational finished project. 9" x 12".

**CHE-RE439 \$14.99 per pack of 24. 62 cents per project**

**CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS SAND MAGNETS.** Simply pull back the paper covering to expose the adhesive and pour sand over the magnet. Everything included for beautiful results.

**CHE-RE385 \$27.99 per pack of 26. 69 cents per project**

**SPARKLING TILE CROSS.** Colorful acrylic tile pieces lend the look of real stained glass to this project without the sharp edges! Hang anywhere for a unique reminder of the life of Christ. 5" W x 8" H.

**CHE-RE412 \$23.88 per pack of 24. 83 cents per project**

**SUPER FOAM PARROT.** Soft to touch foam parrot looks like he just flew from the tropics. Precut pieces fit together in a snap. 8 x 10". RME-GP1451 \$6.99 per pack of 12.58 cents per project

**TINY TILE COASTERS.** Easy to do, fun to make. Design unique coasters by simply gluing tile into place. 3 ½" square.

**RME-GP889 \$13.99 per pack of 12. 94 cents per project**

**TISSUE ART CROSS.** This colorful cross is fun to create with precut tissue paper. Self adhesive crosses make it easy. 3 ¼" x 5". **CHE-RE426 \$17.99 PER PACK OF 24 62 cents per project**

## **South Of The Border With Jesus**

**¡VIVA MEXICO!**

**SUPER FOAM MOSAICS.** A great Vacation Bible School activity that kids can make and take with them the same day! Kids can create their own mosaic patterns with precut, self adhesive Super Foam tiles and sheets in assorted colors. Complete with posterboard shapes and suggestions. Catalog pictures the name JESUS and CROSS .

**CHE-GP1499 NAME PLATE \$23.88 per pack of 24**  
**CHE-GP1505 DOOR KNOB HANGER \$23.88 per pack of 24**

### **APPROPRIATE FOR FELIZ NAVIDAD...CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO**

**CHRIST IS BORN BRITE LITE PANELS.** Kids can celebrate the birth of the Lord with this meaningful coloring project. Translucent panels are preprinted with 3 different scenes from Christ's nativity. 6" x 10".

**CHE-RE438 \$18.99 per pack of 24. 75 cents per project**

**COLORING PLACE MATS.** These preprinted place mats feature bold lines and large coloring spaces to increase success and raise self esteem. Brief, informative poems add to their appeal. Color with crayons, markers or coloring pencils (sold separately). May be laminated for long life.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC-RME-GA2672**  
**BIBLE SCENES-RME--GA2674 \$6.99 per set of 10. 69 cents per project**

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CARDS.** Precut, preprinted Christmas card "ornaments" include a holiday greeting and their own envelopes. Ready to color, send and hang on the tree! (Crayons sold separately) 5" with 5 1/4" x 7 1/4" envelopes.

**RME-GA2673 per pack of 10. 69 cents per project**

### **APPROPRIATE FOR CLAY CASA...GOD'S CRACKED POTS**

**PAPIER MACHE MINI POTS.** Decorate these charming little papier mache flowerpots with paint, decoupage, glitter, markers, anything your imagination allows! Use as containers for seedlings or other tiny treasures. 2" H x 2 1/4" W. Add your own paint, decorations.

**CHE-PS1213 \$6.99 per pack of 12. 58 cents per pot**

**CLAY BEAD MIX.** Handmade textured terra cotta beads in assorted shapes and colors for crafting jewelry. No two are alike. Medium size hole for easy stringing. Approximately 55 beads per 6 oz bag.

**RME-BE819 \$9.99 per bag**

**LARGE HOLE TRANSPARENT GLASS BEADS.** Brightly colored transparent glass beads in round and barrel shapes with extra large holes for stringing onto heavy lacings. Assorted colors. Approximately 37 beads per 4 oz bag.

**RME-BE817 \$9.99 per bag**

**EXOTIC BEADED NECKLACES.** A treasure chest full of exotic beads to create one of a kind kid necklaces for boys and girls. Comes with everything you need to create come outrageous styles.

**EME-GP930 \$19.99 per pack of 30. 67 cents per project**

**APPROPRIATE FOR FIESTA!...COME TO THE PARTY**

**FIESTA HAT MAGNET.** Ole! A great project to celebrate Mexico. Decorate mini straw hats with a festive flair using chenille stems and beads. Add a magnet and it's ready to hang on the fridge or file cabinet. **RME-GP1295 \$21.99 per pack of 24. 83 cents per project**

**NEON PAPER LANTERNS.** Create a **FIESTA MOOD** by displaying a garland of neon-colored lanterns! Included sequins add extra sparkle. 8" x 8".

**RME-GP851 \$14.99 per pack of 40. 37 cents per project**

(Use as a craft project and/or use as decorative items throughout VIVA MEXICO.)

**APPROPRIATE FOR OJO DE DIOS SALVATION STATION**

**OJO DE DIOS WALL HANGING.** Called "God's Eye" because it is a reminder that God watches over His children. Use yarn and dowels. 9" x 9" **RME-GP24X \$13.99 per pack of 25**  
(*This could be used with your specific salvation colors of yarn purchased separately for the Salvation Station.*)

**OJO DE DIOS MEDALLIONS.** This simple wrapping project can be worn as a necklace or displayed 3 ½". **RME-GP1175 \$13.99 per pack of 36. 39 cents per project**

(*Not large enough for the Salvation Station project.*)

**MEXICAN WELCOME RISTRA.** The Ristra has been a Mexican tradition for hundreds of years. People hang them on the doors of their homes to welcome friends. A fun and easy project containing colorful paper chile pepper shapes dangling along an 18" rope.

**RME-GP1424 \$13.99 per pack of 24. 50 cents per project**

**MEXICAN MIRROR PLATES.** Reminiscent of the work done by the Huichol Indians. Plate measures 5" x 6 ½". Mirror in the center is 2 ½" x 1 ¾". Colorful yarn is wrapped around the plate and mirror for a beautiful completed project.

**RME-GP616 \$26.99 per pack of 24. 99 cents per project**

**SPANISH CASTANETS.** Make rhythmic music with these authentic Spanish percussion instruments. Each pair will be unique and ready to paint details. 3" x 4".

**RME-GP125 \$21.99 per pack of 25 pair. 80 cents per project**

## HOMEMADE MEXICAN CRAFTS

*Consider developing projects from materials found around the house or purchased at a local craft store. Check web sites featuring Mexican crafts for children for more ideas. Often homemade versions of crafts inspire more creativity at lower cost. When choosing a project, be sure students of all ages can complete it easily within a 15-20 minute time period during the Bible Hacienda. We have included a few ideas to get you started!*

### MEXICAN BEAN BRACELETS

**Materials:** Toilet paper roll, construction paper (any color) or tin foil, dried beans and/or lentils (use a variety), scissors, glue. **OPTIONAL:** light blue paint, hole punch and ribbon, sequins

**OPTIONAL:** Paint some or all of the beans light (turquoise) blue. Let dry. This may be done by the teacher before class to save time.

Glue construction paper or tin foil around toilet paper roll. The roll could be painted if preferred. *Tin foil looks like silver but it is a bit more difficult to glue things to it.*

Slit toilet paper roll so it isn't a roll anymore. Cut the roll shorter. It's up to you how wide you want the bracelet. It works well cut into thirds. Glue beans onto the bracelet. Smaller beans do not slide off the wet glue as much as big ones do. Add sequins for extra sparkle if you like. Dry.

