

THE NATIONS AS OUR NEIGHBORS

LESSONS FOR MISSION MINDED KIDS

LESSON 5

EDWIN MIESES IN HAZELTON



The Nations As Our Neighbors

Lesson 5: Edwin Mieses in Hazelton, PA

Goals for Lesson 5:

- Children will be introduced to the Mieses family and their ministry in Hazelton, PA.
- Children will learn that God's Word is the same in all languages and understand that God made all of the nations to worship him in their own language.
- Children will understand that a person's culture determines how they are most comfortable living and worshipping.

Verse for "The Nations As Our Neighbors":

"All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God." Psalm 86: 9-10

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Prepare the page that says "Buenas Nuevas" as a transparency for an overhead or cut in half and mount each half on colored paper for stability.
- Make a copy for each child of the Spanish Word Dictionary page, or plan to pair younger children with older ones, and make one copy for each pair.
- Make a copy of the Spanish verse and a copy of the English verse for each student, or each pair.
- Locate a large map of the Eastern US that also shows the Caribbean Sea. Post it in front of the room and mark Hazelton, PA with a circle or a star sticker. The map does not have to be seen in detail by the students. The idea is to show them the general distances between New York City, Dominican Republic and Hazelton, PA.
- Decide how you will use the bookmarks and copy the page onto heavy cardstock paper. Make one whole page for each child, or cut them apart so that there is one bookmark for each child. If you would like the children to make extras, they could be sent as small gifts of encouragement to the Spanish speaking churches to be used with any of their ministries. Have the children look up the word "nombre" on their Spanish Word Dictionary page. They can write their own (first) name in the blank, and write a short verse or note on the back. A hole could be punched in the

top and a ribbon or string with beads could be added. Prepare markers or crayons to decorate them. If you will be sending them to a Spanish speaking congregation, you could use the addresses provided in Lesson 3, or they could be sent to: Edwin Mieses, 739 Grant Street, Hazleton, PA 18201. Include a picture of your group if possible. Write a little note explaining who you are and why you have made these bookmarks, and how you would like them to be used.

Lesson Plan:

- Begin with prayer.
- Review verse by saying it once together without any visual prompts.
- Read story part of lesson, explaining or discussing as necessary, and using the prepared “Buenas Nuevas” card when instructed. Use the U.S. map to show Edwin’s moves from New York City to Dominican Republic to Hazelton, PA.
- Explain that a person’s culture is the way of living, eating and speaking that a person grew up in. Usually a particular culture is associated with a large group of people or a country. Talk about Edwin growing up in two cultures and discuss the similarities and differences of the two (based on the children’s prior knowledge and the Dominican culture they have studied in the previous lessons).
- Ask the children to describe how the American culture worships God, and what they think are some differences in the way the Christians of other cultures might worship God. (style of music, language, length of service, freedom of movement, etc.) Discuss this idea and then ask them why people might feel more comfortable worshiping God in the way they grew up. Relate this discussion to Edwin’s life and his desire to help the Spanish speaking people of Hazelton to be able to worship God within their own culture.
- Give each child (or pair them up in teams) a copy of the Spanish verse. If their pastor read all of the Scripture every Sunday in Spanish, would their congregation get much out of it? Give them the Spanish Word Dictionary page and have them fill in as many blank spaces as they can, matching the Spanish words to their English meanings. When they are finished, read the result aloud. When words are translated directly, it makes a little bit of sense, but it doesn’t really sound like the English language we speak.
- Show the children the Spanish phrase from the verse that you prepared. (bottom half of Buenas Nuevas sheet) Using the pronunciation guide, help them say the phrase, then, using the verse they translated see if they can tell you what it means. Say it together several times in Spanish.
- Give students the English verse and have them complete the verse by filling in the missing letters. All of the needed letters are listed at the bottom. Students can cross off each letter as they use it, or try to complete the verse from memory. When they are finished, read the English verse out loud together. Remind the students that having God’s Word in our own language and being able to worship with others who share our culture is a wonderful gift.
- Lay out bookmarks and craft items for decorating them. Give directions according to how you have decided to use them.

