

It's time to have a fantastic family learning and missions experience with a popular celebration that originated with our neighbors south of the border. It's Cinco de Mayo!

What Is Cinco de Mayo?

Cinco de Mayo (fifth of May) is also known as the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla. This holiday is a day to remember Mexico's victory over the French in the battle, which took place in the state of Puebla in 1862. Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in some areas of Mexico and the United States. The holiday is one way Mexican immigrants honor and celebrate their cultural heritage.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Puebla include parades, speeches, and reenactments. In the United States, parades, music, dancing, food, and family are incorporated into colorful, flavorful, and zesty fiestas!

Let's Celebrate!

- Check your community and school calendars for Cinco de Mayo festivities. As a family, pray about making connections with other families celebrating the holiday. Watch a parade or participate in a fiesta. Make new friends and ask them to share about their family traditions for the holiday.
- Learn some key greetings and phrases in Spanish. Check out Spanish language learning resources from the library. Include dual-language picture books for younger family members. Ask a Spanish speaker to teach your family some Spanish.
- Go out for Mexican food. If you have a Spanish-speaking server, then encourage him or her to help you say and order food choices in Spanish. Share that your family is learning to speak Spanish. Ask if his or her family is of Mexican descent and, if so, how or if he or she celebrates Cinco de Mayo. Request prayer needs and pray for them before your meal is served.
- Enlist your children to help research and learn about Mexico. Read books, look at maps, and search online for information. Ask the Lord to lead your family to connect with a Mexican American family in order to build relationships and share faith.

- Host a Cinco de Mayo party for your neighborhood. Recruit a Mexican American neighbor to offer tips. Play mariachi music, decorate with balloons and streamers, and serve Mexican dishes. Add a piñata filled with candy and Bible-themed prizes.
- Share what you have learned about Cinco de Mayo with your church family. Pray for direction in how to minister to Spanish-speaking community members from Mexico and elsewhere.

Beyond Cinco de Mayo

- Connect with a local Spanish-speaking church fellowship. Visit the church with your family to participate in worship in a different language.
- Invite Hispanic neighbors to teach you how to make their favorite national dish. Purchase the ingredients and welcome the neighbors into your home. Enjoy fellowship through cooking together, eating, and getting to know one another. Ask them to tell about their heritage, especially their religious one. Share both your personal and spiritual heritage with them.
- Shop at a Hispanic grocery store. Warmly greet store employees with "Buenos días!" Choose something new to try. Ask for directions on how to prepare the food items. Build relationships by regularly shopping at the same store. Invite employees to worship with your family. Or find out the names and addresses of some Hispanic churches in your area to refer them to.
- Encourage your church family to offer English classes, if it doesn't already. Support the classes as a family by praying, providing refreshments, and helping with child care. Share God's love as you serve.

—From *Missions Mosaic*, May 2016