**OPTIONAL:** Punch holes in either side of the bracelet and thread a ribbon through. Use this to tie the bracelet on when you slip it on your arm so it doesn't fall off as easily.

### PAPER PLATE MARACAS

*Original maracas were made from hollow gourds filled with pebbles or seeds. Make simple maracas from one or two paper plates stapled together, containing dried beans or popcorn. They make a lot of noise!*

**Materials:** Two paper plates per student, dried beans, rice or popcorn kernels, stapler/staples, crayons, markers or paint, crepe paper streamers.

Decorate the outside of the plates with crayons, markers or paint. Be sure to add the child's name for easy identification. Put a handful or two of dried beans, rice or popcorn in a paper plate. Staple the second paper plate on top of it. You can use a single plate for each maraca by folding a paper plate in half, adding the beans, then stapling the rim to itself.

**OPTIONAL:** Staple long crepe paper streamers to the maracas.

## MEXICAN RATTLE

*In Mexico, paper mache rattles are popular during New Year's celebrations. There are many ways to make large rattles but paper mache is more traditional. Choose any kind of rattle desired. Use this only if you have extended craft time.*

**Materials:** Toilet paper roll, popsicle stick, masking tape, small rocks, dried beans or popcorn kernels, scissors, coloring materials, glue. Paper mache paste (or white glue and water mixed 3/4 and 1/4), strips of newspaper, poster paint or acrylic paint, OPTIONAL: feathers.

Cover one end of the tp roll with masking tape.

Insert the popsicle stick inside the other end of the tp roll and tape it on firmly. Tape it a lot. *For an extra firm handle, tape one popsicle stick inside the tp roll and tape a second popsicle stick (overlapping the first) on the outside of the tp roll. Wrap some tape around the two sticks to make them into one stick. You will be able to paper mache over top of all this.*

Put some rocks, beans or popcorn inside the tp roll and cover the other end with making tape.

Paper mache the tp roll with 2 layers of newspaper. Let dry.

Paint the project in bright colors. Let dry. **OPTIONAL:** Glue feathers onto the top.

### PAPER MACHE PASTE

**Cook Method:** 1 part flour to 5 parts water. Boil about 3 minutes and let cool. It is the cheapest method and is nice and smooth.

**Options:** 1 part flour to 1 part water. Stir together. OR, Use liquid starch that is inexpensive. It dries smooth and clear. If you add a couple tablespoons of salt, it will not mold.

Do not cover the project with more than 4 layers of paper mache. Two layers is better. Let dry COMPLETELY. Repeat until it is as solid as you want it.

If making a pinata, tie a loop of string to a paper clip. Tape the paper clip onto a blown up balloon and mache over the clip. Leave the loop open for hanging the pinata.

BIBLE HACIENDA #1:

# FELIZ NAVIDAD

## ...LIFE BEGINS AT CHRISTMAS



**THEME:** Before Jesus was The Man In Sandals, He was the Baby in a Manger. God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to save us from sin. Teach the Christmas story while featuring a few Mexican traditions.

Christmas in Mexico is celebrated over several weeks. In our speed version, children experience it in about thirty minutes. Do your best to feature each event within the time constraints.

This area offers extra snacks and gifts not featured in other areas. Students feel special when these items are offered. Take time to make this festive and watch their reactions! It will be just like Christmas!

**DECORATION:** Artificial poinsettias, piñatas, Nativity scenes. Mexican tradition consists of setting up a large nativity scene not Christmas trees. Christmas music on CD or audio tape. (Play “Feliz Navidad” as students enter.)

**Poinsettia:** Cover the room with the colorful, meaningful, traditional Mexican flower, the poinsettia. Place them in baskets and pottery. Lay them on tables and in window sills.

**Christmas Decorations:** Consider twinkle lights, angels, shepherds, donkeys, stars, posters, large Christmas bows, candles. Scavenge your own holiday decorations and enjoy decorating with bright colors and themes of the season. Avoid general holiday decor like snowmen or Santas. Focus on the Bethlehem story.

**Nativity Scenes:** If your church or a friend owns a large, outdoor nativity scene, set it up in the room. Collect table top nativity sets to display in the area. It may be possible to purchase a Mexican folk art scene online. Check [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) or other web sites.

**Piñatas:** Purchase or make 5 large piñatas (one per group) to decorate the room. This is a popular Christmas activity. Allow students to play piñata at the end of the class period or at the end of the week. Fill it with small gifts, candies. If there is no room within the area, carry the piñata outdoors or to a larger space. *It may work well to have the breaking occur at the end of the week at Open House or during TORO GAMES.*

**Craft Tables:** Place one or two long tables along one side of the room. Place all supplies needed for the project on the tables before the group arrives.

**SEATING:** Students may sit on the floor or on chairs as desired. If using chairs, decorate each chair with a large, colorful Christmas bow.

**COSTUME:** Dress in typical Mexican costume. Follow the suggestions in the curriculum.

## **¡BIENVENIDOS! ¡FELIZ NAVIDAD! (Welcome! Merry Christmas!)**

Christmas surprises are waiting for you in our Bible Hacienda. Christmas for Mexicans is a religious holiday. It is a celebration of the Nativity...the birthday of our Lord Jesus.

### **JESUS THE MAN IN SANDALS: JESUS...BABY IN A MANGER**

Before Jesus became The Man in Sandals, He was the Baby in a Bethlehem manger. Christmas is a “big deal” in Mexico just like in America. Let’s have some Mexican Christmas fun.

### **POSADAS**

**Posadas is nine days before Holy Night on December 24.** Joseph and Mary are searching for a place to stay. Each family in a neighborhood schedules a night for the Posada to be held at their home. Every home has a Nativity scene. The hosts of the home are the innkeepers and the neighborhood children and adults are pilgrims asking for a place to stay by singing a little song.

**Everyone carries lit candles while two others dress as Mary and Joseph and lead a donkey.** One person carries a small lit lantern. The neighbor pilgrims ask for lodging in three different houses but only the third one will allow them in. The innkeeper lets them in and the group of guests kneels around the Nativity scene to pray and sing Christmas carols.

**RE-ENACT THE INNKEEPER STORY AS TIME ALLOWS.**

**DRESS TWO STUDENTS AS MARY AND JOSEPH.**

**GIVE SMALL CANDLES TO EACH STUDENT.**

**SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL (“Away In A Manger”).**

**After all the prayer, there is a party for the children.** They break a piñata with a long stick. It is filled with peanuts in the shell, oranges, sugar canes and wrapped hard candy. They sing songs and open the piñata while blindfolded. This verse reminds us of what the angels said on that Holy Night. All glory was given to God.

**CONSIDER BREAKING PINATAS DURING TORO GAME TIME.  
LEARN A SCRIPTURE VERSE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH.**

**“Glory to God in the highest!” Luke 2:14  
“¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas!” Lucas 2:14**

### **NOCHE BUENA (HOLY NIGHT)**

**Holy Night is December 24.** Everybody goes to church at midnight. After church, everyone goes home to have dinner with family. Any friend who does not have a family is always welcome to be part of a family celebration. The most important thing of all is to place the Baby Jesus in the manger in the Nativity scene.

