



The Anglican Relief and
Development Fund Canada



A LENTEN REFLECTION, 2021
TAKING A JOURNEY

OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

Many of us know what it is like to take a trip or journey to places we enjoy ... or maybe to places we have never visited where life is different and unfamiliar. This Lent we shall reflect and journey for about 40 days. We will learn something deeper about ourselves and something new about people living in a country where life has difficulties and many are poor. Along the way we will also find Jesus who calls us through His words in Scripture to walk closely with Him and become as neighbours to those in need.

Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday, which starts the Church's season known as Lent. Sitting at our home tables or any comfortable family spot, we will travel to a country in South America called Paraguay where we will stop and visit an urban area called Zeballos Cué. However, we will need to do a few things in preparation for our travels.

- 1:** Gather up helpful things you will need: Your computer or device would be a source of easily found information (though not essential if you do not have one), your Bible, (and/or a child's version for smaller children if needed), a dictionary and an atlas or world map.
- 2:** Journeys need finances so you are asked to prepare a simple container such as a pop can for your contributions which will be used to help children attend school in Zeballos Cué. Make a label for your container, perhaps draw a picture of a school that you might see in Paraguay, to attach to your container. Put some money in the container each day, and when the reflection and journey is complete you can submit the amount to your church for the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, Canada (ARDFC), or send it in directly.
- 3:** Meet regularly as a family or someone who is in your bubble. Be prepared to discuss and share information and experiences each session as you use the reflections and activities. Remember to keep things simple for the little ones, encouraging each other and valuing the idea presented and the opportunity it gives to learn together.
- 4:** Pray with thanksgiving throughout this Lenten journey. May it be a time of blessing to you as we each learn something about ourselves; and in the process of learning about others and helping in their great need, we recognize just how abundantly God's provision has been in our homes, families and communities.
- 5:** A variety of good resources will be needed here to complete the story. A video for the younger children, or an appropriate movie for older children can be found on the computer if you go into 'Kid's Link'. A good picture book is also very useful. Try using toys for the creation story, perhaps you might use art work. Sometimes, a short quiz will involve the kids more.

Simply follow the guide as we journey from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. Households are different from one another, however, so first decide times you can best gather. Aim to complete the journey and activities. If that's not possible because of circumstances, faithfully accomplish as much as possible making it an enjoyable learning experience for those younger as well as older. You will need to use simpler language, in the stories and Scripture passages for the younger ones. Within a family, please encourage teens and young adults to participate as they have many good ideas that can really help others. Note that questions posed are usually found in the bullet points.

WEEK 1 – ASH WEDNESDAY:

Going Back Before Going Forward: The Creation Story

Today we are going way back in time to think about how everything began. Let's start by thinking about 'things':

- What things do you see around you right now?
- Look outdoors. What kind of things do you see there?
- Think about something you'd really like to do. What things do you need to do it?

We all have had much experience with lots of things. Can you imagine a time when there were none of them – no things, no people, no animals, no trees, no anything – just nothing? Close your eyes and try to imagine what nothing would look like. It's pretty hard. My mind keeps popping up with things I've already seen!



TRY THIS:

- If I give you a **kabito***, what would it be like?
- Why can't you tell?
- Any ideas?
- Yes, that's unfamiliar to us and I'm quite certain it's not yet even created!

The first book in the Bible is called Genesis. It takes us back to a time when there was nothing created. Many of us likely know the story of creation. You probably learned it in Sunday school or a church programme.

BIBLE READING: Genesis 1

KID'S LINK:

Creation story

www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs (3:47) – Saddleback Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9oh4YO8N7M (28:39) – The Beginner's Bible

***kabito**: It is an imaginary word, used to illustrate the need for a name, and what we associate names with.

(To the Leader: Read the Bible account in chapters one and two only where it is appropriate for older children and there is an interest. Selecting certain verses from these chapters where you need it can be helpful for some children at times).

(Turn to the first verse of the first chapter and remark): "But there was 'something' there, it seems ... Well, let's see what it really says." (Read verse 1 again.)

