SNACK: Pita Bread & Hummus

10

These are well known foods within the Middle Eastern diet. Pita Bread and hummus made from chick peas can easily be purchased from your local grocery store. Using kitchen scissors, cut the pita bread into bite sized wedges. Serve with the hummus. If you are interested in making it yourself with class participation, use this recipe below.

Ingredients: 1 can of garbanzo beans/chickpeas, drained, Reserve the liquid, 1 tbsp of lemon juice, 1 tbsp of olive oil, 1 clove of crushed garlic, ½ tsp of ground cumin, ½ tsp of salt, a few drops of sesame oil (optional)

Instructions: Blend garbanzo beans, lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, cumin, salt, and sesame oil in a food processor; add some reserved bean liquid into the mixture as it blends until it reaches desired consistency.

Source: http://allrecipes.com/

FUNdraiser: Ride-a-Thon

Farid likes riding his bicycle back home in Syria. Organize a ride-a-thon as an exciting fundraising idea. Spread the word using social media and word-of-mouth and have kids collect pledges from neighbors, friends, and family members.

The kids can design where they'll ride and will have fun mapping it all out. Ask a group of parents to supervise the event and supply plenty of food and drinks.

Source: www.punchbowl.com

PRAYER: God is Always With Us

5

Lord, we pray for peace to be upon Syria and all of the Middle East. We pray especially for the Christians who remain faithful in Lebanon while they help others and share your love.

Bless them, protect and guide them as they serve people by giving to those in need. Help us as a church in Canada to do our part in supporting them and helping wherever we can. Amen.

Contact us to order additional copies of Kids Care at:

Canadian Baptist Ministries
7185 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga ON L5N 5R4

PHONE: 905.821.3533
FAX: 905.826.3441
EMAIL: communications@cbmin.org

cbmin.org

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CBM *embracing a broken world through word & deed*

My Home Away from Home in Lebanon

PRESENTED BY

CBM

PHOTO: RANDY VANDERVEEN

KIDS CARE

LEARNING OBJECTIVE	For children to learn about caring for the refugee & person in need
BIBLE APPLICATION	Matthew 25:35-36
KEY CONCEPT	God is always with us
MISSION ADVENTURE	Lebanon

BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 25:35-36 | God is Always With Us

15

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is filled with stories that show how God wants us to care for the earth, other people, and ourselves. And he has a special heart for those in great need, such as refugees. God still takes special care of people like that today. We are all part of God's family, and together we are all children of God – that's why we have to look after each other. In these lessons, we will learn more about how we can respect and care for each other! … Read More (see *Introduction Sheet*)

BACKGROUND:

Lebanon

Lebanon's population is only 4 million, comparatively Canada has 35 million. It has a landmass that is roughly double that of our smallest province, PEI, yet Lebanon has taken on a Syrian refugee population of well over 1 million. That's one quarter of the entire population. Prior to this, Lebanon had taken on hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees. According to the UNHCR, Lebanon hosts more refugees per capita than any other country.

The burden on resources for this nation is massive, and the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD) cannot carry out their mission alone. The LSESD needs support from the global church as they minister with Christ's compassion bringing new hope to those who have suffered great loss.

CBM partners with the LSESD, to provide relief for refugees. There are currently over 20 such projects running across Lebanon, Syria and Iraq providing food on a monthly basis, medical assistance and non-food items such as hygiene kits. Other items such as milk and diapers for small children, kitchen utensils, blankets, mattresses, heaters, and water filters are made available to thousands of families in need.

LSESD has also been enabling local churches to run Christian camps, as well as provide educational support and activities for refugee children. Most of the children being helped would not otherwise be able to go to school. Despite the difficult circumstances these children face, education is the means by which they can be empowered to find a more secure and better future.

There are many psychological challenges these children deal with as a result of the trauma of violent conflict. Child friendly spaces have been provided in Lebanon and Syria in an effort to help them heal from their experiences.