**PLACE BABY JESUS IN EACH NATIVITY SCENE ON DISPLAY.**

**FLORES DE NOCHE BUENA (Flowers of the Holy Night):** *Show a poinsettia or give one to each child.* Each year a special flower blooms at Christmas time and resembles the shape of the Star of Bethlehem.. We know it by it's common name, the poinsettia. In Mexican folklore, there is a story of a poor child who had nothing to bring to church for Christmas. On the way to church, the child picked some plants by the side of the road. As the child entered the church, the ends of the leaves turned into brilliant red flowers. You guessed it...Poinsettias. American citizen Joel Robert Poinsett, the first Ambassador to Mexico, brought the plant to his plantation. He grew them and gave them as gifts to friends.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

No presents are given to children or adults on Christmas day. Christmas is a celebration of the life of our Savior. They tell the Bethlehem story to the whole family.

**READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LUKE 2.  
USE THE NATIVITY SCENE AS A VISUAL AID.**

### **THE DAY OF THE KINGS**

**Children open gifts on January 6, The Day of the Kings.** It is the Wise Men/Magi who brought presents to the baby Jesus so they bring toys to the boys and girls who have been good. Children place their shoes by the window so the Magi place the present in the shoe. If the present is bigger than the shoe, it will be placed next to it. Many children, get a new pair of shoes for a present.

**GIVE EACH CHILD A SMALL, WRAPPED PRESENT.  
OPEN GIFTS AND CELEBRATE.**

**This is also the day when everyone eats a delicious meal (Merienda) of hot chocolate and cake.** Rosca de Reyes is a big oval wreath made out of egg bread with dry fruit decorations and sprinkled sugar on top. Inside there is a little ceramic doll which represents the Baby Jesus. The person who gets the bread with the Baby becomes the Godparent of Baby Jesus in the Candelaria celebration on February 2.

**SERVE SMALL CUPS OF CHOCOLATE MILK AND INDIVIDUAL CUPCAKES. INSTEAD OF PLACING THE BABY INSIDE THE CUPCAKES (FOR SAFETY), CONSIDER GIVING EACH CHILD A TINY LITTLE DOLL OR PLASTIC BABY FOUND IN PARTY STORES. OR, PUT TINY BABY ON TOP OF CAKE.**

**EL DIA DE LA CANDELARIA (Day of the Candle or Light)**

**This is the day (February 2) the Nativity scene is put away at a party given by the person who got the Baby Jesus in their cake.** There is usually a dinner that includes corn bread.

**GIVE A SMALL SQUARE OF CORN BREAD ON A PAPER PLATE.. THIS CAN BE EASILY MADE USING A BOXED MIX.**

**CLOSE IN PRAYER**

**“VAYA CON DIOS. GO WITH GOD!”**

**FELIZ NAVIDAD CRAFT**

Choose a Christmas craft project from the list or any Christmas craft that features part of the Nativity scene.

BIBLE HACIENDA #2:

# THE BAJA ...DESERT LIFE



**THEME:** We know how to face temptation because Jesus, The Man In Sandals, taught us by facing down Satan in the desert. Teach children to say no to sin and to say yes to God. Be strong like Jesus!

----->*Pronounce Baja...Ba-Ha*

**DECORATION:** This area resembles a hot, dry desert. Cactus, cactus flowers, sand, rocks, bright sun, lizards.

**CACTUS:** Draw huge cactuses on cardboard and paint with green poster paint. Add needles with black marker. Make lots of them. Circle the room with large replicas so students feel as if they are in the middle of the desert. Display live cacti and add flowers

**SAND:** Prepare one corner by laying a plastic tarp on the floor to protect it. Fill the tarp with clean sand. Another way to display sand is to fill a child's swimming pool and surround it with rocks and green plants.

**ROCKS:** Bring large rocks into the area and stack in the corners of the room. Some "rocks" may be drawn on cardboard and painted tan.

**SUN:** Draw a huge sun and paint it bright yellow. Hang it on one wall above a cactus.

**DESERT ANIMALS:** Add a few desert dwellers to the sand and rocks. Snakes, lizards, geckos, birds, coyotes, roadrunners, tarantulas, Gila monsters and cactus wrens make perfect accessories. Stuffed animals or animals drawn on posterboard work well.

**COSTUME:** Use the curriculum suggestions and dress in traditional Mexican costume.

## HOLA! WELCOME TO THE BAJA!

**Mexico features a large desert in the north.** It is the Sonoran Desert where the Baja Peninsula sits. You might think deserts have no living thing in sight, just hills of sand. That is not true. This desert has more rain than any other desert. When it does get rain, the desert is damp and the air is cool. When it has no rain the desert is really dry and really hot. When the desert is windy, the sand gets picked up and tossed around which creates a sand storm or whirlwind or dust devil. These mini tornados move across the desert floor when the weather is hot. There are also cool mountains and some mountains have snow!

**This desert is hot and sandy with a lot of cactuses but if we travel a bit, we find cool forests on the mountains.** The plants have odd names like jimson weed, devil's claw, ghost flower, hedgehog cactus. Plants in the desert collect water in their roots and store it for the hot, dry times.

**Desert animals fit in perfectly.** Some animals are the Mexican gray wolf (el lobo), mountain lion (cougar or puma), great horned owl, golden eagle, coyote, tarantula and rattlesnake. How do animals live in such heat? They find little hideouts where the sun cannot get to them. They sleep all day and hunt at night when the heat leaves and cool air blows across the desert.

**Have you ever seen Mexican jumping beans?** They grow in this desert and are fruits of a shrub. The movement of the moth larva in the bean makes them jump.

*Find real jumping beans to show each group. They are difficult to obtain but try [www.jumping-beans.com](http://www.jumping-beans.com), [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), [www.j.bean.com](http://www.j.bean.com). Some local pet stores carry them. Availability depends upon the size of the crop in any given year.*

The desert is a wonderful place but you would never want to be stranded there. It can be a very dangerous place. No food, no water, no people, heat and dangerous animals. Whew! I think I will prepare for survival if I ever visit the Baja.

## JESUS, THE MAN IN SANDALS: HERO OF THE DESERT

**From Luke 4:** (*Desert Sand-Wiches: Bring delicious bread mini sandwiches to class. Place a little strawberry jam—or topping of choice--on each little square. Present them on a lovely silver tray.*)

**Are you hungry?** Look what I have with me today. These delicious mini Desert Sand-wiches were made especially for you. Oh wait, you do not look *that* hungry. You have not washed your hands. You just don't seem to deserve this bread.

**How does that make you feel?** Are you tempted to tell me how hungry you really are? Maybe you are tempted to say you just washed your hands...even if you have not washed them since early this morning. If you are not very hungry, it is easy to say, "*That's okay. I can wait until snack time.*"

**Temptation to do the wrong thing is interesting.** Bread is tempting. Power over others is so tempting that some people say or do anything to become powerful. Sometimes you feel strong enough to resist temptation but other times, like when you are very hungry or tired, you can become weak and lie or steal to get what you want.

**Can you imagine not eating for forty days?** How about twenty days? How about twenty hours? Twenty minutes? Jesus, The Man in Sandals, went to a wild desert place. (Jeshimmon--The Devastation). The hills were dust heaps. The rocks were bare and jagged and dry and wouldn't grow anything. Jesus was in this awful place to pray and think about the future of His time on earth. And...He didn't eat for forty days!

