

EXPLORING God's Global Family

LESSON 4 **PART 1**
Mexico
Spiritual Emphasis: Prayer

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Where Are We Going?

Your child will be able to:

- explain the process of fair-trade industry in the developing world.
- design and create fair-trade products similar to those found in Mexico.
- apply biblical principles of fairness in business through the example of Scripture.
- develop a plan to support fair trade through prayer and action.

Ready for the Journey

Supplies

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Piece of chain to demonstrate supply chain concept
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ Safety scissors
- ✓ Supplies for Activity Sheet 4-1:
 - 1 or more metal juice lids
 - Hammer
 - Nail
 - Notepad
 - 12 inches of ribbon

- ✓ Permanent markers [optional]
- ✓ Felt [optional]
- ✓ Map, instructions to a game, compass, etc. Place them in a box or bag out of your child's sight.

Preparation

- Read: Leviticus 19:36; Proverbs 6:6-1; Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 16:10-12
- Background information: Mexico

Mexico is our country neighbor to the south of the United States. It is the second-largest country in Latin America and has an amazing history and culture. Many Indian empires were located there including the Aztec, Zapotec, and Mayan Indian cultures. The capital of Mexico is Mexico City, and it is one of the largest cities in the world. Many people from around the world enjoy the beaches, Indian pyramids, arts and crafts and great food found in Mexico. One of the favorite holidays in Mexico is *Cinco de Mayo* ["5th of May"] which is often celebrated with lively mariachi music and the breaking of piñatas full of candies and goodies.

Like most kids in the United States, children in Mexico attend school from September to June. After three years of secondary school, however, children must choose an area of focus in high school. Sometimes it is difficult for children to enroll because of the many dialects of the country and some teachers are not equipped to speak in the dialect of the children in different locations. Many children in Mexico are poor, as the estimated annual income for Mexico is approximately \$12,400 per year.

The Journey Begins

Ask your child the following questions and discuss the meaning of fair trade.

- **Have you ever wondered where the things you buy come from?** Find an object of interest in your home which might have a label telling you where it was made, such as a shirt or purse. Every object you or your family buys has a story. It has a story about who made it and where it was made, and how it arrived at the store where you bought it. This is called a "supply chain." If you look on the label of your shirt, you will see what place in the world was the beginning of your shirt's journey before you bought it in the store with your parents.
- **There are many links in the chain of a product's story,** [show or draw chain] but just like a story in a book, there is a beginning and an end. Everything you and other people buy begins with the person who made the product and ends at the store where you can buy the product.
- **How do you know if the people who made the product you buy received a fair amount of money for the product and were paid a fair wage for making the product?** Unfortunately, along the supply chain, some of the people in the chain make a lot of money and become rich while other people along the supply chain make little money and are poor. That is why fair-trade practices came into being.

- **Help your child discover the meaning of fair trade either on the Internet or at the library.**
[Definition: Fair trade is a way of selling things that makes sure every person who is part of the supply chain is treated with dignity and respect.]* For a product to be considered fair-trade, eight principles* must guide people's work along the chain. The idea behind fair trade is to treat people justly and fairly and to care for everyone involved in making a product. These principles are based upon God's view of the value and worth of all people.

Enjoy the Journey

- ① Brainstorm together possible products that are available on a fair-trade basis. [Examples include toys, tea, coffee, soap, jewelry, clothing, purses, rice, etc.] Look in your cupboards to discover possible items or visit your local grocery store.
- ② Discuss how items such as tin art are made in Mexico and could be fair-trade items based upon an art form started in the 1600s in Mexico.
- ③ What other items might be made in Mexico that could be fair-trade?
- ④ Follow the instructions for making the pressed tin art [Activity Sheet 4-1]. How could you change the product? Who might like to buy art products from Mexico?
- ⑤ Discuss the eight Principles of Fair Trade, and if possible, visit a store that sells fair-trade items. They are marked with an emblem to prove they are certified.
- ⑥ Discuss the following questions :
 - How can you tell your extended family about fair-trade products?
 - How could you possibly help organize a fair-trade show at your church?
 - Are there Christian principles behind some fair-trade practices? In what ways?

* From *Think Fair Trade First*, Ingrid Hess, Fair Trade Resource Network, 2010.

Pressed Tin Art

People from Mexico have been making art with pressed tin since the 1600s. It's called *hojalata* [ho-ah-lahta], and here's how you can make your own!

Supplies

- ✓ 1 or more metal juice lids
- ✓ Hammer
- ✓ Nail
- ✓ Notepad
- ✓ 12 inches of ribbon
- ✓ Transparent tape
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Permanent markers [optional]
- ✓ Felt [optional]



Instructions

- ➊ Trace around the outside of the juice lid on paper and draw your own pattern inside the paper circle.
- ➋ Cut out your circle pattern and tape it to the center of the lid.
- ➌ Put the lid on your notepad.
- ➍ Ask a parent to help you place the nail on your pattern and tap it with the hammer until the nail pierces the paper and lid.
- ➎ Trace the pattern with nail holes. Keep going until you finish your pattern!
- ➏ Remove the paper pattern, create a larger hole near the top of your lid, and tie the ribbon through the hole to hang your art!
- ➐ If you'd like, you can decorate the lid with markers and cover the sharp back with a piece of felt.