WEEK 13
Missions around the Globe

Emphasis: Mexico and Central America,
Latin American Christmas

Introduction: We will be focusing on Mexico and Central America. Special emphasis will be on the Latin American celebration of Feliz Navidad and the scriptural account of the birth of Jesus. This is designed to be taught the second week of December with an extra day the third week for a Family Feliz Navidad celebration of your own.

Note: Following this week, there is time for a two-week Christmas vacation. May you have a blessed Christmas Season as the birth of our Savior is celebrated.

LIBRARY AND MEDIA SEARCH

BOOK TITLES
- Operation World by Patrick Johnstone
- From Jerusalem to Inian Jaya by Ruth A. Tucker
- A Miracle for Samuelito (Bible Visuals)
- Window to Mexico by Bev Gunderson
- Tribal People Groups/Mexico by Bev Gunderson
- Joy to The World (Ave Maria Press)

BOOK TOPICS
- Mexico
- Central America
- Latin America
- Christmas
- Feliz Navidad
- History of Mexico/Central America
- Metric math
- Earthquakes
- Mexican arts and crafts
- Piñata

MUSIC
- Spanish Christmas music

VIDEO IDEAS
- The Little Drummer Boy
- Travel video on Mexico or Central America
DAY 60
WEEK 13 - MONDAY
Missions around the Globe
Emphasis: Mexico and Central America,
Latin American Christmas

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: LUKE 1:1-40
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
  What was the importance of John the Baptist's birth?
  What was God's purpose for John's life? Do you think God
  has a special purpose for your life? Look at Mary's response
  to the angel Gabriel, "Behold the maidservant of the
  Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." What kind
  of attitude should WE have when God reveals to us
  something He wants US to do?
• PRAYER FOCUS
  Pray for the country of Mexico. Pray these people
  would hear the true Gospel of Jesus and God would help
  them break away from this life of poverty.
• BIBLE MEMORY: LUKE 2:10-11
  "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for
  behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be
  to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city
  of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"
• MEMORY IDEA: MEMORY VERSE CUT-UP
• PRAYER PROJECT: CHRISTMAS CARD PRAYERS
  As your family begins to receive Christmas cards from
  your friends and relatives, use these cards as prayer
  reminders. Each night read several cards
  and then pray for this family. Hang the
  cards up on a wall, around a doorway, or
  on a mantle, and let these cards remind
  you to keep these friends and family
  members in your prayers.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING

2. From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya, pages 360-363 about
   Marianna Slocum (Mexico/Columbia).
3. Begin reading the flashcard story, A Miracle for
   Samuelito, or read a library story about Mexico.
4. Begin working on Bev Gunderson's Window to
   Mexico, or Tribal People Groups/Mexico.
5. World Mission - Part 1, pages 5-18 to 5-19 (Cameron
   Townsend).

• WRITING
  Write for fifteen minutes in your prayer journals.
  Include areas where you have been ungrateful in your
  life. Surrender to the Lord.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  1. Carefully write the memory verse. Check for
     neatness and penmanship.
  2. Select spelling words. (Perhaps include several
     Christmas words.) Have each child write these words in
     their spelling notebook. Talk about their meanings and
     have each child say the word aloud in a sentence.

• FOREIGN LANGUAGE
  Listen to a Spanish Christmas tape and begin learn-
  ing several of the Christmas songs.

GEOGRAPHY
• MAP PUZZLE OF MEXICO/CENTRAL AMERICA
  1. Copy a map of Mexico and Central America (or
     enlarge onto a posterboard).
  2. Color in the various countries and label each
     clearly with their name and capital city.
  3. Cut the map apart along the political boundaries
     and practice putting the map back together without
     looking.
  4. With a clock or stopwatch time yourself.
  5. Turn each piece upside-down and try to name the
     country before you turn it over.
DAY 61
WEEK 13 - TUESDAY
Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
  BIBLE READING: LUKE 1: 41-80
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
  What happened when Mary went to see Elizabeth? Read the praises of Mary and the prophecies of Zacharias. How did these two people respond differently to Gabriel when he first appeared to them. Who responded in faith and who responded in unbelief? Talk about the true meaning of Christmas and how God uses simple people like Mary, Zacharias and Elizabeth to fulfill His plan.
• PRAYER FOCUS
  Pray for the countries of Guatemala and Belize.
  Pray for God to raise up ministers to spread the Gospel throughout Mexico and Central America.
• BIBLE MEMORY

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
  2. Continue reading A Miracle for Samuelito or a library story book about Mexico/Central America.
  3. Continue working on Bev Gunderson’s Window to Mexico or Tribal People Groups/Mexico.
• WRITING
  1. Make Christmas cards for family and friends. Possible craft tools: construction paper, old Christmas cards, glitter, white paper snowflakes, paint, marking pens, crayons, pencils, stickers, rubber stamps, etc.
  2. Include an original Christmas poem or story inside the card.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  Look at several examples of old Christmas cards for ideas on Christmas poetry or creative phrases.
  Check for correct punctuation, capitalization and spelling on the cards your family makes. Encourage creativity and uniqueness.
• FOREIGN LANGUAGE
  1. Work on several Spanish Christmas carols.
  2. Spanish Christmas phrases:
     Feliz Navidad (fuh-LEEZ nah-vee-DAHD) - Merry Christmas
     Nacimento (nah-see-MEN-tow) - figures used for a family nativity scene.
     Noche Buena (NOTE-che boo-AA-nah) - Christmas Eve
     Piñata (peen-YAH-tuh) - paper maché object filled with candy or toys.
     Posada (poe-SAH-duh) - Latin American candlelight procession held each Christmas to reenact how Mary and Joseph searched for lodging in Bethlehem.
     Tamale (rah-MAH-lez) - typical Christmas meal in Latin America. Made with steamed cornmeal tortillas, filled with meat, beans or chiles, and wrapped in corn husks.

