

International Mission Study for Preschoolers

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Missions Area:
Mexico City

Christian Concept Area:
Jesus

Special Workers:
Aaron and Sophia Robertson*

*Names changed.

Meet the Special Workers

Aaron and Sophia Robertson are special workers in Mexico City. Together with their five children, the Robertsons help others learn about and have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Through Bible studies, soccer teams, neighborhood events, and living life together, the Robertsons make friends and encourage them to love Jesus. Through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Robertsons have received finances which help provide housing, transportation, basic needs, and schooling for their children.

For more information and activities, see *Mission Friends Leader*, December, January, February 2020-2021, pages 6-26, and visit wmu.com/preschool.



Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the Robertsons as they tell others about Jesus.
2. Pray that many will believe in Jesus as they attend Bible studies.
3. Pray for the Robertsons as they lead other believers to share the Good News.
4. Pray for special workers to have many opportunities to spread the love of Jesus.
5. Pray that believers will give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Missions Area: Mexico City

Aaron and Sophia Robertson live in bustling Mexico City. Traffic, noise, fumes, and pollution fill the city. But beauty is also all around, from the colorful houses on the hillsides, the zoo, and parks, to the wonderful families the Robertsons meet as they go about their daily lives with their boys, Matt, Mark, Luke, Jon, and Axe.

Bulletin Board Idea:

Visit wmu.com/preschool to see a FREE December bulletin board idea.

Decoration Ideas:

Set the stage for preschoolers to learn about Mexico City. Hang Christmas lights around windows and door. Display papel picado (Mexican paper banners) along walls. Hang a pinata from the ceiling. Visit a party supply store to find more Mexican-themed decorations.

In Case of a Pandemic:

See the bottom of this International Mission Study to find ways to encourage families to participate in the study at home.

Outcomes:

Preschoolers will hear about Aaron and Sophia Robertson, special workers in Mexico City who tell people about Jesus. Focusing on the concept **Jesus**, preschoolers will hear that Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

ACTIVITIES

ART—Tissue Paper Cactus

SUPPLIES:

- green construction paper
- different colors of tissue paper
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers

In advance, cut tissue paper into one-inch squares. Print on construction paper: Pray for the Robertsons as they tell families in Mexico City about Jesus.

Show preschoolers how to draw a large free form cactus on a sheet of construction paper. Let them crumple tissue paper squares and glue them on the cactus to make a decorated cactus. Say: Aaron and Sophia Robertson tell families they meet in Mexico City about Jesus and His love. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

Pray together for the Robertsons. Send cactus pictures home as prayer reminders.

BLOCKS—Build Homes

SUPPLIES:

- Spanish praise and worship music
- pictures of homes
- blocks
- people figures
- picture Bible
- Bible

Quietly play Spanish music. Discuss pictures of homes and how the Robertsons invite many families to their home for Bible studies, games, and other activities. Let preschoolers build homes for their people figures and invite each other over for Bible study. Encourage them to use the picture Bible to tell a Bible story about Jesus. Say: The Robertsons love to teach the Bible and tell about Jesus' love. Christmas is the perfect time to tell about Jesus' birth.

Open the Bible and read: Jesus was born in Bethlehem (see Matt. 2:1).

BOOKS—Reading at Christmas

SUPPLIES:

- lighted artificial Christmas tree
- blanket
- Bible
- *Good Things Jesus Did / Buenas cosas que Jesús hizo**

In advance, spread the blanket beside the displayed tree.

Sit together beside the tree and read *Good Things Jesus Did*. Discuss good things Jesus did and ask preschoolers to think of good things they can do. Say: The Robertson family lives in Mexico City where they tell others about the good things Jesus did. They tell people that Jesus loves them.

Open the Bible and read: Jesus loves you (see John 15:12).

HOMELIVING—Make Refried Beans

SUPPLIES:

- electric skillet
- pre-cooked pinto beans
- shortening
- salt
- potato masher
- spatula
- large spoon
- paper plates
- spoons
- flour tortillas
- grated cheese

Post the allergy alert chart. Wash hands. Let preschoolers help pour beans into the skillet and take turns using the potato masher to smash the beans. Add a small amount of shortening and a sprinkle of salt. Slowly heat the beans to bubbling, letting an adult scrape and stir the mixture. Unplug the skillet and let beans slightly cool. Tear tortillas into fourths and give each child one on a paper plate. Place a spoon of refried beans on each tortilla and let preschoolers add a sprinkle of grated cheese on top. As they enjoy refried beans, say: Many families in Mexico City enjoy eating beans and tortillas. The Robertsons like to share meals with friends in Mexico City. They want to make sure their friends know about Jesus and His love for all people.