- What two beings were there? We'll find out more about that shortly. (Note **Point 5** in the instructions on page 1 for ideas on suitable resources for children.)

Next, take time to review what has been learned. Make sure it includes:

- ✓ The two beings noted earlier are identified. (God creating and the Spirit hovering).
- ✓ How God felt about what He had created.
- ✓ How God made humans different from the animals, birds and fish.
- ✓ The special something that He put in human beings
- ✓ The names of the first two people He made (you probably already know).

BIBLE READING: Genesis 2, 3

KID'S LINK:

Adam and Eve

www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7TDvJrjz0 (3:24) – Saddleback Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaUNpQ8_8AE (26:28) – The Beginner's Bible (only the first 1/2 of the video is Adam and Eve, so stop video at 26:28)

There is another story to tell! - Adam and Eve's story. It has a sad ending.

We know from verse 26 of chapter 1, that God put His image in the ones He created.

- It says he made them in his likeness.
- If you were made in your Mom's image who would you be like? That means you would be like her in her kindness or honesty for example. That's called her nature. You would act much like her.

CONSIDER:

- What do you know about God's nature or likeness from other stories you have heard or read?
- Think of some words that tell us about His nature. He is _____, _____?
- We are made in His image so what does He want us to be like?
- What would our actions be like?
- We could say we are His "image bearers".
- Would that be a good name for us?

When God created Adam and Eve, He meant them to be perfect people, living in wonderful relationship with Him.

- He placed them in a beautiful garden too, called _____.
- He told them only one thing they couldn't do. What was it?
- Sadly, they were tempted by a creature in the garden called a serpent. What's that?

Let's find out what happened. (Use an appropriate resource here as well. You might also have four readers play the parts of Eve, the serpent, Adam and God, the leader being the narrator. Use the Bible as the to read from, Genesis. 3 (1-22): or create a simple script from these passages.)

- What happened to Adam and Eve?
- What happened to their relationship with God?
- Where did he place them?
- How did life change for them?

WEEK 2:

Preparation for the journey to Paraguay.

This week will be a bit different from the others. See below

WHERE IS PARAGUAY?

Locate a good world map.

- Find our country, Canada.
- On what continent are we?
- Can you find your province?
- Is your city visible?
- Can you find it?



Paraguay is on another continent called South America.

- If you fly south from your home to this continent, what countries would you fly over?
- Have you visited any of them?
- What countries can you locate in South America?
- Which is the largest?
- Find Paraguay, our destination country. It is known as a land locked country.
- Can you tell why from this map?
- Would you call the people of Paraguay your neighbours?
- Can you find the city of Asunción? In it is the region called Zeballos Cué, this is on the north-east side of Asunción.
- What languages are spoken there?

- What money should we take?
- What would you pack for Paraguay?
- What clothing is required?
- Is it cold or warm there?
- What food would you expect to eat there?

KID'S LINK**Paraguay**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjFHmL2-wLg (1:20) – Hello Paraguay

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vThkoL6X58U (5:48) – A day in the life of a 10 year old, Josias, in Paraguay

WEEK 3:**Moses and the Ten Commandments**

Many, many years after the Creation story people multiplied. They separated into many nations. Gradually they wanted to do things their own way which was not pleasing to God. There were wars and rebellions. They even learned to make their own gods and worshipped them. God decide to choose from all the people a group He would call His Chosen People. These He would prepare to follow His ways and He would make them a blessing so they could be a blessing to others.



Eventually a great food shortage came and the Israelites, as they were known, began to suffer. Many of them journeyed to Egypt, and stayed there for a very long time. Here they grew rich and their population grew. However, they came under very harsh laws and working conditions, and they were treated as slaves. Often, they wished they could return to their home land.

God chose Moses to go and bring them back! God promised Moses that He would bring them to “the promised land, a land of food and plenty. This task would not be easy, and Moses had many fears!

(Leaders, as you have already decided, choose appropriate materials for the story: video, story and picture-books, the Bible, etc.).

CONSIDER:

- What fears have you had when you were asked to do something you thought would be hard to do?

- What happened in the end?

