

WEEK 2: GUATEMALA

DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Jesus spent years working as a carpenter. Work is important to help people fulfill their potential. And everyone must receive a fair wage to provide for themselves and their families.

STORY OF HOPE

In the village of Xequemeyá, Guatemala, malnutrition is high, which is especially dangerous for children. The community also struggles with water scarcity, poor education, poverty and a changing climate. But Raúl and Lilian Chanchavac believe all this can be overcome.

They started growing tomatoes, but plant diseases and other problems destroyed their crops. They pushed onward.

Lilian heard about Catholic Relief Services' SEGAMIL program and how they could receive agriculture training and nutrition education for their children. They learned to manage and care for their farm. Raúl and Lilian added onions, chili peppers and oranges to their crops.

They then entered CRS' Nuestra Cosecha program that helped them register with the government to begin selling their produce to local schools. Soon, they hired family and community members to harvest and pack the food. Today, they are proud to be able to help others in their community—especially children.



Photo by Erick Josue Hernandez for CRS

justice. The national symbol is in the center of the flag and includes the image of the national bird called “Quetzal,” which is also the name of Guatemala’s currency.

- CRS has been providing humanitarian assistance in Guatemala since 1963, supporting food security, nutrition, health, agriculture, education, disaster risk reduction and emergency response programs.

FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- The official language of Guatemala is Spanish, although it has 24 indigenous languages, including Nahuatl. The name Guatemala means “land of many trees” in Nahuatl. The country, slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, is in Central America and shares a border with Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize.
- The Guatemalan flag has three stripes: the two blue ones represent the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the east. The white stripe in the middle represents the nation, peace, faith and



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch the video from Week 2 at crsricebowl.org/stories.

DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Raúl and Lilian in Guatemala, students will explore the Catholic social teaching principle of The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. They'll learn how they can uphold the dignity of others.

MATERIALS

- Week 2 story and video—available at crsricebowl.org/stories.
- Week 2 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.

DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Locate Guatemala on the map.
2. Read the story from Week 2. Use the video to supplement the story.
3. Reflect:
 - What did you find interesting in the story?
 - What is malnutrition?
 - Why did Raúl and Lilian decide to hire people from their community to help with their business?
 - How do you see the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers upheld in the story?

ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the Catholic social teaching principle of The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. Share how work is important to help people fulfill their potential, and that everyone must be paid fairly to provide for themselves and their families.
2. Have students complete the Week 2 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.
3. If time permits, ask students to share their sketches with a partner or the entire class.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

An excerpt from Pope Francis' prayer for workers:

God our Father,

We pray to you for workers everywhere.

We pray for those who work with their hands and with immense physical effort. Grant that the fruits of their work may ensure a dignified life to their families. May they come home at night to warmth, comfort and encouragement and together, under your gaze, find true joy.

Touch the hearts of owners and managers. May they make every effort to ensure that workers receive a just wage and enjoy conditions respectful of their human dignity.

Father, in your mercy, take pity on those who lack work. May unemployment disappear from our societies. May all know the joy and dignity of earning their daily bread and bringing it home to support their loved ones.

Amen

AT HOME

1. Share your activity sheet with your family.
2. As a family, read and discuss the daily reflection in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE

**10
MINUTES**

1. Read the story from Week 2. Use the video to supplement the story.
2. Lead Discussion step 3.

Name: _____

Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8



WEEK 2

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What does the term "healthy living" mean? What kind of activities, habits and behaviors does it include?
Design a mural for healthy living. Sketch your ideas for a mural in the box below.