Caution: Supervise carefully.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT—Maracas and Flowers

SUPPLIES:

- *Sing to the Tune**
- maracas
- silk flowers

Help preschoolers tuck silk flowers in their hair or on their clothes. Let them shake maracas as they sing “I Love Jesus,” page 16, and “Jesus Loves Me.” Say: Jesus loves all people. The Robertsons want to tell everyone they meet about Jesus.

NATURE—Flowers from Mexico

SUPPLIES:

- electronic tablet
- blooming Christmas cactus
- magnifying glass

In advance, search online for images of flowers found in Mexico. Include pictures of a blooming Christmas cactus (native to Brazil) and poinsettia.

Post the allergy alert chart. Show the pictures of flowers found in Mexico City. Invite preschoolers to study the Christmas cactus by looking through the magnifying glass. Say: Many plants in Mexico City bloom and have beautiful flowers. The Robertsons make new friends to tell about Jesus as they enjoy the beauty of living in Mexico City.

PUZZLES AND MANIPULATIVES—Piñata Sorting Game

SUPPLIES:

- piñata
- colorful pom-poms
- small colorful wooden blocks
- construction paper in the same colors of pom-poms and blocks

In advance, fill the piñata with pom-poms and blocks. Spread construction paper on the floor.

Invite preschoolers to take turns pulling one item from the piñata and sorting it onto the matching piece of construction paper. Say: Mexico City is full of bright colors and beautiful people. The Robertsons are happy to live in this huge city and teach families about Jesus and the Bible.

GROUP TIME

SUPPLIES:

- *Sing to the Tune**
- fabric Christmas napkins
- jingle bell bracelets
- child-safe Nativity set
- six lidded, wrapped gift boxes
- tree skirt
- CSB Read to Me Bible

In advance, divide Nativity figures into six boxes: angel, Mary, Joseph, animals, shepherds, and Jesus. Number the boxes 1-6 so you can have them opened in order of the story. Place the empty stable and wrapped boxes on a tree skirt.

Group Time Tip:

Spread seasonal napkins on the floor, one for each child to use as a place marker for sitting. During the story, as each box is opened, allow a child to place figures in the stable.

INTRODUCTION

Distribute jingle bell bracelets. Sing “Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem” and “Jesus Loves Me So,” page 14. Say: Today we will hear a story about Mr. and Mrs. Robertson as they tell people in Mexico City about a special Christmas gift.

TELL THE STORY

A Special Christmas Gift

KNOCK, KNOCK. (Ask preschoolers to knock on the floor).

“I’ll get it,” said Mrs. Robertson. “It must be our new friends, the Sánchez [SAN-chez] family.”

“Hola [O-lah]!” said the Sánchez family together when Mrs. Robertson opened the door and invited them in. “Feliz Navidad [fuh-LEES nah-vee-DAHD]!”

“Merry Christmas!” said Mr. Robertson.

“We made hot chocolate and Christmas cookies to share,” said Mrs. Robertson. “Let’s take our treats to the other room.”

“Because we have a surprise game for you!” said Mr. Robertson.

“That sounds fun,” said Mr. Sánchez.

“And interesting,” said Mrs. Sánchez.

The two families took their snacks and settled down to play the game.

"This special game is a guessing and unwrapping game," said Mr. Robertson.

CLAP,CLAP. (Ask preschoolers to clap with you.)

"I love unwrapping things," said Mark, one of the Robertson boys.

"Me, too," said José [ho-SAY], one of the Sánchez sons.

Mrs. Robertson smiled. "We are going to tell a special story as we unwrap boxes."

"Mrs. Sánchez, please choose a box and open it," said Mr. Robertson. (Ask a preschooler to open Box 1.)

"This is an angel," she said.

"Yes. Our story begins when an angel visited Mary and told her she would have a special baby, God's one and only Son. Can you guess who that baby was?" Mr. Robertson said. (Let preschoolers guess.)

"Mr. Sánchez, please choose a box," said Mrs. Robertson. (Ask a preschooler to open Box 2.)

"It's Mary!" said Mr. Sánchez.

"I gave you a hint, didn't I?" said Mr. Robertson. "Yes, Mary was the young woman who was going to have a special baby."

"José, you can open this box," said Mrs. Robertson. (Ask a preschooler to open Box 3.)

"Who is this? It looks like a man, but I don't know him," said José. (Let preschoolers guess.)

"The man is Joseph. Joseph would be the earthly father and take care of the special baby," said Mr. Robertson. "Anna, you can choose a box." (Ask a preschooler to open Box 4.)