Because Moses doubted God's promise to help him in doing this task, God performed two interesting miracles that showed His great power. They are found in the Book of Exodus.

BIBLE READING: Exodus 4: 2-7.

- What simple things did God use that belonged to Moses?
- What did each become?
- How would you feel seeing such a miracle?
- God performed several other miracles before the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt. Did you see any in the video or read about any others?

The king (called Pharaoh) was a very stubborn man and kept refusing to free them. Much sadness happened because of this. Finally, they were freed but their journey, however, had many problems. The first event happened when they reached a large body of water.

BIBLE READING: Exodus 14: 21-25

- What was the name of this large body of water?
- Recall what happened.

Gradually the Israelites came to a wilderness area where they settled for a time. Moses, a man who worshipped God, was given something you are likely familiar with.

It was the Ten Commandments. God spoke them to Moses as He worshipped Him on a mountain called Sinai. These laws have come to us from the Hebrew people. You maybe have heard them read in Church or learned some of them at home or in Sunday School.

(Leaders; They are found in the book of the Bible called Exodus. Ex. 20: 1-17. A shorter version is found in the recent Book of Common Prayer 2019, page 100-101. Use the shorter version for young participants, maybe the full version for those who are older. You be the judge)

Choose a few of these and discuss using simple language when needed.

BIBLE READING: Exodus 20:1-17

- In what ways do we worship God?
- Is it possible to worship something else and not God?
- What does God say in verse 4 (Exodus 20) that can help us understand more?

Commandment 3: found in verse 7.

- How do we take God's name in vain? If we do that, we are guilty of breaking this commandment.

Commandment 4: speaks of the sabbath which is the day we call Saturday. We as Christians keep Sunday as the Christian sabbath, Jews keep Saturday as their sabbath.

- What does Holy mean? A dictionary can help!
- What good things should we do on Sunday as Christians that are pleasing to God?
- What things often keep us from doing that?
- Which Commandments would you find easier to keep?
- Which are more difficult?

Maybe as a Review: Use a guessing game, asking the children to identify which commandment is being broken from some of the following questions.

I took my brother's toy and broke it. I was afraid so I didn't tell anyone. It's gone out with the garbage now.

I saw a great book at my friend's house. I really want one like it.

My friend wouldn't play with me and went off with others. I told her brother some lies about her because I was really angry?

Today is Sunday. Our hockey team plays hockey every Sunday morning. It's a great sport.

There are days I think my father is stupid. I said this to my teacher because he isn't very wise some days.

I wish I had Uncle Bob's car. Some day I will.

Other children laughed at me and some of them swore when they heard I go to church.

Mrs. Black is a mean, mean old woman. Haven't you heard the latest about her?

I feel sorry for Lita. Her mother discovered her father is seeing another woman on the sly. Now the family is so hurt.

Did you see those latest snowmobiles on TV last night? They're amazing! I sure want one of them!

I haven't got time for all this God stuff. Life's too exciting for me!

CONSIDER:

God's commands are not easy to keep.

- What makes it so hard to keep them sometimes?
- Remember Eve in our last study and how the serpent tempted her? The devil doesn't always speak the whole truth, only part of the truth.

- What did the serpent or devil tell her she would be like if she ate the apple?
Eve immediately thought of two good things that would happen if she ate it.
 - What were they?
 - What did the serpent not tell her that would happen if she ate it?
-

BIBLE READINGS: Exodus 4: 2-7, 14: 21-25, 20: 1-17

KID'S LINK

Moses and the 10 Commandments

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHKFvxgQOFI (11:52) – The story of Moses – Geethanjali Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TxkWGZS_jE (24:58) – The Beginner's Bible – The story of Moses

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dSkJm-43c8 (50:50) – Moe and the Big Exit – VeggieTales

10 Commandments:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB3A7RcP89E (3:00) – Ten Commandment Song for kids – Alina Alina

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9K4q22kMzm4 (3:09) – Learn the 10 Commandments – Brandt Dary

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ihn9xFjYvQE (1:49:02) – Bible stories – The video is made up of 5 episodes of about 30 minutes each on the 10 commandments. It can be watched in segments

WEEK 4:

Jesus Arrives

Many years have passed since Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and they settled in the land God had promised. There were many years of warring between nations and gradually they mingled with people of pagan faiths. Broken relationship with God resulted. Because of their sinning God allowed other nations to invade this Hebrew nation and destroy Jerusalem and its temple. Once again, they were taken into captivity. Life was very difficult but gradually they returned, back to their homeland, repenting and restoring their relationship with God. They longed for peace and the fulfillment of the promised Messiah He would send.