HISTORY
  1. Many people from Mexico and Central America are descendents from Aztec and Inca Indians. Look into this background and see how this Indian heritage influences the people in Mexico and Central America today.
  2. Mark your timeline with important events in Mexico’s history such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Mexico’s independence from Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-17</td>
<td>The Mexican Revolution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  3. How has life in Mexico and Central America changed in recent years? What are some examples of traditions that have remained for generations?
DAY 62
WEEK 13 - WEDNESDAY
Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
  BIBLE READING: LUKE 2:1-20
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
  Why do you think God chose to announce the Savior's birth to simple shepherds? Look at verses 15-18 and notice the shepherds obedience to go “with haste,” and how they later made “widely known” the news of Jesus’ birth. Many times God will choose to use simple people who are willing and obedient rather than those who may be more qualified, yet are too independent.
• PRAYER FOCUS
  Pray for the people of Honduras and Nicaragua. Pray these people will find their living Creator and they will be loosed from the bondage and deception of spirit worship.
• BIBLE MEMORY

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
  2. Continue reading A Miracle for Samuelito or a library book.
  3. Continue working on Bev Gunderson’s Window to Mexico or Tribal People Groups/Mexico.
• WRITING
  Write Christmas letters to family and relatives to insert inside the Christmas cards you made yesterday.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  2. Review this week’s spelling words with an oral test.
• FOREIGN LANGUAGE
  Continue to review several Spanish Christmas songs from a tape.

MATH
• METRIC MATH
  Throughout most of the world—including Central America—weight, length, volume and temperature are measured by the metric system. It is a system based on units of tens. Compare the Metric and English system (as you are cooking, driving, working, or as you see or hear the current temperature).
  1. Look at a Fahrenheit and Celsius thermometer and compare.
  2. Look at a yard-stick and a meter stick (compare also inches and centimeters).
  3. Compare our American system of teaspoons, tablespoons, cups, quarts, and gallons to the metric system of liters and milliliters.
  4. Compare the distance of a mile to a kilometer.

SCIENCE
• EARTHQUAKES
  1. In recent years, parts of Mexico City have been destroyed by earthquakes. Research what causes earthquakes and discuss how much more devastating an earthquake would be in a poor area.
  2. How can scientific technology help make the effects of an earthquake less devastating (think about stronger building requirements).
  3. What are some practical ways a missionary could help following a devastating earthquake. (Think of physical and emotional assistance, along with spiritual help.)
DAY 63
WEEK 13 - THURSDAY
Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: LUKE 2:21-52
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
  When baby Jesus was eight days old Mary and Joseph
  brought Him to the Temple. Who were the two people
  that recognized Him as the Messiah? Notice the personal
  character of both Anna and Simeon, and their constant
  devotion to God in prayer. Discuss the importance of
  personal prayer and devotion in order to recognize God’s
  plan.
• PRAYER FOCUS
  Pray for the countries of Costa Rica and Panama.
  Pray people would be released from a spirit of religion
  and come to know Jesus Christ as their true and living Savior.
• BIBLE MEMORY
  Review Luke 2:10-11. Reuse the memory verse cut-
  ups from earlier this week.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
  1. Operation World, pages 416-418 on Nicaragua and
     pages 436-437 on Panama.
  2. Continue reading A Miracle for Samuelito or a
     library book.
  3. Continue working on Bev Gunderson’s Window to
     Mexico, or Tribal People Groups/Mexico.
     (Joy to the World or “International Holidays” in this
     guide.)
• WRITING
  Write an essay on “What Christmas means to me.”
  You may want to begin by writing what Christmas means
  to a child in Latin America.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  1. Emphasize the importance of correct grammar and
     using separate paragraphs to express separate thoughts.
     Include in each paragraph a topic sentence that summa-
     rizes that paragraph.
  2. Take a practice spelling test.
• FOREIGN LANGUAGE
  Continue practicing Spanish Christmas carols from a
  Spanish Christmas tape.