"Animals? I love animals, but what do they have to do with a baby?" asked Anna, the daughter of the Sánchez family.

"Have you heard? The time came for the baby to be born and there was no room anywhere. He was born in a stable or cave where animals lived," said Mr. Robertson.

Jaime [HI-meh], the youngest Sánchez child, listened with excitement. “May I open a box?” he asked.

“Please, Jaime, open a box,” said Mr. Robertson. (Ask a preschooler to open Box 5.)

“More men?” said Jaime. “Who are these men?” (Allow preschoolers to guess.)

“Shepherds!” said Mark, another Robertson son. “An angel visited them in the fields and told them a special baby was born. The shepherds went right away to visit the new baby.”

“You are right,” said Mr. Robertson.

“Here’s the last box,” said Mrs. Robertson. “Who do you think is inside?” (Allow preschoolers to guess. Ask one child to open Box 6.)

“Jesus!” shouted the children from both families.

“You are right,” said Mr. Robertson. “Jesus was born at Christmastime. Jesus, God’s Son, is a very special gift of love for all of us.”

Open the Bible and read: Jesus loves you (see John 15:12). (Ask preschoolers to repeat the Bible thought with you.)

“My friends, Jesus loves us all,” said Mr. Robertson. “Merry Christmas!”

Ask: Why did the Robertsons invite the Sánchez family to their house? What game did they play? Why is it important to tell people about Jesus?

PRAYERTIME

Pray together and give thanks to God for His gift of Jesus. Pray for the Robertsons as they tell families in Mexico City about Jesus. Pray for people to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to help special workers around the world.

CLOSING

Read a story about Jesus’ birth from the Bible as preschoolers reenact the story using the Nativity figures. Encourage preschoolers to repeat aloud what happened in the Christmas story.

***Important Resources Information**

Resources marked with an asterisk are available through WMU Customer Service—online: wmostore.com; or call: 1-800-968-7301.
Good Things Jesus Did / Buenas cosas que Jesús hizo, E188104, \$1.99
Sing to the Tune, W108103, \$7.99

Note: To share the Group Time story with parents, please see Story Time for Parents at the end of this document.



Optional Meeting Plans

If your church is not yet meeting, here are some suggestions for hosting the International Mission Study in ways that reflect social distancing and stay at home guidelines. Many of the ideas can be sent to parents of preschoolers as text messages or through social media.

1. Send home an International Mission Study kit for each family. Visit a discount store and purchase: crayons, silk flowers, pom-poms, and play dough. Fill gallon ziplock bags with some of each item. Add several sheets of art paper. Print the story and include it for parents to read with their child.

2. For Art, encourage preschoolers to draw pictures of their families surrounded by cactus and discuss what it would be like to live in Mexico City like the Robertsons. Encourage families to pray together for the Robertsons as they tell people in Mexico City about Jesus.

3. For Blocks, lead an adult to search online for images of homes in Mexico City. Encourage preschoolers to use whatever blocks they have at home to build a house that could be found in the big city. Ask parents to send you a picture of their child beside the house they created.

4. For Books, advise parents to read a Bible story about Jesus from a picture Bible. Ask parents to help their child use a family Nativity set to retell the Christmas story of Jesus' birth. Let parents tell their child that the Robertsons teach families in Mexico City about Jesus.

5. For Homeliving, lead families to prepare their favorite Mexican foods for lunch or dinner. Tell them that the Robertsons enjoy eating meals with friends and families they meet. Ask them to pray together that the Robertsons will be able to tell many people about Jesus.

6. For Music and Movement, ask an adult to use a phone or electronic tablet to play Spanish praise and worship music. Encourage families to wear silk flowers and move with the music as they share how the Robertsons speak Spanish with people they meet in Mexico City.

7. For Nature, let an adult search online for pictures of nature (flowers, animals, plants, people) found in Mexico City. Ask preschoolers to use play dough and make a flower, animal, plant, or person. Lead families to discuss the differences they see in nature found in Mexico City and nature found where they live.

8. For Puzzles and Manipulatives, encourage preschoolers to sort pom-poms, crayons, and blocks by color. Tell families that people in Mexico City love bright, beautiful colors.

9. For Group Time, provide the story for parents to read to their child. Send the story digitally or mail a print copy to families. Encourage families to fully participate by wrapping Nativity figures in boxes and letting their child open each one as the story unfolds.

10. For Prayertime, ask families to pray together for the Robertsons as they live in Mexico City to teach and tell people about God's gift of Jesus.

Story Time for Parents

International Missions Study for Preschoolers

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STORY TIME

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A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

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