CONSIDER:

- How do you feel when you have a broken relationship – maybe with a good friend or your sister, brother or a parent?
 - What caused the relationship to break?
 - What did it take to restore the relationship?
 - What did it take to maintain that restored relationship?
 - Discuss how this process is the same when we have a broken relationship with God.

After many years Jesus arrived.

- Was He coming as a Great King with His many chariots?
- Yes? No?

Surprisingly, He arrived as a tiny baby born in a lowly stable and not at all like the Hebrew people expected. We recently celebrated the Christmas story, as told in Scripture. But have you ever wondered why, amongst all our elaborate decorations and celebrations, there is so little to remind us of Christ's birth – that is, what the true meaning of Christmas is?

- Take time now to ponder this and share why this might be.

Babies grow up – and so did Jesus. He grew into a man and went about teaching, preaching and healing people, and doing many other miracles, even casting out demons and raising the dead.

- What is a miracle? I mean what makes a miracle so different from a trick, for example, or something surprising that happens and people often exclaim, "That's a miracle" when the explanation for its happening is simple to explain?
- A dictionary can help.

BIBLE READING: Now read an interesting story:

- The raising of Jairus' daughter, (Mark 5:21-43)
- Or the raising of Lazarus, (John 11: 1; 19-22; 32-33; 38-44)

KID'S LINK:

The Raising of Jarius' Daughter

Not necessarily suitable for young kids or emotionally sensitive kids – Parent's to use discretion.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UQ8la6HG_0 (10:23) – Jesus Wonder Animations

The Raising of Lazarus

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSsXCmM (5:07) – Saddleback Kids

Jesus' miracles in general

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZTHwqj0Bkk (24:08) – Superbook – Jesus' Miracles – covers calming of the storm, casting out of demon-possessed man, and looks at Jesus' authority over seen and unseen. Not suitable for young children.

Jesus was not like other men in the temple, the Scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees who taught the laws but often did not keep them themselves. St. Matthew tells us in the Bible that Jesus was different from them ..."He taught as one with authority", (Matt. 7: 28-29).

There were many people wondered about this too, and when Jesus was later questioned by the Pharisees as to where His authority came from His reply was not always clear or pleasing to them.

CONSIDER:

- What does it mean to teach or speak with authority?
- What effect did Jesus' teaching with authority have on people?
- Why?
- Why is it important today for us to be cautious when so many people speak convincingly and seemingly with authority? (1 Thes. 5: 20 – 21), (1 Jn. 4:1)

Jesus spoke many things about Himself and His relationship with God that were upsetting to the Synagogue leaders. All of them were true and remain true for us today. Look them up to better understand who Jesus is.

- ✓ His position with the father (John 10:30)
- ✓ His purpose for coming (John 3:17)
- ✓ Our path to God (John 14:6)
- ✓ Jesus' authority (John 8: 28b – 29)
- ✓ Talk with each other about what you have learned.

There are many issues and situations before us today that are challenging us as Christians, especially when we read Scripture as God's word to us that speaks truth. Our problem increases as we also have laws around some of these practices that are harmful for us and go against truths found in the Bible.

CONSIDER:

- What are some of these issues?
- How have they been promoted?
- What are some of the harmful effects of these practices?

It helps us to stop and think of some of the verses of Scripture that tell us of God's nature. Some we have already studied earlier in learning how we are made in His image and how we are to live. Others we will now meet as we ponder these relationship questions and how we are to act as faithful Christians.

BIBLE READING: Read these verses and share your thinking of what they mean to you personally in terms of how we live.