ARTS AND CRAFTS
• ART
  Look at Mexican art and the combination of Spanish
  and Indian influence. Look at pictures or examples of
  different types of Mexican piñatas.
• CRAFT: MEXICAN PIÑATA
  1. Begin with a simple design, perhaps a parrot, a dog,
     or a globe. Draw your design on paper.
  2. Next, form a basic round shape (either with a paper
     sack or a large balloon blown up and tied).
  3. Cover the sack with paper maché (strips of newspaper
     dipped in a flour and water paste). Make sure the
     shape is covered with several layers but don’t forget to
     leave a hole to put the candy or toys into later. Allow to
     dry thoroughly for several days.
  4. Later, paint your hardened piñata and decorate
     with pieces of colored construction paper to look like
     your original design.
  5. Fill your piñata with candy or toys. Save this for a
     special Feliz Navidad Christmas celebration.
DAY 64
WEEK 13 - FRIDAY
Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 2
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
How does the account of the wise men reveal God’s heart for the entire world, including the Gentiles? Notice in verse 11, the wise men fell down and worshiped the Child Jesus. Who revealed to these wise men that Jesus was worthy of worship? The gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh represent that Jesus was born to be a king, a priest, and the final sacrifice for all of mankind. Discuss how these gifts were God’s provision for Mary and Joseph right before they had to flee into Egypt.
• PRAYER FOCUS
Pray for the people of Latin America—that their eyes would be opened to see the true meaning of Jesus coming to earth. As they celebrate their Feliz Navidad, pray that many Latin Americans would receive Christ.
• BIBLE MEMORY
Test: Write Luke 2:10-11. How does this verse share God’s heart for the entire world.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
1. Finish reading A Miracle for Samuelito and talk about how life and culture is different in Mexico than the rest of North America.
2. Read from Joy to the World or a library book about Christmas in Latin America.
• WRITING
Write a story about a poor family in Latin America that works hard to make Feliz Navidad special. Decide on imaginary names for your story’s characters and what country they will be from.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
Spelling Test. Explain spelling rules for misspelled words. Take a retest on missed words only.
• FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Sing the Spanish Christmas carols you have been working on for someone else: a neighbor, dad, or another relative.

INTERNATIONAL MEAL
• AREA EMPHASIS: MEXICO/CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

HOME MADE TORTILLAS
Mix together and knead until soft:
3 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
2 Tbs. shortening
1 cup warm water
Form into egg-size balls, rub with shortening.
Roll out with a rolling pin, and cook on an ungreased pan. Turn when bubbles form.

Mexico

ENCHILADAS
Fill cooked tortillas (from above) with:
chopped mushrooms
cooked hamburger or chicken (diced)
chopped onions
chopped green peppers, olives
grated cheddar cheese
spoonful of tomato or spaghetti sauce
taco seasoning
Roll up enchiladas and cover with tomato sauce and cheddar cheese. Place in a shallow baking pan and cook about 30 minutes (until hot through and cheese is melted).

FAMILY VIDEO NIGHT
A Little Drummer Boy
Travel video on Mexico or Central America
DAY 65
Special “Feliz Navidad” Celebration
Missions around the Globe

PARTY PREPARATION
1. Make Feliz Navidad invitations and give to your friends or family.
2. Decorate your house with bright colors and Christmas decorations.
3. Prepare nativity costumes for the Nacimento or figures (dolls dressed up as Mary, Joseph and Jesus, or an actual nativity scene).
4. Make sure your piñata is finished and filled with candy or toys. Hang with a string and have a stick and blindfold ready.
5. Have Mexican food or snacks ready for your Mexican fiesta. Perhaps include a birthday cake for Jesus!
6. PRAY! Prepare your hearts because a Christmas party can be an excellent opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus with your neighbors and friends.

AS OTHERS ARRIVE
1. Have Spanish music playing.
2. Welcome the guests at the door. Make everyone feel welcome and loved.

PARTY ACTIVITIES
1. Begin with singing a special Spanish Christmas song and then some traditional Christmas songs that share the story of Jesus. Explain that Feliz Navidad is Spanish for Merry Christmas!
2. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2. (You may want to prepare ahead of time to act out this story with puppets or drama as it is read.)
3. Explain the Latin American tradition of the Posada candlelight procession, reenacting the story of Mary and Joseph searching for lodging in Bethlehem.
4. Have your own Posada procession, with all the children following after Mary and Joseph. Go from room to room in your house, or from door to door around the neighborhood asking, “Is there room at the Inn?” (Call your neighbors before the party begins to explain the procession and to let them know they are supposed to answer, “No, there is no room.” Finally, arrive at the main party area where the nativity scene has been prepared.

SHARE THE GOSPEL
This more serious time of your party would be a perfect opportunity to share the Gospel message. Perhaps have a Christmas present and use this for an object lesson to share how Jesus is the most important gift of all. Have a quiet time of prayer and ask if there is anyone who would like to receive Jesus into their life as their Lord and Savior. (Use the analogy that Jesus is knocking at our heart’s door today...“Will you let Him in?”.)

GAMES
Any typical party games would work great such as:
1. Pin the tail on Mary’s donkey.
2. Musical chairs (to Spanish or Christmas music).
3. Hot Tamale eating contests.
4. Have kids take turns hitting the piñata while blindfolded. When the piñata finally breaks, all the kids will gather the candy or toys.

FIESTA TIME
1. Eat your Mexican food.
2. End with a birthday cake for Jesus!

Feliz Navidad!
India

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

TEACHING WITH GOD'S HEART FOR THE WORLD: VOLUME I