

Lesson Plan for El Salvador: Grades 3 & 4

Songs

Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the light of God....
(Older kids: cantando, bailando....)

We are praying in the light of God...
Orando en la luz de Dios....

Feel the Fire

I can feel the fire burning, burning, burning....down in my soul

I can feel the spirit moving, moving, moving....down in my soul.
(older kids in Spanish)

Iluminame, Señor (older kids)

Iluminame, Señor, con tu Espíritu.
Transformame, Señor, con tu Espíritu.
Iluminame, Señor, con tu Espíritu.
Iluminame y transformame, Señor.

Y déjame sentir el fuego de to amor
Aquí en mi corazón, Señor.

(use GME words)

Arrival Activity: Prayer Cards

Supplies needed: photocopied cards, colored pencils, scotch tape

Method: kids color the pictures on the cards while listening to the prayers which are written on them.
Teachers can tri-fold and tape the cards during story time.

Story Time

Use the wordless book and have the kids help tell the story of Jesus calling and blessing the little children. Some key ideas:

- The children were curious about Jesus
- Jesus was busy teaching, but saw the children and called them to him. Notice the wagging finger.
- When Jesus called them, the kids were really happy and they RAN to see him
- The kids made a circle around Jesus
- Jesus gave them lots of love, and they made a circle of love
- Jesus blessed the children and told the children to be lights in the world—that means that they should share love with other people
- They were a circle of love and a circle of light

Apply the story to today:

- Jesus is calling kids to come to him all the time. He is calling these kids right now
- How? We don't see his finger going like this, but we feel his spirit in our hearts
- When Jesus calls us, what do we do? Run to him, just like the kids in the book
- Jesus gives us lots of love
- Jesus teaches us to be little lights in the world, and to share his love with other people
- We are a circle of love and a circle of light

Apply the story to El Salvador (*Include lots of time to talk about El Salvador*)

- Jesus calls kids that live here, and kids that live far away, like in El Salvador
- Option....show how grownups call kids in El Salvador with their hand
- Jesus calls kids in El Salvador with his spirit
- What do the kids in El Salvador do when Jesus calls? RUN
- SHOW pictures of kids in El Salvador who are called by Jesus
- What does Jesus teach the kids in El Salvador? To be little lights and share Jesus' love
- To be a circle of love and a circle of light

Tie it up:

- All of the kids that Jesus calls are connected to each other
- We are brothers and sisters in Christ
- We are all God's children, we are one big family
- We love each other, and pray for each other and take care of each other because we are all one big family
- We are one big circle of love /we are one big circle of light

Snack Time

Children move to the tables to share their circle snacks (tortillas). The circles remind us that we are all connected with Jesus in a circle of love.

Craft Time: Prayer Circles

Supplies: Clear plastic shower rings, curling ribbon, beads, grosgrain ribbon pieces each with one Salvadoran child name written on it.

Method: Kids string beads on three of the ribbons. Tie the last beads into the ribbon to stabilize. Write each student name on the name ribbon and tie it onto the shower ring. Each student makes two identical circles, and then links them together.

Meaning: Each kid has a partner in El Salvador with whom he or she is linked. We are connected through Jesus.

Prayer Time

1. Children bring the links to the prayer circle.
2. Candle on the floor in the middle
3. With older kids....will link all the links in a circle on the floor around the candle.
4. With older kids....pass the flame around....need small candles
5. Younger kids hold the links
6. Jesus' spirit is with us
7. Pray for ourselves and our friends

Dismissal

Take home:

- Prayer circles (Pray for your prayer partner friend in Los Héroes and then bring one ring back next week to link to the giant prayer chain hanging in the narthex)
- Prayer card
- Letter home

Dear Families,

Today the children in Second and Third Grades had a special lesson highlighting our relationships with families and the church in Los Heroes, El Salvador.

We hope the children will share their experiences with you. You can ask them about these things that we did today:

- Sang a special song or two.
- Made a prayer card to use at home.
- Sat in a circle and shared the story of Jesus blessing the children. We talked about how, through Jesus, we are connected to the circle of children in Los Heroes.
- Ate our circle snacks (can you guess what they were?)
- Made little prayer circles for ourselves and our friends in Los Heroes, which link together.
- Stood in a giant prayer circle, around a candle, and prayed with and for our friends in Los Heroes

We talked a lot about the images of a circle and light. We used the circle to think about how Jesus calls us together and connects us with each other. We remembered that Jesus tells us to be lights in this world. We experienced light of the Holy Spirit flowing around our prayer circle, and out into the world.

Today your child is bringing home 2 prayer links. For one week we ask you to keep the links together. Use the prayer card to pray, with special emphasis on praying for your friend in Los Heroes.

Next week we ask you to disconnect the 2 links, and to bring one of them back to church. The children can attach the links to the Salvadoran prayer chain in the narthex. We will send the links to our friends in Los Heroes, and soon they will be praying along with us. We encourage your family to use the prayer card, and to pray with your Salvadoran friend every day during the next year.

In addition, there are 2 ways that your family can support our brothers and sisters in our companion church (Los Heroes) and companion synod in El Salvador:

LOS HEROES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsor a child and enable him or her to attend school.

Sign up on the Outreach kiosk or contact

Student packets will be available at the end of this month.

ENDOWMENT FUND FOR PASTORS OF THE SALVADORAN LUTHERAN SYNOD

This endowment fund started in our synod, and is managed by the ELCA. Interest generated by the fund is used to pay the salaries of the pastors in the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. This is a great need in a church that serves the poorest of the poor. For more information, contact