



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA



Mission Banks

A stewardship and mission resource

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” —Hebrews 13:2

NAZARETH VILLAGE

MODELING JESUS' HOSPITALITY

Packet contents

- Introduction and background information
- Three story cards, for use in worship or Sunday school
- Children's prayer card

Introduction for children

Nazareth is a city in northern Israel in the Middle East. Thousands of years ago, it was a small, agricultural town, where about 500 people lived. The name might sound familiar, because that's where Jesus grew up! But the town didn't grow in popularity until after Jesus was crucified.

Today, almost 80,000 people live in Nazareth, and each year, thousands of Christians come to visit. Although Nazareth is now known as a center for technology in the Middle East, its small-town roots aren't forgotten. A place called Nazareth Village tries to show what Jesus' home was like 2,000 years ago.

Nazareth Village is located on the last bit of undeveloped farmland in Nazareth—less than half a mile from where scholars say Jesus' home was! The city of Nazareth sits in a

valley with hills all around. To the west is the Mediterranean Sea and to the east is the Sea of Galilee. Do you remember Bible stories that happened near each of these seas? (See Matthew 4:18, where Jesus calls his first disciples, or John 6:1, when Jesus feeds 5,000 people.)

In the time of Jesus, most people in Nazareth had physical jobs. They were shepherds, fishermen, farmers or carpenters. There were not many people in Nazareth who had a lot of money, but most people had what they needed.

The type of job a person had often meant that they ate more of one kind of food. If your dad was a fisherman, it meant that you probably ate a lot of fish. If he was an olive farmer, then you probably ate a lot of olives. Other common foods were goat cheese and wine made from grapes. But bread was served at every meal. Knowing this, what do you think Jesus meant when he said, “I am the bread of life?” (John 6:35)

Nazareth Village is full of volunteers who live and work as Jesus did thousands of years ago. The village includes ancient olive and grape presses, first-century pottery and carpentry workshops, farms, houses and markets. There's even a synagogue like the one where Jesus worshiped God!

Using mission bank teaching tools

These teaching tools are used in conjunction with the globe-shaped mission banks provided by Mennonite Mission Network. Banks for children can be ordered online at www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank.

For more resources about Nazareth Village, visit www.MennoniteMission.net/NazarethMissionBank.

Mission banks teach children mission-focused stewardship. The teaching tools show children how God is at work in Nazareth Village and what mission can mean in a child's own context.

Material for teachers

Story cards

Included in this packet are three story cards. These stories from Nazareth can be shared with children during worship, Sunday school, or other gathering times. After reading these stories together, invite children to reflect on how they might model Jesus' hospitality with people around them and around the world.

Recipes—pita bread and hummus

In the Bible, Jesus calls us to love our neighbors. He modeled this through hospitality when he prepared and ate meals with others. Who are some of the people that Jesus ate with? (Luke 19:1–7, John 21:4–14)

Pita and hummus were common food in Jesus' day. Use these easy recipes to show what hospitality looked like in the time of Jesus.

Pita bread

- 1 package of yeast
- 1/2 c warm water
- 3 c all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- 1 c lukewarm water

Dissolve yeast in 1/2 cup of warm water. Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Let sit for 10–15 minutes until water is frothy.

Combine flour and salt in large bowl. Add yeast water to the flour. Slowly add 1 cup of warm water, and stir until elastic.

Place dough on floured surface and knead for 10-15 minutes. When the dough is no longer sticky and is smooth and elastic, it has been successfully kneaded.

Coat large bowl with vegetable oil and place dough in bowl. Turn dough upside down so all of the dough is coated. Allow dough to sit in a warm place until it has doubled in size (2-3 hours).

Once doubled, roll out into a rope, and pinch off 10-12 small

pieces. Place balls on floured surface. Cover, and let sit for 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 500 degrees Fahrenheit and make sure rack is at the very bottom of oven. Be sure to also preheat your baking sheet.

Roll out with a rolling pin each ball of dough into circles. Each should be about 5-6 inches across and 1/4 inch thick.

Bake each circle for 4 minutes until the bread puffs up. Turn over and bake for 2 minutes. Remove each pita from the baking sheet and add additional pitas for baking. Take spatula and gently push down puff. Immediately place in storage bags.