**TEST #1–TURN STONES TO BREAD:** This desert was covered by bits of limestone exactly like loaves of bread. Mmmm! Jesus was so hungry. Just a flick of his wrist could make bread from rocks. The Devil, playing on His hunger, said: *“This is no big deal to You, Jesus. Just make bread. Everyone wants food! When people You meet are in need, just feed them from thin air. They will follow You anywhere.”* Satan wanted Him to bribe people into following Him. Jesus said words from Deuteronomy 8:3: *“It takes more than bread to really live.”*

**How much do you love your “stuff”?** Name some of your favorite things. Name some of your favorite foods. Is your bedroom filled with toys and books and yet you want more and more? If two people came into your house and one gave you a hug and the other one gave you a video game, who would you like more? Why? *(Let students discuss and include reasons and reality. Jesus wants to be more than a “briber”).*

**TEST #2–WORSHIP SATAN AND RECEIVE THE WORLD:** Suddenly, Jesus stood on a mountain where he could see the whole world: People, cities, farms, mountains and rivers. The tempter whispered, *“Hey, I’ve got a grip on the hearts of the people of the world. Let’s strike a bargain. Let me do the hard work and I will bring people who will follow You. A little evil is a practical thing. Worship me and all this will be yours.”* He tempted Jesus to compromise on truth. After all, all the world belonged to Jesus anyway. Satan was really suggesting, *“Don’t set your standards so high. Strike a bargain with me. Compromise a little with evil and men will follow you.”*

**Jesus knew better.** He quoted Deuteronomy 6:13, *“God is God, right is right and wrong is wrong. There can be no compromise on the war on evil.”* **It is time to learn the difference between right and wrong. Let’s name some things that could be right or wrong. Raise your hand if you think it’s right, and say “Boo” if you think it’s wrong:**

## South Of The Border With Jesus

**¡VIVA MEXICO!**

GOING TO CHURCH  
MAKING FRIENDS  
BREAKING TOY  
LYING

YELLING AT YOUR MOM  
HIDING DUST UNDER CARPET  
SAYING YOU ARE SICK  
COPYING TEST ANSWERS

TAKING A WALK  
DOING DISHES  
WATCHING TV  
STEALING

**TEST #3–JUMP OFF THE TEMPLE WALL:** Suddenly, Jesus was standing on the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. It was scary up there! It was a sheer drop of 450 feet down into the valley below. Satan said, *“Have I got a great idea! Take a look at the drop off at Solomon’s Porch. You jump off and arrange to have angels catch You. Show up at the Temple and the people will be so amazed that they will follow You. Admit it, that’s a good one!”* He was tempting Jesus to become the amazing magician. *“Watch me! I can jump off and building and not get hurt! Hey, follow me! I’m Jesus The Great!”* People like to follow popular people.

**Jesus knew better.** *“No, you must not make senseless experiments with the power of God.”* Deuteronomy 6:16 People love the excitement of a death defying feat but the thrill doesn’t last. He would be popular for a short time until some other young man came along to stretch a rope across the Temple area and walk into the record books and into the hearts of the people. God’s power is greater than man’s **Shortcuts never work in life. Choose role models that are worthy of your trust. If something is worth doing, it is worth doing well.**

**CONCLUSION:** Satan’s great ideas didn’t work on Jesus. Jesus determined how to use His power to the glory of God. Satan gave up and let Him alone for a little while.

**Serve Desert Sand-wiches while teaching a memory verse in English and Spanish.**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Enjoy Desert Sand-wiches, and learn a verse to remind us how strong Jesus is. Satan never had a chance to succeed when he tempted Jesus to deny God’s plan.

“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

“Fortaleceos en el Señor y en el poder de su fuerza. Efesios 6:10

Print the words on paper in the shape of bread loafs.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

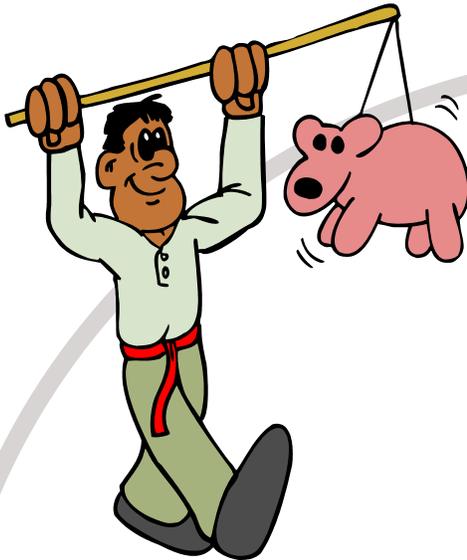
**“ADIOS AMIGOS!**

**VAYA CON DIOS. GO WITH GOD!”**

**CRAFT:** Choose a craft from the curriculum suggestions or design your own project based on the desert theme. Consider sand crafts, desert animals or cactus.

**Homemade Option:** Make a simple version of the pinata.

## HISTORY OF THE PIÑATA



When the first missionaries arrived in Mexico, they had to find a way to communicate the way Satan tempts us. Missionaries had to teach them about how we must be strong to beat the Devil; that's how we get the full benefit of heaven. They found the answer...a pinata!

They designed a huge ceramic pot covered with colored paper in the shape of a star, where each one of the points represented one of the seven deadly sins. It was something that would come down from and then rise up to the sky and it would bother people, touch them, tempt them!

You have to hit sin hard, overcome temptation, break evil, put all your attention into getting rid of evil. But it's not easy! Sin blinds us with a blindfold and our family and friends and others who surround us are the ones who have to guide us in order to break the chain of evil.

They shout: "Hit it, hit it, hit it! Up...down! Harder...harder! Break it...break it!" (¡Dale...dale! ¡Arriba...abajo! ¡Duro...duro! ¡Rómpela...rómpela!)

When someone is well guided, the piñata is broken! Then, from heaven, we are showered with gifts...fruit, candy, toys, immense happiness that fills us with joy. Evil has been destroyed. God is with us.

The piñata has been transformed like the popular culture and has changed its form from the traditional star to bunnies, dogs, carrots, beets, Tweety Bird and donkeys. Breaking the piñata will always be a thrill for all children. These days piñatas are not used just for the Posadas at Christmas. Now they are a must for any occasion. Piñatas will always be a joyful reminder of Mexican traditions.

## SIMPLE PAPER BAG PIÑATA

This is a very simple version of a Piñata making it a suitable craft to do with large groups of children. It's a lot less messy than the paper mache version.

**Materials:** Paper lunch bag, newspaper, candy or other treats, different colors of tissue paper, scissors, glue, hole punch, string.

1. Put candy or treats in the paper bag.
2. Scrunch up a piece of newspaper and put it in the bag. Repeat until the bag is full, with the newspaper about one inch below the top of the bag. We need the inch so we can close the bag later.
3. Cut strips of tissue paper 3 to 6 inches wide and long enough to wrap around the bag. The wider you cut the strips, the quicker the craft will go.
4. Fringe the strips by using scissors to cut about ½ way up each strip, 1 to 4 inches apart.
5. Glue the strips around the bag, starting at the BOTTOM—only glue the uncut part. Don't get any glue on the fringes!
6. When gluing on the second strip, overlap it so it comes about to where you cut the fringe.
7. Repeat until you have covered the entire bag again leaving about 1 inch free at the top.
8. Punch holes all the way around the top of the bag.
9. Lace a piece of string or wool around the holes and pull tight. You may need to pull out a bit of your newspaper or add a bit extra at this point. Tie in a loop so you can hang it.
10. Cut 4 or 5 long strips of tissue paper and glue them to the bottom of the bag as streamers.

**When all the children have made their pinatas, hang them up for decorations until the end of the week or you can let them whack their bag with a stick until their candy falls out.**

**Pinata Game Rules:** Be careful they don't hit each other. Rope off a small circle inside a larger circle. The stick and the person stays inside the smaller circle and the audience stays outside the larger circle (no accidental whacking). When the person is done, they have to put the stick down inside the small circle before they leave. At most parties, remembering the rules of the circles becomes as much of a game as whacking the pinata.

