

Super Summer: Paletero Man

This lesson is designed for preschool and above. It uses a wonderful book about a little boy, living in Los Angeles, who goes to buy a “paleta” or popsicle from Paletero José (pronounced “Hohsay” - emphasis on the second syllable). In the end, José gives everyone in the community free paletas. It wonderfully illustrates how to love our neighbors in summer. Information is included at the end telling more about the setting of the story. An optional activity tied to the Bible and early church is also available.

Objectives

- Children will match various colored popsicles to popsicle sticks and stick them in the paleta cart.
- Listen and discuss the book *Paletero Man*.
- Describe how they can love their neighbors this summer.
- Explore Centers and participate in Special Activities.

Materials

Mascot (a puppet or stuffed animal of your choice) with a cart, felt or cardstock popsicles, craft sticks, book: *Paletero Man* by Lucky Diaz, Paletas sign, packaging tape, “Loving our Neighbors in Summer” chart, Center materials, popsicles, Sharpie, phone or tablet, United States puzzle

Optional objects: Bible figures (see photo for ideas), Bible

Ahead of time: Gather a cart, craft sticks, the book, washable paint, cups, brushes, smocks, paper, summer books, and felt to make the popsicles (if choosing to do so). (The cart in the photos is a child’s wheelbarrow.) Print out the Paletas sign and the chart (p 4), and make copies of the popsicle pattern (enough for each color shown in the photo). You can either use the pattern to sew simple popsicles or print out on cardstock, color, and laminate for durability. (The ones in the photo were found in Target’s dollar section a while ago). Write the color words, using the corresponding colored Sharpies on the craft sticks. Purchase popsicles to have as a special treat. Tape the sign on the cart.

Place the mascot in the cart.

Introduction

- Sing the [Welcome Song](#).
- **Show** the children the cart, felt popsicles, sticks, and mascot.
- **Ask:** “What are these things?” (Mascot has a cart and pretend popsicles).

- **Invite** each child to have a turn matching the popsicle to the stick. If there are more children than popsicles, then take a few apart so everyone has a chance.
- **Point** to the sign.
- **Say:** “‘Paleta’ means popsicle in Spanish.”

Lesson

Main Point: Just like Jose, we can also love our neighbors in summer.

- **Show** the children the book.
- **Read** the title.
- **Say:** “A paletero man is someone who sells popsicles using a cart.”
- **Read** the book to the children.
- **Ask:** “Can you tell me something you learned from this story? How did the people help the little boy? How did Paletero José help his neighbors? How did the little boy help his neighbors, too? How do you think the people felt about getting paletas?” (open-ended questions)

Optional Bible Lesson

- **Hold** up the Bible.
- **Say:** “After Jesus left to go to heaven and the Holy Spirit came to live in people, those same people loved their neighbors so much. They shared food and their money, and even took care of children who didn’t have families.*
- **Act** out using the figures.

**Both the book of Acts and early church writings indicate this is what Christians did. It was quite counter-cultural for that time. The main culture was quite surprised they did these things.*

Closure/Music and Movement

- **Show** the children the chart.
- **Read** the title aloud.
- **Think about:** “How can we love our neighbors this summer?” (Take a minute to think).
- **Children** can share their ideas while you write on the chart using a Sharpie. (If children are unsure, you can dramatize things as a way to help them).
- **Dance** to Mariachi music.

Center Time

Children may play in centers. Place the cart in dramatic play along with the popsicles. Someone should supervise both Manipulatives and Art and Writing. (See photos for more of an explanation).

1. Dramatic Play: summer dress-ups and doll clothes, frozen treats/ice cream, summer beach and picnic items
2. Blocks: Duplo playsets and figures that tie to the themes presented.

3. Manipulatives: summer puzzles, sand play, colorful beehive sorting activity, sink and float activity, water play
4. Books: ocean stuffed animals, books
5. Art and Writing Center:
Provide paint, paper, paint cups, brushes, (easel), and books that depict fun things to do with neighbors in summer. Invite the children to research an idea using the books, and then select a topic to paint. Then, they can paint what they like to do with their neighbors.

Special Activities

Provide popsicles for the children to eat. Together, put together the puzzle of the United States. Point out Los Angeles, California (the setting of the story) and where you live on the map. Look at the pictures of the book more closely and find films on YouTube or pictures on Google that show what Tamales, flower stalls, Korean BBQ, paletas, LA parks and streets look like. For further activity, children may draw pictures of those places using crayons and paper.

Paletas Sign:

Paletas

How can we love our neighbors in summer?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Photos:

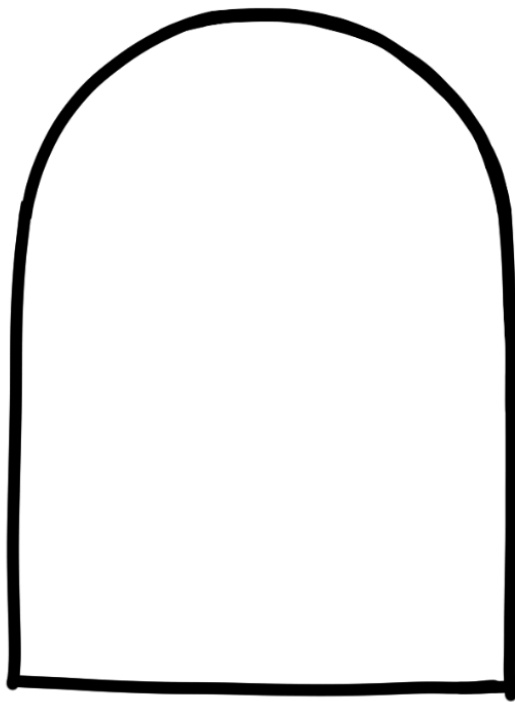








Popsicle Pattern:



QR Codes for Links:



Welcome Song

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=si-k1sqvbO0>