

Missions Lesson

Welcome Gifts for International Students

September, Week 3

By Cindy Pelphrey

Objectives

Children will learn how God can use them to show His love by welcoming young people from other countries to America.

Materials

Items for welcome gifts such as: baskets or tins (from “dollar store”), colored tissue paper, small bags of favorite American candies, homemade cookies, Sharpie marker, small picture frame, hand towel and wash cloth, Post-It Notes, hand sanitizer, paper clips, American cup or small flag.

Decorating materials: stickers, colored markers, paper to make a card and ribbon. (See Pinterest and other resources for basket ideas.)

Preparation

Contact a college or exchange organization in your community to see if your group could prepare welcome gifts for their international students. The admissions department of the college campus and the campus missionary can assist you with information you need, such as number of students and the countries they represent. You may also want to ask how and where the gifts can be given to the students.

Prepare a list of suggested gift items and ask your children and their families to bring items for the gifts. You may want to use this project as a family missions project by letting parents not only provide items but also attend your meeting to work with their child in preparing a Welcome Gift.

Procedures

1. Invite each child to prepare a basket, box or tin and decorate it with markers, stickers, ribbon, and tissue paper.
2. Help the children make a “Welcome to America” card with a personal greeting and printed scripture. Suggested scripture: “Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples” Psalm 96:3.
3. Lead children to fill their basket/tin with some of the items suggested above.
4. Pray for the students who will receive the Welcome Gifts.
5. If school personnel allow, deliver the Welcome Gifts to students on campus.



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