BIBLE HACIENDA #3:

# FIESTA!

## ...LIFE OF THE PARTY!



**THEME:** Serving Jesus, The Man In Sandals, is joyful. Christians should be smiling people. Teach students how to have fun in Jesus' Name. Enjoy this bright, happy atmosphere while giving an example of Jesus enjoying a wedding in Cana, Galilee.

**DECORATION:** Use every Mexican party decoration available. Set up the area with crepe paper streamers in primary colors, piñatas, sombreros, donkeys, lights, musical instruments, posters made with graphics in the curriculum, garlands, colorful tissue flowers, balloons and anything with bright color.

The best place to turn for decorations are local party stores, catalogs that offer party decorations and online web sites that present inexpensive wall hangings, party favors and basic supplies.

**Check out:** ORIENTAL TRADING CATALOG (call to order 800-228-2269) and website: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com). S&S arts and crafts catalog (call to order 800-243-9232) and website: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com).

**MUSIC:** Purchase recorded Mexican music in your local music store, Wal-Mart or K-Mart. Play tapes or CD's during game time to set the mood.

**PARTY SNACKS:** Add to the Fiesta atmosphere by offering simple snacks served in woven baskets. Chex Mix, Popcorn, Potato Chips, Cheese Curls, Tortilla Chips and Salsa are a few popular snacks students enjoy while playing games. Provide a beverage in small paper cups, napkins and small bowls for snacks.

*If students do not want to eat, that is fine. Offer snacks at a side table, buffet style. Since a formal snack is served in OLE CAFE, this time is designed for a small snack.*



## **BUENOS DIAS! WELCOME TO THE FIESTA!**

**Are you ready to party?** This is your day to have a wonderful time enjoying the company of friends while learning how Jesus had fun at a wedding. We will start our time together with a fun game. *(Choose one or more games from this list or create your own fun.)*

### **PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY**

Purchase a game of “Pin The Tail” or enlarge donkey artwork along with a variety of “tails”.

### **CANDY DIVE**

Scatter students on the floor, seated in crossed leg position. As they sit quietly, throw wrapped candy on floor all around them. They must not touch anything until you give the signal. Then, they may dive for candy dropped closest to them without leaving their original position. They may reach as far as possible but they must not move. Choose soft candies if possible. Place the winning candy in sandwich bags to be eaten at a later time.

### **MEXICAN HAT DANCE**

Place Mexican music while students dance in a circle around a large sombrero placed on the floor. Encourage them to circle faster and faster to the music.

### **BALLOON BREAK OUT**

Give each student a balloon. The goal is to blow up the balloon, tie it and break it by sitting on it. This may be appropriate for older students only. Young students dislike breaking balloons and will cry when they break. Consider pre-blown up balloons for younger students. They can toss them in the air to music. Some early grade school students can try sitting on them.

### **BALLOON RACES**

Give teams several balloons. The goal is to run from one spot to another, tossing the balloon in the air and placing it in a container at the end. First team to deposit all balloons are given a loud “Ole”!

### **JESUS THE MAN IN SANDALS:**

### **JESUS, WEDDING GUEST**

One of the most joyful events in family life is a wedding. Family and friends gather while the young couple dedicate themselves to each other for a lifetime. What do you remember about weddings you have attended? *(Allow students to respond.)*

**From John 2:** Jesus was invited to a wedding in a tiny town named Cana in Galilee. In those days, weddings could last for days. Everyone was there. Friends, family, guests from near and far. It was an honor to be invited and folks wore their very best clothing. The bride’s family hosted the celebration. As you can imagine, it cost a lot of money and took a lot of planning.

During the wedding banquet, Mary came to Jesus and said, *“They are running out of wine”*. She knew that this was very embarrassing to the bride’s family in their culture.

Jesus said, *“It’s not our business, Mother? This isn’t my time. Don’t push me.”* Until then, Jesus had not performed public miracles. He was not ready to begin His ministry. He was there to enjoy the party. Mary, the typical mother, went ahead anyway, telling the servants, *“Do whatever he tells you.”* She must have known Jesus would help.

**Jesus told the servants to fill six large stoneware water pots sitting nearby.** Each huge pot held twenty to thirty gallons of water. They filled them to the brim. Then Jesus told them to fill their pitchers and take them to the host.

**The host tasted the water that had become wine and called to the bride groom,** *“Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. You have saved the best until now!”* Because he did not know what Jesus did, he was amazed at the break in custom.

**Certainly the servants were amazed!** They had filled the pots with water personally. Word must have spread through wedding guests and then through Cana and then through Galilee at the wondrous miracle that occurred at the wedding in Cana.

**And Mary?** She knew her son. She was not amazed but probably smiled quietly. The disciples who saw this with their own eyes must have been amazed at the power of the man they followed. Talk about amazement! We still tell this story over 2000 years after it happened. We are still amazed at Jesus, The Man In Sandals.

**CONCLUSION:** Enjoy more FIESTA snacks while we learn a verse in English and Spanish that reminds us of how Jesus amazed people wherever he went and all the glory went to God.

“This amazed everyone and they praised God.” Mark 2:12

“Se asombraron y glorificaron a Dios.”

Marcos 2:12

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

**“ADIOS AMIGOS!**

**VAYA CON DIOS. GO WITH GOD!”**

**FIESTACRAFT**

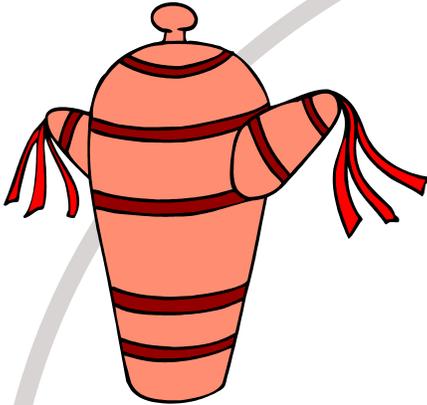
Choose a craft from the curriculum suggestion list or design a fun Mexican craft for students to make and take home as a keepsake.



## BIBLE HACIENDA #4:

# PUEBLO POTTER

## ...ONE ORDINARY LIFE



**THEME:** Jesus, The Man In Sandals lived an ordinary life. He grew up in a large family. He worked hard to learn to be a carpenter and He worshiped God with all His heart. Jesus delivered an extraordinary message for ordinary people. His words ring true today.

*Pull Beatitude messages from common pottery jugs and vases to explain how Jesus communicated God's great love through His common touch with people of all ages, in all stages of life.*

**DECORATION:** Set up an imaginary Mexican pottery shop featuring ceramic pottery and terra cotta flower pots sitting on shelves. Place work tables and benches in the area with brightly woven rugs, green plants and flowers to resemble a small, cozy, old fashioned village shop. Hang woven blankets, ornate crosses and straw hats on the walls. Hang sombreros and ponchos on wooden coat racks. Hang a large sign: PUEBLO POTTER.

**COSTUME:** Follow VIVA MEXICO curriculum instructions to copy traditional Mexican attire.

### WELCOME TO PUEBLO POTTER!

¡Saludos! Welcome to my humble Pottery Shop. I live a day to day, ordinary potter's life. Pottery work is the humble creation of a jug for carrying water, a pot for cooking beans, a bowl for storing corn. From clay, fire and hands full of knowledge passed down through generations I create items that are useful and yet beautiful. Enjoy your stay in my pottery shop and make a beautiful project to remind you of your visit.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jesus was a man of the people while He lived on earth. Good people, bad people, sick people and children were all welcome. He met the needs of anyone who came to Him. He lived an ordinary life yet He was anything but ordinary. I found a scripture verse to remind us of who Jesus is. Let's learn it together in English and Spanish.

