

Mission Lesson

March – May 2025

Mexico

Goal: To introduce students to the cultures in Mexico and give them an opportunity to pray for the churches and church leaders there.

Supplies:

- PowerPoint
- Mexican Christian music; here are a few options:
 - E Alfarero: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nylgLCGsgGQ>
 - Dame más sabiduría: <https://youtu.be/0iCeNwC-ih8?si=oxCAfEjwHJkain6N>
 - Eran cien ovejas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA06OVJclvl>
 - Te vengo a decir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8U_R2Xyzbw
 - Mariachi en el Cielo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dby46xAxIjc>
- Popular Mexican treats for students to sample, such as:
 - Mexican candy (popular flavors include chili pepper, mango, lime, and tamarind)
 - Coca-Cola
 - Takis (spicy rolled corn chips)
 - Pork rinds (“chicharrones”)
- World map
- Wooden figure or life-sized poster to represent Juan Carlos, wearing a cowboy hat (you can search “vaquero” online to find more ideas)
- Props to go with Juan Carlos (soccer ball and marbles)
- Bible
- Flashlight
- Strands of red, white, and green yarn that each student can braid together to make a bracelet
- Prayer Cards



Mission Station Set Up: Decorate your mission station with bright colors, piñatas, and streamers to create a fun, vibrant party atmosphere. Make sure you have the ability to turn the lights on and off as part of the object lesson.

Ways to “Turbo Charge” your Mission Lesson:

- Use a flashlight with a dimmer switch so the light can grow brighter and brighter as you teach on how kids are learning about God, reading His Word, and telling others about the Good News.
- Rather than just turning the lights off to illustrate the darkness of sin, divide the room with a curtain. Have the class begin on the side decorated like a joyful party, and then open the curtain and move the class into the other side (with no decorations, just darkness) when talking about life in Northern Mexico.
- Instead of turning on a flashlight, create a display with a box covering a large spotlight – when you lift the box, the whole room should become bright.

Lesson:

Have upbeat mariachi music playing as students enter.

Welcome to the country of Mexico! *Hand out treats as students sit down.* Mexico is the third largest country in Latin America. *Show Mexico on the world map.* There are three main regions in Mexico – the dry mountains in the north, the rainforest in the south, and the big city in the middle. *Show pictures on the PowerPoint.*

There are people representing many different cultures living in these areas. In the dry northern part of the country, many rural people work as cowboys, herding cattle for a living. In the South, people from indigenous tribes have their own language and culture. These are native people groups that have lived in Mexico since before Europeans arrived. In the big cities, many people live much like city-dwellers do around the world, taking buses or cars to work in offices, restaurants, and stores. Immigrants from other parts of the world have made their homes throughout Mexico – some staying for a little while before they make their way north to the United States, and some coming to love Mexico and settling there permanently.

I'd like you to meet my friend, Juan Carlos. *Pull out the wooden figure.* Juan Carlos comes from a family of northern cowboys, and lives in the state of Coahuila, just south of the U.S. state of Texas. He likes to watch and play soccer, eat spicy candy, and play marbles with his cousins. But it's not always fun and games for Juan Carlos and his family. *Turn off the lights.*

Life in northern Mexico can sometimes be pretty scary. Some people sell dangerous things, rob people, or do other bad things. Sometimes people get sick or hurt, and sometimes they even die. People can feel pretty hopeless when they witness these terrible things and don't see a way for life to get better.

Because of the danger and uncertainty, many people in Juan Carlos' neighborhood hope for a chance to move to the United States, thinking that they will find a better life there. In fact, people from all over the world come to Mexico hoping that they will be able to move across the border into the United States. Some people are able to cross over and make new homes in the U.S., but the reality is that many, many people end up never being able to leave Mexico.

Many people all over the world are looking for hope – not just the people in Mexico who want to move to the U.S. They often try to find hope in their homes, families, jobs, or money. But where is the only place we can find true hope? (In Jesus) *Hold up the Bible and turn on a flashlight.*

Guess what? Juan Carlos and his cousins go to church, just like you! *Hold up the Bible.* Did you know that there are churches in Mexico that use the Discovery Land program? In Latin America, Discovery Land is called Descúbrello. Kids in the Descúbrello program are learning the same Bible lessons you learn, and they are learning that Jesus is the only One who can give us real hope for the future.

Today we are going to pray for the churches and church leaders in Mexico – especially northern Mexico. We want them to be able to share the Good News of Jesus with kids like Juan Carlos and with all of the other people living in northern Mexico who are looking for hope.

Hand out red, green, and white yarn and explain that these three colors are the colors on the Mexican flag. Teach students how to make a simple bracelet by braiding the three strands of yarn together. As they braid, talk about the following prayer requests.

Let's pray that:

1. Christians will **boldly** share the Gospel. (*Red strand*)
2. Church leaders and the Christians in the churches will be excited to reach their local community for Jesus. (*White strand*)
3. Christians will find their contentment and hope in Jesus, not in where they live, what they own, what others think of them, or how much money they have. (*Green strand*)

Take a few minutes to pray for these three requests in small groups, then hand out prayer cards and encourage students to wear the bracelets all week to help them remember to pray for the people they've learned about in Mexico.