Hummus

- 15-oz can (425 grams) chickpeas, also called garbanzo beans
- 1/4 c fresh lemon juice (about 1 large lemon)
- 1/4 c tahini (optional, but recommended)
- Half of a large garlic clove, minced
- 2 T olive oil, plus more for serving
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 to 3 T water
- Dash of ground paprika for serving

In a food processor, combine tahini and lemon juice. Process for 1 minute. Add olive oil, garlic, cumin and salt. Process for 1 minute. Scrape the inside of the food processor.

Open can of chickpeas, drain liquid, and rinse with water. Add half of the chickpeas to the food processor. Process for 1 minute. Add remaining chickpeas and process for 1 to 2 minutes or until thick and smooth. If hummus is too thick, with the food processor turned on, slowly add 2 to 3 tablespoons of water until desired consistency.

Serve, drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with paprika.

Giving project

Sometimes it may be difficult for us to understand Jesus' stories, because our life today is much different from the village farm culture of Jesus' time. While visitors experience Jesus' culture at Nazareth Village, they also hear his words. In that way, Jesus' teachings really come alive! Your offerings will help Christians in Nazareth share the life and love of Jesus with thousands of visitors each year!

\$500 helps to build a study center, where students, teachers and pastors can come to spend time learning about Jesus' life in Nazareth.

\$100 helps Nazareth Village stay open for a day.

\$50 helps Nazareth Village purchase one lamb for the farm.

\$15 allows one person to visit Nazareth Village to see how Jesus lived.

Did you know?

- Nazareth is located in the State of Israel. Where have you heard about Nazareth in the Bible?
- Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages in Israel, but more than 80 languages are spoken there. How many languages can you name?
- Christians are a minority in Nazareth, and make up less than 5 percent of the population of Israel. When have you been in the minority? How does it feel?

Giving project display idea

For your offering project, consider creating a small-scale version of your own first-century village. For every \$5 or \$10 you raise (based on what seems reasonable), add a new building or piece to your village. This can be done with paper (2D) or you could use clay or cardboard to create a 3D village.

For paper cut-outs that you can use to create a village, or to donate your offering, visit www.MennoniteMission.net/NazarethMissionBank.





Using mission banks

Please follow these guidelines as you use Mennonite Mission Network's mission banks to support God's work in Nazareth.

Use of banks—*The globe-shaped mission banks are specifically designed to be used alongside the mission bank teaching tool packets produced by Mennonite Mission Network. These packets always focus on one country or region where Mission Network ministry is taking place. In these packets you can find:*

- Stories about Mennonite Mission Network ministry happening in that area.
- A giving project.
- Activities, songs and recipes to help children engage the country's or region's culture.
- Videos and PowerPoint presentations that help to put a face on each country and the giving project.

Age range and cost—Mission banks are a fun way for children and congregations to learn together about stewardship and generosity, and to hear stories about the ways that God is working around the world. Because we want each child to be able to participate in this learning experience, banks are offered free of charge to all Mennonite Church USA children in grades K-6 from January 1–March 31 every year. Banks can also be ordered throughout the year for \$4.95 per bank.

Resources—Along with each teaching tool packet, we also post extra resources online. Check back often at www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank for new pictures and ideas for mission education.

Other uses—Stewardship and mission education are not just important for children; they are important for the whole church. Consider giving one globe bank to each household, or sharing stories from the Mission Network teaching tool packets during

worship. Invite all members of your congregation to pray and support Mission Network personnel around the world.

Gift designation—Mennonite Mission Network supports workers and partners all around the world. You may wish to consider using your banks to also support Mennonite Mission Network service participants from your congregation, or to raise support for a Mission Network worker that your congregation is connected with.

Collecting funds—Congregations are asked to collect the funds contributed through the mission banks and to send a check payable to Mennonite Mission Network, with **"Mission Banks: Nazareth Village"** or **"Project #1428"** written in the check memo line. Congregations may decide to participate with other congregations in bringing the total collected to a cluster or area conference gathering. Then funds may be disbursed in the same manner as above.

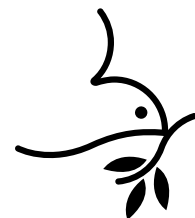
If you have other questions about how to use your Mission Network mission banks, or would like to order more teaching tool packets, please contact us at MissionBank@MennoniteMission.net or 1-866-866-2872.

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