



TITLE

WHO'S BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO PERU?

OBJECTIVE



Students will meet missionaries from Peru and hear what life is like in Peru. Students will hear about the needs of Peru.

SCRIPTURE



BACKGROUND

In 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul says, “Now you are the body of Christ and each one is a part of it” (NIV). People in the body of Christ have different gifts and perspectives. If we are willing to listen and learn from each other, we show true wisdom and humility. As we set out to learn about the culture in Peru, we have the privilege of hearing from people who live there.

MATERIALS

MISSIONARY VIDEO

POSTER PAPER AND MARKERS

CHARADE ASSIGNMENTS

EVALUATION CRITERIA

How will I know this lesson was effective? Do I see evidence through student responses of a broadening of their understanding of what it means to be a missionary?

Outline

INTRODUCTION

- Connect last week to this week
- Create poster
- Reflection sharing

Details

- Have a poster sheet and pens set up on a table or on the wall
- Invite students to write down the comments they encountered from any Peruvian neighbors/friends during the week or things they learned from the Internet
- Invite students to remember and share what they learned about Peru last week

STORY

- View short video
- Connect Scripture from week one to this week
- Story of how God has been at work in Peru (two stories are provided in additional notes section)

What words or pictures come to mind when you hear the word, "missionary"?

Tell students that today they will meet some missionaries. Remind students about the video they watched last week, have students make a list. As one group or as two groups competing, of all the things they saw in the video that were different from life in their own town. When they are finished, ask:

What do you think would be fun?

What do you think would be hard to live with?

- Remind students of Luke 19 parable. In the Luke 19 parable, Jesus reached out to someone who was an outcast Zaccheus and his life was changed after spending time with Jesus.
- John 1:14 (The Message) tells us that Jesus (the Word) moved into the neighborhood. These missionary families have moved into the cities of Peru. They are living Jesus out to their neighbors.
- Tell the story of how God has been at work in Peru.

ACTIVITIES

- Students practice and act out scenarios for sharing the love of Jesus
- See additional notes section for ideas, instructions and links

- Tell students that they are going to play charades. Break students into small groups and give them one scenario to practice. If you have done this in another unit, you could use alternate scenarios or a different activity of your choice.
- After about ten minutes, have the class come together to share their skit allowing the rest of the class guess.
- Ask if anyone has other ideas for sharing Jesus with people in their communities.

CLOSING

- Revisit the students' first impressions of the word, "Missionary." Invite them to add to their comments/understanding
- Invite students to give prayer ideas for the missionary family and record them on chart paper with the words P-R-A-Y from last week, keep for next week.
- Tell them that next week they'll have a longer opportunity to pray for the missionaries in Peru.

Additional Notes

STORIES

1. *Máximo and Socorro in Piura, Peru* – by Lowell Ens

A few months ago, I was talking with my friends Máximo and Socorro, in a town called Almirante Grau. They have one daughter, Analí, who is about 5 years old. They had another daughter, but she died a few years ago from encephalitis. In 1998, Máximo and his family lived in a town called Chato Chico, about 10 miles from where they live now. Chato Chico is next to the Río Piura, a river that runs through this part of the country and provides water for lots of little farms. That year, there was a lot of rain, from something called El Niño, that happens every 10-12 years. Big mounds of dirt protected the community from flooding, but this time there was too much water, and the mounds gave way. Socorro said it was like a wall of water, 15 feet high, coming straight towards the village. There was no time to grab their favorite things, just time to run to higher ground. Most of the people in this little town lost everything. Helicopters were sent by the government to rescue people from the flooding, but when a bridge collapsed in the city of Piura nearby, they had to leave to help there. Máximo and the other villagers were left to find their own way out of the flooding.

Soon after, the government sent representatives to relocate the people from Chato Chico to their new homes in Almirante Grau. But when they got there, there were no homes, just some tents in the middle of the desert, next to the Panamerican Highway. There was no running water, no electricity, no stores or schools, and nothing green like the place they had left next to the river. Just lots and lots of sand. Máximo said those first few years were really hard, especially in the summertime when it got really hot. People like Máximo that had farms near Chato had to travel 45 minutes or more by donkey cart to tend to their crops and to get food for their livestock. (They still do this today.)

Finally, after several years, the government put in running water and electricity to the village. Even now, 15 years later, there still is no telephone or internet service in this community of Almirante Grau. The water only works on Wednesday and Sunday, so people have to store extra in tanks to have during the rest of the week. There is a school there now, and a health center. Recently, a large landowner complained to the government that the land

where Almirante Grau is was theirs, and that the people would have to move again. The government has said that the people can stay, but Máximo and his friends are still not sure how this disagreement will turn out.

Still, God has really provided for Máximo and his family and friends. There was a small church in Chato Chico, and since most of those members moved to Almirante, they started a new church there (where Máximo is one of the leaders.) Since then, they have planted 2 more churches, in San Antonio and Nuevo Paraíso, towns next to Almirante. And they are talking to people in two more towns about maybe opening churches there. At their combined all-night prayer service for New Year's Eve this year, they had over 100 people attend!

You can pray for Máximo and his family. He has some medical issues from his work as a farmer, and his wife also has some medical problems. They are thinking about moving to Lima, a city with 10 million people, so they can find better health care. But that will take them away from their families and friends, and they won't be able to be leaders in the churches in Almirante still. It would be a big change for their family and they would really be missed at their church. But we know God will continue to care for them all because God loves them so much.

ACTIVITIES

1. A friend from school invites you for a sleepover on Saturday night. You really want to go, but you know that your family usually goes to church on Sunday morning. What can you say?
2. You have noticed lately that an elderly neighbor's yard is getting more overgrown day by day. What could you do or say to show her the love of Jesus?
3. You and a group of students are waiting for the bus. A group of kids start laughing at a person that is struggling with a flat bike tyre. What could you do to love like Jesus?
4. A classmate shares with the class that his parents are getting a divorce. He seems very quiet and sad about it. How could you show Jesus' love to this fellow student?