**Christ is all, and is in all. Colossians 3:11**

**Cristo es todo y en todos. Colosenes 3:11**

**JESUS THE MAN IN SANDALS: MAN FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE**

*Display a large picture of Jesus.* Everything about Jesus is extraordinary and yet ordinary people looked at him as one of their own. He walked on earth for just a few years and touched the lives of every person he met. I am reminded of a short story that speaks of Jesus:

**ONE SOLITARY LIFE**

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant (traveling) preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never wrote a book or held an office. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. When He was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His killers gambled for the only piece of property He had—His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched and all the navies that ever sailed and all the parliaments (governments) that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of a man upon this earth as powerfully as this “One Solitary Life”.

—*Dr. James Allan, 1926*

*Before class, print individual Beatitudes on cards. Place nine (9) colorful pottery jugs or vases on a table. Ask students to pull the Jesus messages from each jar as the lesson is taught.*

**From Matthew 5:1-10: One day, crowds of people came to Jesus on a hillside. Ordinary people** could understand Him. People felt they could follow His advice. On this special day, Jesus spoke words that did not seem like common sense. He spoke of the weak being made strong and the meek coming into a rich inheritance. He said the poor can become rich. It is no wonder that ordinary ears perked up. His advice would turn the whole world upside down. *Beatitude* means *blessed, fortunate, happy, joyful*.

*The following short paragraphs can be understood by elementary students. Keep the explanations short. Decide how much to teach according to time limitations.*

**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**Some ordinary people are poor because they have no money.** Some folks are poor because they have no power. Others are hurt by people who don't like them because of their skin color or because of where they live. Some people are poor because they need help and there is no one to help them. If you are poor enough, you get the idea that you cannot help yourself. You **MUST** depend upon God to help you.

**Jesus said that people who have nothing know that everything comes from God.** They have a chance to pray and trust God to give them everything they need from clothing to food to houses to jobs and to friends. When we become "poor in spirit" we finally become rich!

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.**

**The Hebrew word used for mourn means "the most terrible sorrow"** like the sadness you feel for the death of someone close to you. Jesus is saying sad people who feel so bad for the sin of the world and their own sin that they will do anything to feel better are those who become God's missionaries. In fact, this is the missionary beatitude. When we feel the need to tell others about Jesus, we give up all we own and move to the ends of the earth to bring hope to the world.

**What is the message all the world needs to hear?** "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*". Ordinary people can go into the world and help those who do not know Him yet with these words.

**BLESSED ARE THE MEEK FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.**

**Meek means gentle, humble.** This beatitude says a lot about how ordinary people should face the world. People enjoy being with those who are gentle. No one likes a bully! Most children and adults try to avoid bullies. *Meek* is different from *cowardly wimp*. Jesus said gentle people live courageously in the face of trouble. They have courage, bravery and self control. In the end the gentle person gets the most out of life. They become leaders because they learn about themselves in a quiet way.

**In order to be joyful we must learn to be gentle.** Learn how to trust Jesus with your needs and weaknesses. Pray for the strength to be gentle. Does that sound upside down? That is just what Jesus intended.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.**

**When you are really hungry, what do you think about?** Food! Do you think about it and then forget? Babies cry hard when they are hungry. They kick and scream until someone feeds them.

**Jesus said we should want to be good as much as we want food.** He will fill us with all the wonderful things of God until we are full and satisfied. This message is for ordinary people like you and me! So, get hungry and get thirsty for God!

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY.**

**Merciful means to feel the problems of another person with all your heart.** You feel so bad that you will do anything to help them solve their problem. Your feelings take action. Mercy may mean putting ourselves out to help ordinary people with a serious problem. It may mean a special time of prayer for strength to learn to be merciful when we don't want to show mercy.

**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**

**Have you ever done something nice for a friend just because you know that person will be nice to you?** People who are truly pure in heart are nice without any thought of return. They act in love and kindness to others just because they love God. They want the message of God's love to be spread through their actions. These are ordinary people who will meet God someday.

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.**

**It is very hard for ordinary people to practice peace.** Jesus spent His whole life bringing God's peace to ordinary people. Peace means trying to get along with other people. Wars begin over some very dumb issues. Sometimes, when the war is over, it is hard to remember what caused everyone to kill each other and destroy nations.

*Peace* means accepting what God says to be true and then trusting Him to take care of us. Jesus wants us to trust Him and not worry.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED (TREATED UNFAIRLY)  
FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (GOODNESS),  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**The Bible says Christians will be treated badly (persecuted) by those who are not Christians.** Righteousness is another word for goodness. History is filled with stories of ordinary people being treated badly. Not every Christian has been saved from bad things. Many lost their jobs and even their lives because of their love for Christ.

Jesus wanted to comfort the ordinary person who was being treated badly. He called them to be faithful. Today we would say, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”.

**REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS GREAT.**

Jesus had one more message for ordinary people. This last message is not a beatitude but it is just as important. Jesus does not mean we should jump up and down for joy when bad things happen. He means we should develop inner strength and peace and a knowing smile, knowing everything will work out just fine...eventually. Jesus promised to take care of ordinary people by providing a special place where bad things will NOT happen.

**Heaven will be absolutely wonderful.** Look forward to it. Smile when you think about heaven. Spend time with other ordinary Christians and do your best to serve Jesus through your whole life.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.  
“VAYA CON DIOS. GO WITH GOD!”**

**PUEBLO POTTER CRAFT**

Choose a pottery, clay or tile craft project from options listed with the curriculum or create your own craft featuring clay, pottery or tile. There are beautiful tiny tiles that can be glued to a variety of surfaces to make wonderful keepsakes. Keep the time limit in mind when choosing the project. More tile ideas are found at: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com).



## BIBLE HACIENDA #5:

**CASA MEXICANA****...LIVE FOREVER****MI CASA ES SU CASA****...MY HOUSE IS YOUR HOUSE!**

**THEME:** Jesus, The Man In Sandals made a promise to His people. *“In my house are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may be where I am.”* John 14:2-3 NIV

**Where exactly is that place?** Why, it's Heaven! God's House! This session gives basic information about Heaven and how to get there.



**DECORATION:** Set up a typical living area in a small Old Mexico home. Give it a rustic, cabin look. Wooden benches and tables, brightly colored pottery and earthenware jugs, baskets and colorful woven blankets all fit the theme. Students sit on the floor or on available benches.

**Most Mexicans are religious and large crosses adorn their walls.** Bright colors set the tone: red, orange, yellow, green. Light small lamps and lanterns for ambiance. Hang sombreros and macrame pieces as room allows.

**Make large tissue paper flowers and place them in live green plants on tables.** Metal and wooden kitchen utensils, bowls, towels and other kitchen supplies may be placed in one corner.

**COSTUME:** Follow the curriculum suggestions and become a Mexican citizen from a small pueblo somewhere in the heart of Mexico.

