

Encanto Family Fun Night

Hola! Welcome to Encanto Family Fun Night! You are welcome to use this as a resource to lead your family in some fun activities at home, or do with several families as a family fun night at your church. These activities are designed to bring some realities of Colombia to life, while also helping kids connect to their faith, and consider what gifts we can share with the world. Vamos!

Activity 1: Cook Arepas like Julieta

Arepas are an easy recipe to make together as a family. Try out this recipe from [My Colombian Recipes](#). This recipe makes four arepas. Buen provecho!

INGREDIENTS

1 cup pre-cooked white or yellow arepa flour or cornmeal ([like this](#))

1 cup warm water

½ cup white or mozzarella cheese grated

2 tbsp butter

Pinch salt

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine the cornmeal, warm water, cheese, 1 tbsp butter and salt, mixing thoroughly. Let mixture stand for five minutes.

Knead with your hands for about 3 minutes moistening your hands with water as you work.

Form 4 small balls with the dough. Place each ball between 2 plastic bags and with a flat pot flatten to ½ inch.

Add the butter to a nonstick pan over medium heat. Place the arepas in the pan, and cook about 3 minutes on each side, until a crust forms or they are golden brown.

Activity 2: Connecting the Bible to Encanto

Read Exodus 14:5-10, 13-18, 21-22

NRSV translation:

“When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?” So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord.

But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left."

This is a story from the Bible. Do any parts of this story sound similar to something that happened in Encanto? What do you notice in the story?

(Examples: The Israelites were trying to flee a situation, just like the Madrigal family. They were found while they were trying to get to safety. Each group had a miracle come to them.)

Activity 3: Paz in Colombia

What happened to the Madrigal family in Encanto has been happening in Colombia for a long time. Families sometimes need to leave their homes to find safety and peace. Peace is a very important topic in Colombia today. Read this letter from 10-year-old Nicolas:

Hola! My name is Nicolás. I am 10 years old and live in Cali, Colombia. I like helping my parents around the house, playing soccer, and spending time with my cat. I also really like going for walks with my friends. At church I really enjoy the music, and I feel good when I learn more about the teachings of Jesus. Sometimes we get to take special trips to the countryside and play hide and seek. It's so much fun. Sometimes the pastor lets me read something in worship or help with collecting the offerings, that makes me feel really good when I can be helpful.

Paz (peace) is so important to me. In my country there is so much violence, and the word peace reminds me that a new and different world will come. A world that will be better. A world without so much bad news. My favorite way to show peace is to help other people, I think this shows the love of God to others, and not just to the person we help. I see peace in so many places, sometimes it's as simple as sitting down with my family and praying together before we eat.

I would ask you to pray for there to be more peace in my country, and peace all over.

Can you say a prayer together for Nicolas, his family, and peace in Colombia and around the world?

Every year to mark International Day of Peace on September 21st there is a Pan y Paz march in Bogota, the capitol of Colombia, where people march through the streets with loaves of bread and chant, we need peace like we need bread. Global Ministries partners in Colombia are working for peace. [Learn more about peace and justice ministries in Colombia here.](#)

Activity 4: Gifts

What gifts can you share?

The Madrigal family has so many amazing gifts! What special gifts or talents can you share with your family, community and world?

Have a family talent show where each person must share a gift or talent they have. This can be anything from showing what a good sharer, singer, soccer player, crawler, jumper, dancer, or funny-face-maker you are! Everyone has something special to share.

What gifts do you see?

Sometimes it can be hard to see our own gifts. Go around the room and explain what gifts you appreciate about your family members and friends.

Activity 5: Discussion Questions

For all ages:

Which member of the Madrigal family felt the most like you? Why do you think that is?

What parts of Colombian culture did you notice in this story? What questions do you have about where Mirabel and her family live?

Why do you think it is important to work together as a family?

Lots of kids love this movie because they can see themselves in the characters. Why might that be important to someone?

What are some ways that we can work to appreciate each other's differences?

What images of God did you see in this film? Perhaps the candle, the butterflies, the casita, or others?

For older ages:

Magical Realism, which has its origins in Latin American Literature, is a style of literary fiction and art that includes magical elements in the midst of an otherwise real-world setting. Did you see elements of magical realism in the Encanto film? If so, where?

Why does representation behind the camera matter as much as in front of the camera? While most of the movie's cast and musicians are Colombian, the filmmakers themselves aren't. How could a Colombian filmmaker have changed and enriched the film?

This story is set against the backdrop of a violent conflict in which the Madrigal family, like so many in Colombia's half century long conflict, were forced to flee their home and their patriarch Pedro was killed. How to you talk with your family about violence and how to respond to violence in your country?

Learn more about the work that Global Ministries partners are doing to [work for peace with justice in Colombia](#).