- Part of God's nature – light vs darkness (1John 1: 5)
- How we are to plan and make decisions (Proverbs. 3: 6)
- Defending and upholding Truth (1Peter 3:15)
- Steadfastness and love (1 Corinthians 15: 58)
- God's great love for us (John 3: 16)

Take time to share what these passages really tell us. Then, answer the questions below as simply as you can.

- How, as Christians, are we to respond to others who think and act differently than we do?
 - Why might you find difficulty in doing this?
-

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus gave a very familiar prayer to help direct our lives. We say it often in our churches and in our homes or individually. You'll find it as Jesus teaches His disciples in the book of Matthew 6: 9 -13. He also advised us about how to pray – and how not to pray.

BIBLE READING: Matt. 6: 7–15. Read these passages carefully.

Let's focus first on the prayer.

In the first ten words:

- What 3 things do we learn about God? (Check 'hallowed')
- Next: We ask for two things. What are they?

KID'S LINK

The Lord's prayer

www.youtube.com/watch?v=O78UfDkGhRs (1:36)

The story of the Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRJdY37W2dg



CONSIDER:

- Is that what you or I really want each time we pray this prayer ... that He make earth like Heaven where we do as He desires and not as we desire?
- How would our lives be different if that were so?
- How would you feel about this?
- We probably all like verse 11. What do we mean by bread?
- What are we really asking for?

BIBLE READING: Matthew 6, verse 12 is more challenging. It's all about forgiveness.

Read it out loud.

- Do you find it easy to forgive others when you feel hurt by them? However, there is a reason why we must forgive. It is found in verse 14 and 15.
- What does it say?
- What does this sound like to you?

Asking is part of prayer. (But that is not all that prayer is!)

CONSIDER THE ASKING PART:

- When you ask a parent or friend for something what do you hope will be the answer?
- Do you think that God will always give us what we ask for?

When we pray to God, we can likely think of many ways people and things need help.

- Share some of the things you may have asked for, for yourself and others.
- Do you think God's answer is always 'Yes' when we ask for things?
- In what other ways besides 'Yes' might He answer? _____ or _____.
- The psalmist (who wrote the Psalms) (an interesting word to look up later) tells us one of them in Psalm 66.

David was a great king of Israel and God had blessed him in many ways. However, he had sinned and committed adultery and was also part of a murder plot. He truly repented for his sins and God forgave him.

BIBLE READING: Psalm 66: 17-19, in which David wrote. Fill in the blank:

- God would not have forgiven him if he had kept _____ in his heart.

The apostle James also tells us two reasons why God sometimes doesn't answer us.

Bible Reading: James 4: 2(b)-3, John 3: 17. Fill in the blanks:

- You do not have because you do not _____.
- You ask and do not receive, because you ask _____, to spend it on your passions.



KID'S LINK

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdlXOk_QdQ (4:35) – Prayer – Crossroads Kids Club

BIBLE READINGS:

Mark 5:21-43; John 11: 1, 19-22, 32-33, 38-44; 1 Thessalonians. 5: 20 – 21; 1 John. 4:1; John 10:30; John 3:17; John 14:6; John 8: 28b – 29; 1 John: 5; Proverbs 3:16; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 6:7–15; James 1:13-15; Psalm 66: 17-18; James 4: 2(b)-3

Let's take time to do some review:

We have heard or read that there had been a 'court case', as we might say in our words. Through it all, Jesus had been beaten, spit upon and mocked as a king – even a crown of thorns forced upon His head. He was taken before the people, by king Herod who let them make the decision of who should go free.

- What was their choice?
- Who was released to go free?
- What wrong had he done?

Maybe you're like me and wonder why Jesus didn't cry out about justice.

- What could He have said?
- What might you have said to defend Him?

I feel sorry for Peter in the court yard. He was afraid, I expect when people began to ask about who he really was – no other disciples seem to have been with him. So, like some of us, he lied. In fact, he did this three times. The third time he became very angry.