## WELCOME TO CASA MEXICANA!

Hola! Welcome to my humble home. Come in and rest on this hot, dry day. I am always happy to see new friends in Casa Mexicana. Enjoy your stay and find God while you visit. Home is precious to families in Mexico. We love our families and we find every reason to spend time with those we love. Even neighbors are special. There are many fiestas in our neighborhood. People help others and we all band together when there is danger. Jesus is always in this casa. He makes this house complete.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *(Display the famous picture of Jesus knocking on the door of a house. Christian book stores sell small cards with the picture that are appropriate gifts to the students.)*

**I have answered the door to the knock of Jesus calling me.** Let's learn this verse in English and Spanish. Listen to His words: *"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me."* Revelation 3:20

**I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...opens the door, I will come in.**

**Revelation 3:20 NIV**

**Yo estoy a la puerta y llamo; si alguno...abre la puerta, entraré.**

**Apocalipsis 3:20 RVA**

## JESUS THE MAN IN SANDALS: JESUS, GUIDE TO HEAVEN

**FROM MATTHEW 13:** Jesus could tell a simple story so well that those hearing it would understand great truth. Jesus created word pictures of Heaven. Let's discover what Jesus said God's kingdom is like.

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN A MAN PLANTED GOOD SEED IN HIS FIELD

**Matthew 13:24-30:** The man fell asleep and enemies planted weeds in the middle of his corn. He didn't know until everything began to grow. If his servants pulled weeds, they would also destroy the corn. There would be time at harvest to separate the good from the bad and save the crop.

### MIX M&M'S AND RICE IN A BOWL.

### STUDENTS SIFT THROUGH THE RICE TO FIND SEVERAL TREATS TO EAT!

Jesus meant that good and bad people will live together on earth until Jesus comes to take us to Heaven. Then people will be judged to be good or bad. If good, they live forever with Jesus.

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

GIVE EACH STUDENT ONE MUSTARD SEED

**Matthew 13:31-32:** A mustard seed is very tiny yet when the mustard tree is full grown it is very large. Jesus said that even birds of the air lived in it's branches. Jesus meant that the Kingdom of Heaven starts very small in the heart of one boy or girl. Great big things have happened for God because one person obeyed God's command to go into the world.

How could twelve disciples change the world so that people would begin heading for Heaven? The world was so big and their group was so small. They changed the world and you can too! Your small beginning is just what God will use to change the world!

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A HIDDEN TREASURE

GIVE EACH STUDENT ONE SMALL TREASURE—A TRINKET OF SOME KIND.

**Matthew 13:44:** Most people hid their valuables underground. When Palestine was fought over, people left town while it burned. The wise person knew where his money was and how to find it when the battle was won. He knew his pearl was in the field so he sold all he had to buy the field where his treasure was hiding.

The joy of finding Jesus as our Savior makes us change everything about ourselves so we head for life in Heaven with Jesus.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A MERCHANT SEEKING FINE PEARLS

**Matthew 13:45:** People in the ancient world loved pearls. They wanted to own one and enjoy it for beauty and financial worth. Buyers would search everywhere to find a beautiful pearl to take home. Some searched all their lives for one expensive pearl to take home as a prize.

**Heaven is God's pearl of great price.** Search for God's kingdom of heaven with all your heart. Heaven is more than angels and clouds, trumpets and harps, mansions and streets of gold. Heaven is a place to be searched out by trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives.

## CONCLUSION:

## HEAVEN'S ANSWERS

**IS HEAVEN REAL?** Yes! The Bible says heaven is where God lives. Jesus talked about heaven. He said He was going there to prepare a place for us. (John 14:1-3) He promised He would come and get us so we could be with Him.

**WHERE IS HEAVEN?** We don't know. We point to the sky but heaven could be any place God has chosen. We do know heaven is NOT on Planet Earth.

**WHAT DOES HEAVEN LOOK LIKE?** It is a beautiful city called the Holy City or New Jerusalem. Heaven shines like gorgeous diamonds. It is over 1350 miles long, 1350 miles wide and 1350 miles high. The streets are gold and crystal clear like glass. Trees bear fruit of all kinds on each tree. A river flows through the center. That is just the beginning of what heaven looks like. We have eternity (forever) to explore every nook and cranny!

**WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE? (Print phrases on cardboard clouds.)**

**Heaven will be joyful.** Psalm 16:11 “In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures evermore.”

**Heaven is healthy!** Revelation 21:4 says we are promised new bodies. No broken bones, no eyeglasses, no wheelchairs, no vitamins and no hospitals.

**Heaven is musical!** Revelation 5:8-9; 19:1 There are choirs in heaven. Instruments will be played and we may even discover some instruments we have never heard. Everyone will sing like an angel!

**Heaven has work!** Revelation 22:3 says we will serve Jesus. Maybe we will wash windows or take care of heavenly gardens. We will love serving the Lord and we will do our jobs perfectly.

**Heaven is happy!** Revelation 21:4 says no one will cry in heaven. No one will die. Once we get there, we will stay there forever. We will see our loved ones who have died and we will never have to leave them again.

**Heaven has lots of people!** Philippians 2:10-11; I Thessalonians 4:17 makes sure we know people from all the ages of history will be in heaven. You will meet people you learn about in history class. You will shake hands with Paul and meet Mary.

**Heaven is with God!** I Corinthians 15:12. I don't know everything about God and neither do you. We will learn everything there is to know about Him and we will be happy living in His Home.

**WHO WILL BE IN HEAVEN?** Every person who has ever lived from the time of Adam and Eve to the end to time will be there—IF they have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. John 3:16 says “*For God so loved the world that He have His only Son (Jesus) so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (in Heaven).*”

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

**“VAYA CON DIOS. GO WITH GOD!”**

**CRAFT:** Choose one craft project from the suggested list or design your own keepsake. Consider the time limit when picking the project.

# BURRO BABIES...THE NURSERY

**WHO SHOULD COME TO BURRO BABIES NURSERY?** Infants and toddlers, birth through age three, who are children of teachers and helpers. It is the decision of each church to open the nursery to the public. **VIVA MEXICO!** Is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers more security.



**HOW MANY HELPERS SHOULD WE ASK TO HELP IN BURRO BABIES NURSERY?** Provide one helper per baby who is in charge of all care for that infant from bottles to changing diapers. If that is not possible, ask one adult and a variety of assistants to watch the children. This staff may change daily.

**SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES?** The Nursery is a staff babysitting service but tell a few stories, sing some songs, play tapes and videos, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the children.

**SHOULD WE FEED CHILDREN IN BURRO BABIES NURSERY?** Ask the parents. They may want to provide snacks from home. If you do feed toddlers, be sure food is safe and healthful. **(CAUTION: NO POPCORN, HOT DOGS, LOLLIPOPS OR HARD CANDY which may get caught in a tiny throat.)** Check with the kitchen staff to see if the daily snack in OLE CAFE is appropriate for little ones.

**HOW SHOULD WE DRESS IN BURRO BABIES NURSERY?** Wear washable clothing and shoes that are low and comfortable. The key to being happy in the nursery is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

**WHAT SHOULD WE BRING TO MAKE BURRO BABIES NURSERY A PLEASANT PLACE?** Bring Christian tapes. Play music at a low, non threatening volume. Bring a small fan if days are hot and humid. Place the fan away from children, preferably on a shelf or high table.



# MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS! ...PRESCHOOL

CALLING ALL PRESCHOOL STUDENTS  
AGE FOUR THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN.



INCLUDE PRE-K FIVE YEAR OLD STUDENTS  
IN THIS GROUP OR HAVE THEM BECOME  
PART OF THE KINDERGARTEN GROUP.

