

Journey to El Salvador ~ Lesson Plans for Grades 1 to 6

These plans are designed to be used in a rotational style of teaching. You will need 3 teaching stations or classrooms. Divide your total group of children into 3 groups, using mixed age groups divisions by age group. Divide your teaching time into 3 equal segments, and have each group rotate into each center for an equal amount of time. This will work best with at least 60 minutes of total teaching time.

Each student will have his or her own “Passport to El Salvador” coloring/information book, which can be carried from station to station. The book has a letter for parents on the cover, and can be taken home as a fun resource for family learning.

Area 1: Country & Culture

During this rotation, students will learn about the geography, climate, food, shelter and typical life in the city and in the countryside in El Salvador.

Supplies Needed:

- Passport to El Salvador books – hand out during first session
- Salvadoran decorations around the room (beach towels, La Palma art)
- Large laminated photos of El Salvador
- Large Western Hemisphere Map
- Large topographical map of El Salvador

Content:

This rotation should be led by someone who has some background knowledge or has been to El Salvador. Information should include:

- Location of El Salvador compared to the US
- Topography (coastline, volcanoes, deforested rainforest, earthquakes)
- Climate (wet and dry seasons, temperature)
- Typical foods
- Typical city scenes and country scenes and housing in each (if time)
- Typical school (if time)
- Something in Spanish (bienvenidos, hola, adios)

Area 2: Our Sister Church

During this rotation students will learn about your specific sister church community, a little bit about the history you share together, and about the church and Sunday School experiences.

Supplies Needed:

- Passport to El Salvador books – hand out during first session
- Computer/projector/screen
- Power point with pictures of your sister church and community

Content:

This rotation does not need to be led by someone with Salvadoran travel experience. Ideally, the leader should know some of the people in the pictures. Here is the information which we are using at St. John's (the power point photos are captioned on screen):

Sister Church = Los Héroes de la Fe (Heroes of the Faith)

Community Name = Los Héroes

Pastor = Pastor Santiago Rodríguez

Church leaders = Francisco (who is a single dad with 2 teenage boys) and Julia (who is married to Marcelino and has one son, Antonio; Julia's younger son, also named Marcelino, was killed last summer)

Worship is at 4 pm on Sunday afternoon

About 30 people come to worship because lots of people have to work, if it is a special day, many more come

Sunday School is from 9 to 10:30 am on Sunday morning and is for children ages 3 to 12.

About 40 children attend.

Youth Group is on Saturday afternoon for ages 12 to 19. About 40 attend.

The youth are starting a new thing...youth worship services

Kids have to help a lot with chores. They wash their own school uniforms and iron them. They shine their shoes. They help to take care of younger kids, wash dishes, do laundry, gather wood, sweep and clean the house. Many kids help to earn money for their families by selling things that their family makes in the market (like food, clothing, or crafted items from wood). Some families have little businesses in their houses and the kids help with that. Some families rent or own little gardens outside of the community where they raise crops to eat and to sell.

Area 3: Salvadoran Art

During this rotation, students will use permanent markers to color a beautiful design which incorporates the La Palma art style with a special design to remind them of our Sister Church.

Supplies Needed:

- Permanent markers

- Overhead projector sheets that can run through a copier

- Pattern for the design

- Permanent markers

- Optional construction paper picture frames (can be made with scraps, cut into 1 ½” strips)

- CD Player & Salvadoran music CD

Preparation: Photocopy the design onto the overhead sheets

Process:

Have kids color the design with permanent markers. Frame the picture if desired. Play music while the kids are working. This project may take longer than the 20 minutes allowed, depending on the complexity of your design. The cross which St. John's is using features images that are meaningful to our partnership with Los Héroes.