- Just then he heard a sound. What was it? He remembered something as Jesus looked at him.
- What had Peter earlier claimed to Jesus that he would never do? (Matthew: 26: 35)
- How do you think Peter felt when Jesus looked at him?

CONSIDER:

- Have you ever felt badly about yourself for something you have done, that you felt you would not do?
- How would you feel if others at school or work were to find out you are a follower of Jesus?
- How might you respond if you knew you would be mocked or treated badly because of this? That question could be hard to answer, maybe because we may not be quite sure what we might do until we are questioned. Some adults may feel like this sometimes too.
- Try asking an adult – maybe Mom or Dad or a grandparent.

BIBLE READINGS:

John 3 16, 6: 38, 8:29

One of: Mark 15, Luke 22 and John 19

Matthew: 26: 35

KID'S LINKS**Palm Sunday and the Last Supper**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SigoALSS1R8 (3:28) – Saddleback Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Edfb_faOb0 (22:33) – Superbook (Not suitable for young children)

Peter's Denial

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJte88iqfMw - (9:38) – Bible Story starts at 4:12 – Best for toddlers and preschoolers

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nHrpQc9G6k – www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4ZOmkgPyjo (25:51) – Superbook (Stop at 9:40) – Not suitable for young kids

Crucifixion – These videos also include the resurrection. If you want to stop at the crucifixion, the stopping point is next to the link.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkNTU_Vv5Ew (3:41) – The Beginner's Bible (stop at 2:08) – best for younger kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1iO1Y8Ruus (5:21) – The Story of Easter for Kids (stop at 4:02)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F0rt2AiqJY – Superbook – (Stop at 19:07) – Not suitable for young children

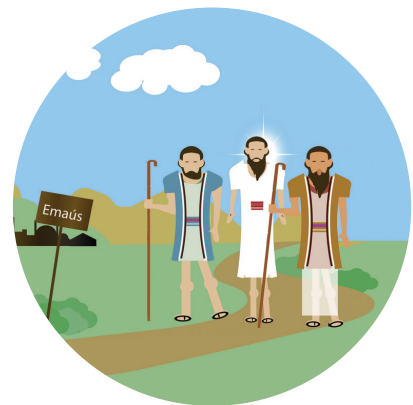
WEEK 6:**But the story doesn't end here!**

There's a surprise for two weary people who had been in Jerusalem and saw the crucifixion. They, too, had hopes that their Master would bring peace and prosperity as the early prophets had told. Now all their hopes had been taken away it seemed to them.

To prepare yourselves share this little activity:

Consider a time when you were really disappointed. You wanted something to happen but it didn't, so you felt very sad and discouraged. Someone – even a stranger maybe – suddenly brought you really great news that made you so very happy or pleased.

That's much like what happened to these two followers of Jesus as they travelled back home. Suddenly a stranger caught up with them. He didn't appear to know anything of what had happened in Jerusalem that day. How strange that seemed to them!



BIBLE READING: Luke 24:11 – 20, 28 – 31

KID'S LINK**The Road to Emmaus**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3QkZsKLU2o (4:10) – Saddleback kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=07GCSW1CQUg (6:42) – Suitable for older children

REFLECTION

- Who was this stranger?
- How did they finally recognize who this was?
- What were they eating when they recognized Him?
- Can you imagine their joy as they rushed back to Jerusalem to share the good news!

There's a touching story of Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb early morning on what we would call our Sunday. (Our Saturday was their Sabbath and no one worked then.)

BIBLE READING: John 20:11-16

KID'S LINK

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F0rt2AiqJY – Superbook – (Start at 19:07) – Not suitable for young children

REFLECTION:

- Find and read what she discovered.
- Whom did she meet?
- Who did she think it was?
- What question did she ask him?
- What word did He speak to her that told her who he really was?
- It was _____!!
- Imagine the joy Mary felt when He called her by name ... and her excitement in wanting to run and tell others!

(Peter & John had an experience much like Mary. Later you might like to read about this as well. You'll find it in your Bibles.)