DECIDE IF YOUR ENTIRE GROUP  
IS MATURE ENOUGH TO BECOME  
ONE OF THE FIVE MAJOR GROUPS.

**THEME: MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS** Preschool kids study the same spiritual themes as older students. Each day's activities emphasize what older students are learning but with a separate preschool teaching team.

Use the curriculum as a guide providing plenty of time for rest, play and simple crafting. At no time feel pressured to move to activities if students are tired, crying or upset. Cancel your appearance in favor of free play time if the group needs to rest or calm down.

**TEACHERS:** There should be one helper for every two-three **MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS**. Parental help is welcomed and encouraged. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Make each day fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter without being reprimanded. Run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.

**HOME BASE DECORATION.** Home Base is where some activity for Preschool children takes place. Use ideas from the curriculum to make simple Mexican decorations.

**CRIERS:** If a few children cry continually, keep them busy separately in the Home Base area. Movement around the building may be threatening for some younger students. If some children never calm down, ask a parent to stay with their child or take that child home and try again next year. Accommodate as many young students as possible, but crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.

## PLANNING A MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS DAY!



*Two hours + is a long time for preschool students. Plan the day around lots of play time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase story books from the local Christian book store. Use these books as fill in teaching times. Travel with students to all areas of **VIVA MEXICO!** as suggested in the daily schedule. If your students tire easily, omit some activities. They do not have to participate in every activity. Most preschool groups handle the daily activities well.*

*It may be possible to include this group as one of the five major groups and allow them to fully participate in every Bible lesson and activity. Decide before the week begins and staff the area accordingly.*

*Adapting the **BIBLE HACIENDA** workshop lessons is the biggest change. Provide a Home Base in case some students need a break.*

**PUEBLO PLAZA OPENING:** The Mexican Jumping Beans participate in the Opening if they can sit still for fifteen minutes. This is an opportunity to organize name tags/hats and gather the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to Home Base for a few simple activities. This avoids chaos and distraction for older students.

**MARIACHI MUSIC:** Encourage preschool students to participate in music time. Take the students to the music area and stay with them fifteen minutes each day.

**OJO DE DIOS (EYE OF GOD SALVATION STATION):** This is a daily visit to a workshop where small yarn and stick projects are completed as the week progresses. Students discover how to become one of God's Kids.

**OLE CAFÉ:** Take students to the daily fifteen minute snack time. Sit with them. Use this time as a bathroom break complete with hand washing before eating.

**SIESTA TALES:** This is a continuing story told by a special story teller. If your preschool students can sit quietly for fifteen minutes, take them. The suggested story is a Chip and Clare Conley adventure entitled, **SKY KING**. It is NOT written for their age. An option may be to purchase five short (2-3 minute) stories to tell your group at home base. A series of age appropriate videos would work well. You decide!

**BIBLE HACIENDA:** Rather than duplicating Bible Hacienda decorations, take preschool students to one Hacienda each day for their Bible time. Tell the Bible Hacienda teacher you will use their room for fifteen minutes when their class is NOT in session. Use props in each area to tell the Bible story. Adapt Bible Hacienda lesson plans as designed for older students to fit your little ones. Activity suggestions may be used or not used at the discretion of your staff.

**TORO GAMES:** Take preschool students to the daily game time. There are many games these young students can play. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for your small ones and create your own games.

**REST TIME:** It may be appropriate to allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken Home Base, play a Tape/CD while encouraging quiet activity. Students may rest on large pillows tossed on the floor while a story is told or songs are sung.

**CRAFTS:** The perfect preschool craft is one which can be completed with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity. Purchase one craft project for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience. S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects. Order directly from S&S at: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com).

## **S&S PRESCHOOL CRAFT PROJECT SUGGESTIONS**

**MOSAIC TILE FRAMES.** Unique picture frames encourage self expression and thinking “outside the box”. Colorful, polished porcelain tiles can be arranged in countless ways for an original creation every time. Frame 4 ½" x 5"; picture opening 2 ¾" x 3 ½". CHE-GP1094 \$11.88 per pack of 12. 99 cents per project.

**SPARKLING TILE CROSS.** Colorful acrylic tile pieces lend the look of real stained glass to this project without the sharp edges. Hang anywhere for a unique reminder of the life of Christ. 5' x 8". CHE-RE412 \$19.99 per pack of 24. 83 cents per project.

**TISSUE ART CROSS.** This colorful cross is fun to create with precut tissue paper. Self adhesive crosses make it easy. 3 ¼ x 5". CHE-RE426 \$14.99 per pack of 24. 62 cents per project.

**COLORLITE BUTTERFLY.** As kids create these bright, colorful decorations by applying bits of jewel toned tissue to precut butterflies, talk to them about how God cares for every part of His creation. All materials included. CHE-GP1263 \$19.99 per pack of 36.

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE MAGNET.** Bright smiling sun encourages kids not to let outside influences keep them from shining. 5 ¼ x 5 ¼". CHE-CE274 \$3.99 per pack of 12. 33 cents each.

## **South Of The Border With Jesus**

**¡VIVA MEXICO!**

**EXOTIC BEADED NECKLACES.** A treasure chest full of exotic beads to create one of a kind necklaces. Comes with everything you need to create some outrageous styles. RME-GP930 \$19.99 per pack of 30. 67 cents per project.

**NEON PAPER LANTERNS.** Create a fiesta mood by displaying a garland of neon colored lanterns. Included sequins add extra sparkle. 8 x 8". RME-GP851 \$14.99 per pack of 40. 37 cents per project.

**BIG MOUTH BULLFROGS.** This fun, easy project transforms ordinary party blowouts into extra ordinary bullfrogs! Sure to be a hit with even the youngest members of your group! RME-GP1317 \$19.99 per pack of 50. 40 cents per project.

**RAINBOW SPRINGSTERS.** Bright and bouncy springsters are sure to entice the little ones. An engaging project with an adorable end product. Rainbow coil springs come in several assorted shapes. Coil size: 35 mm. RME-GP1442. \$29.99 per pack of 36. 83 cents per project.

**TINY TILE COASTERS.** Easy to do, fun to make. Design unique coasters by simply gluing tile into place. 3 ½" square. RME-GP889 \$24.99 per pack of 16. 94 cents per project.

**BEADING BONANZA.** Beads, beads and more beads! Pony beads, heart shaped beads, all shapes, all colors! This pack includes enough beads and lacing for all of your group members to create multiple projects. Includes natural fiber, S'Getti String, rattail, split key rings, lanyard hooks and instructions. RME-BE1029 \$49.99 per pack.

**SUN FOAM MOSAICS.** Hang these colorful mosaics anywhere and let the sun shine in! Approximately 11 x 11". \$4.99 per pack of 12.

**FUNNY FOAM FISH.** These silly little foam creatures look like miniature puffer fish! Quick, easy and fun to make. 2 x 3". RME-CE12 \$3.99 per pack of 12.

### **MORE EASY CRAFT SUGGESTIONS....**

Four and five year old children love to make cereal necklaces (Cheerios, Fruit Loops or Apple Jacks). Bring enough cereal for lots of snacks along the way. Use yarn or long shoe strings as the necklace foundation.

Make Alphabet Name Plaques with the child's first name. Use cardboard or posterboard as the base. Precut the bases into simple shapes like heart, circle, square, rectangle. Paint the base or cover in wallpaper or tissue paper.

Purchase white t-shirts for each student. Let them place their own multi color painted hand prints all over their personal shirt. (Be prepared for a mess!)

Take each student's photograph and place their photo in a handmade frame.