PHOTO: RANDY VANDERVEEN

FUN FACTS:

- Lebanon is one of the oldest nations in the world having existed for about 4,000 years; the original meaning of its name is "white".
- Its capital, Beirut, is often compared with a phoenix as it was destroyed and rebuilt several times.
- Lebanon is famous for its cedar trees which appears often in the Old Testament. The Lebanon cedar is the national emblem and can be seen on the country flag and on the coat of arms. Unfortunately, extensive logging has dwindled cedar forests to just a fraction of its original size.
- The main religions are Islam and Christianity, though there are also many others. About 35-40% are Christians, which is the highest proportion of Christians in an Arab Country.

Sources: www.interestingfunfacts.com, www.atozkidsstuff.com, www.bbc.com

MISSION ADVENTURE STORY:

My Home Away from Home in Lebanon

10

Hi, my name is Farid*. I am 10 years old. About three years ago, my family had to leave our home in Syria because of the war. There was so much fighting and bombing. We were very scared. Some children would run and hide when they heard airplanes coming.

We rode a bus for many hours until we arrived at the border of Lebanon. Along the way we saw more fighting and things exploding around us. It was a scary journey. Lebanon is now our new home but there are things that I still miss from my home in Syria, like riding my bicycle and playing in the park. My older sister misses visiting with grandfather and our cousins. We don't have any relatives here.

My dad misses his work. He used to repair shoes but here in Lebanon it is hard for him to find a job. My dad worries all the time about having enough money to pay the rent. We have had to move several times. Sometimes my dad works in the field, picking grapes, vegetables and other fruit, but in winter there is no work for him. Many families can't afford the rent and stay instead in tents in camps out in the fields. We live in a building that used to be a stable. It is very small and run down but we are thankful for this place.

We are so happy that people from a church visit us and care about our problems. They help families like ours in many ways, like giving food, blankets, mattresses, clothes, and even heaters and fuel for the cold in the winter. Many families have arrived in Lebanon with nothing, just the clothes they are wearing.

The thing that my older sister and I like the most here in Lebanon is our school. We like studying English and Arabic. We also like our Sunday school at church. We like learning about Jesus. My sister likes to sing. Her new favourite song is about having strength in Jesus. We are fortunate to be in school. Many other refugee children are not able to go to school and have nothing to do. We like the parties that the church arranges for all of us. We play games and there are skits and treats. It's a lot of fun.

At Sunday school, we have learned to pray to Jesus about our problems. I pray for healing, that Jesus will heal us when we are sick. My sister prays for Syria, that Jesus will make it better so that we can return.

*Not his real name. Story based on an interview with a boy and his family along with several other refugee families who have fled over the last three years from Syria. They continue to live in Lebanon.

PHOTO: RANDY VANDERVEEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Farid have to leave his home? *(The war in Syria brought fighting and bombings, and it was not safe.)*
2. Where do some refugees live if they can't afford rent or a small room? *(In refugee camps, where people often live in tents.)*
3. How has the Church helped Farid's family? *(They visit and encourage them, give them things they need like food, blankets, clothes, heaters. They also go to Sunday school and learn about Jesus.)*
4. How can your church or class help families in your community? *(Make a list of their suggestions and pick one to work on over the next year as a class or church; alternatively, encourage kids/families to volunteer at services that already exist.)*

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY:

The thing that Farid and his sister like the most in Lebanon is the chance to go to school. What do you like best about your school? *(Have children draw a picture of their school and share what they like doing most at school. Encourage the class to share their drawings and their answers afterwards. Post their pictures up.)*

ACTIVITY:

Mosaic Flag

10

The cedar tree is symbolized in the Lebanese flag. One popular art form in the Middle East is the use of mosaic – small coloured glass or stones assembled together to create an image.

Using the print out of the Lebanese flag, cut coloured paper, gather buttons, beads or other small items and let the children glue these to the flag accordingly. The top and bottom bands are red, the cedar tree in the middle is green.

For younger children, you can have them simply colour the sheet using crayons or markers.