Lesson 5 Story: Edwin Mieses in Hazelton, PA

Pastor Edwin Mieses (**Pronounce: “Me-ay-say-ss”**) was born in the United States in New York City. **(Point out New York City on the map.)** His parents were from the Dominican Republic, and he spent several of his growing up years there. **(Point out Dominican Republic on the map.)** We have met several other pastors who were born in the Dominican Republic. Can you name some? Since his parents were from the Dominican Republic, Edwin grew up with the language and a lot of the culture of that island nation. What two languages do you think Edwin spoke at home? What else do you remember about the Dominican Republic? Because he spent time growing up in the United States and in the Dominican Republic, he learned both languages and both cultures very well. God used these experiences to help prepare Edwin for a life of ministry to other Spanish speaking people who live in the United States.

Edwin is married to Marisel, and God has blessed them with six sons. Their names are Edwin, Jeremiah, Lucas, Caleb, Josiah, and Ezekiel. In 1998, God brought the Mieses family to Hazelton, PA and led the way for them to begin planting a church there. **(Point out Hazelton, PA on the map, and show again where Edwin was born, where he spent some of his growing up, and where they live now.)** Since Edwin and Marisel grew up in homes where Spanish was spoken, God was able to use them to reach out to the Spanish speaking people who live in Hazelton. At first, they started a family Bible Study on Wednesday evenings. They also went out into the local community to make contact with the Spanish-speaking population through flyers,

personal visits, and helping those who were needy in any way that they could. The Mieses family discovered that what the community really wanted was to attend a Spanish-speaking church.

A short time later, the Mieses family met the Miranda family who also had a desire to start a Spanish-speaking congregation. Together the two families worked to make it possible. In March of 1999, they began holding a prayer service in the building of Zion E.C. Church in Hazleton. By June of that year, Buenas Nuevas Evangelical Congregational Church was born. Can you guess what Buenas Nuevas means in Spanish? **Hold up card so children can see the words. Pronounce “Boo-ay-nahs Noo-ay-vahs”** (It means “Good News”) The church is there in Hazleton to help the Hispanic people who live there to understand the Good News of Christ’s great love for them.

The services at “Good News” are on Sunday afternoons. They are given in both English and Spanish and they are always lively with a mix of Spanish and English music. God wants His “Good News” to be for all people of all languages and nations. He has brought the Mieses family to Hazleton so that Spanish speaking people who have come there from other parts of the world can all be neighbors and share in God’s Good News.

Please pray that many Spanish speaking “neighbors” from Hazleton will understand God’s Good News and put their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that Edwin and Marisel Mieses will be able to use the experiences of their growing up years to reach out and minister to all of the Hispanic people they meet in Hazleton and the surrounding area.

**BUENAS
NUEVAS**

**Sólo tú eres
Dios**

(Pronounce: “So-low too air-ace Dee-oh-ss”)

Spanish Verse: Use Spanish Word Dictionary page to fill in English meanings for each Spanish word.

Todas las naciones que hiciste

vendrán y adorarán ante

ti, oh Señor, que devolverá la

gloria a su nombre. Porque tu

eres grandes y haces obras

maravillosas, sólo tú eres Dios.

Salmo 86: 9-10

English Verse: Fill in the missing letters to complete our verse in English. As you use each letter, cross it off the list at the bottom.

“A__ the __tions ___ have m___
will c___ and wor_____ b_____e
you, O _____; t_e_ will ___ing gl____
to y__r n____. For _____ are g_____
and d_ ma_velou_de____; you a____e
are G__.” P_____ 8_:9-1_

Cross off each letter as you use it.

a a a a a b d d d d e e
e e e e f h h i l l l l l
m m m n n o o o o o o
o o o p r r r r r s s s
s t u u u y y y y 6 0

Spanish Word Dictionary

a: *to*

adorarán: *will adore*

buenas: *good*

de: *of*

ante: *in front*

devolverá: *will return*

Dios: *God*

eres: *are*

gloria: *glory*

grandes: *great*

hacen: *make*

hiciste: *you made*

la: *the*

las: *the*

maravillosas: *marvelous*

naciones: *nations*

nuevas: *news*

nombre: *name*

obras: *works*

oh: *oh*

porque: *because*

que: *that*

Salmo: *Psalm*

Señor: *Lord*

solo: *alone*

son: *are*

su: *your*

ti: *you*

todas: *all*

tú: *you*

vendrán: *will come*

y: *and*