BIBLE READING: Mark 16: 1-8

www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1iO1Y8Ruus (5:21) – The Story of Easter for Kids (start at 4:02)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQZyfunKkNc (1:06)

BIBLE READINGS:

Luke 24:11 – 20, 28 – 31 John 20:11-16 Mark 16: 1-8

WEEK 7:
Zeballos Cué


Back again in Paraguay you are struck with the density of the population (over 7 million), many buildings and the poverty. The density is also great for the outer suburb of Asunción called Zeballos Cué. It has a population of over **18,000** living in an area less than half of a mile square. This is about the size of 820 hockey rinks put together, or a bit bigger than 2x150 acre farms. About **70% of this population are school aged children**. Poverty is quite evident here. There are only three small schools to serve these children: one a pre-school that takes children from age 3 to 5, one government school and another small school built by the Anglican Church when they tore down the old school which takes children up to grade three. There is no school provision for children beyond grade 3 in this area. There is much inequality as many families are too poor to send their children to school.

They say that farming is a main industry – but much of the large parcels of land allocated for farming were taken by rich farmers who forced smaller farmers and indigenous people living on them off their lands. I expect many became poorer and had to move to the more rural-like areas where the poverty is greater.

There seems to be a variety of food here. I had a meal of fish (salmon), corn and other vegetables when we arrived. But I wondered how poor people could afford to eat when I learned that the wages for the average worker is about \$3.10 a day. Some would earn less. Now, please do the math.

- At that rate, what could we buy a day for \$3.10?
- How much do they earn?
 - Weekly? ($\$3.10 \times 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$) (If they work 5 days a week (some may work 6))
 - Monthly? ($\$3.10 \times 20 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$) (If they work 20 days a month).
 - Yearly? ($\$3.10 \times 240 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$) (If they work 240 days a year)
- Compare this with what you/we earn a week, month or year.
- Compare it now with your grocery shopping expenses?
- Your other expenses?
- What conclusions can you all make about how we live and spend.

I noted that there are some sports here. Young children dressed in what I thought to be uniforms were lined up in teams and were playing a kind of football with a coach. However, they played on a level gravel pit area, not a well-prepared grassy area. They all looked pretty happy.

CONSIDER:

- What do you have for playing sports that Zeballos Cué area might not have?
- How do you feel about what you have for playing sports?

I'm told that hiking, boating and fishing are popular, especially for tourists. I felt related to home when I learned that there is a fish plant here that processes a variety of fish which are sent to markets on Vancouver Island. The idea of boating and fishing puzzled me when I recalled that Paraguay is a land locked country.

- Maybe you can figure it out for me. (Discuss)

The greater problem to figure out is the problem of poverty. While there are riches in Paraguay, as a whole there is a great deal of poverty. And that is why we are here, not to solve the problem but to help alleviate it.

KID'S LINK

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZviKdAeSGE (Inside Paraguay)

THE MISSION: to improve the schooling situation so that children of poor families can also have an education which they cannot afford now. Expanding the primary school in Zeballos Cué will allow more children from poor families to attend beyond grade three and hopefully, up to grade nine as they look to the future.

STOP. Read over the bulletin from ARDFC that sets out what can be done for the families at the El Redentor School in Zeballos Cué.

CONSIDER:

- In what ways will the lives of children and families change when our plans are accomplished?

BIBLE READING: Jeremiah 29:11.

- Read God's promise to His people
- WOW!!! God intends this for all.
- We trust that as His "image bearers" you have been adding to those pop cans regularly and with joy in knowing you have helped to make this project happen.

REMEMBER to say a prayer of thanksgiving for our time together and for all that will be accomplished.

HOW TO DONATE: Once you have finished your collection in your pop can, you may add it up and write a cheque to your church, referencing ARDFC, Paraguay, OR, you may donate online at www.ardfc.ca/donate.htm. Another method is to donate by sending your cheque to ARDFC, Box 1013, Burlington, ON, L7R 4L8.

THANK YOU immensely, for taking the time to reflect on the journey this Lent. Thank you for taking the time to consider others and be a blessing to them, especially those families in Zeballos Cué, at the El Redentor school.

From all of us on the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, Canada (ARDFC)



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