

Cinco de Mayo Hospitality

By Jim Merhaut



Hospitality is an essential Christian practice. Families can't nurture friendships without it. Churches can't accomplish their mission without it. Communities can't live in peace without it. Mexican immigration is one of the biggest stories of the 21st century. This activity will help you express your faith by learning about Mexican culture and promoting a hospitable spirit in your home.

For

Adult/Couple


Season

Spring

Needed

Ingredients to prepare authentic Mexican foods (see recipes at [Traditional Mexican Recipes](#)); decorations that reflect Mexican culture (do an Internet search for "Mexican decorations" for ideas); piñata, wrapped candies or other treats, broomstick, blindfold; Mexican True or False worksheet (see last page)



 by [maveric2003](#)

Prepare in Advance

- If you are not familiar with Cinco de Mayo, learn more at [Cinco de Mayo Article](#).
- Pick a date and time for a Cinco de Mayo party as close to May 5 as possible.
- Invite the guests.
- Plan the menu and prepare food.
- Fill the piñata with wrapped candies or treats and hang it in a place where it will be safe to swing at it.
- Make a copy of Mexican True or False worksheet (see last page).
- Option: plan a game or two to play from [Traditional Mexican Games](#).

Activity Plan

1. Welcome your guests. As you gather to eat, say:

The Bible is filled with stories and teachings about being hospitable. Jesus summarized the importance of hospitality when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). Our country has been settled by immigrants from many places. At this time in our history, many immigrants are from Mexico, and we are celebrating their culture today. Jesus calls us to see his face in the faces of everyone who is a stranger in a new land. Please join me in prayer:

Gracious and welcoming God, thank you for the blessings of friends, family, and community. Be with all who are journeying to a new country and grant them safe travel. Fill our hearts with your love and compassion, so that we might celebrate the arrival of immigrants in our community and extend them hospitality in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. As your meal winds down, read aloud each of the items on the Mexican True or False worksheet and invite guests to say if each is true or false. The person with the highest number of correct responses gets to take the first swing at the piñata. Move to the piñata and have guests take turns wearing the blindfold and swinging at it until it breaks open.
3. As guests depart, give each one a blessing such as "God bless you, (name)."
4. As you clean up, give thanks to God for the gifts of time and friends and ponder what you've learned about hospitality.



Mexican True or False

1. Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day. (False – September 16th is Mexico's Independence Day. Cinco de Mayo celebrates a Mexican victory over invading French forces at the city of Puebla in 1862.)
2. The full name of Mexico is: United Mexican States. (True.)
3. Spanish is the world's third most spoken language. (False – English is third. Spanish is second. Chinese is first.)
4. Type O blood is the type hospitals need most. About 60% of Hispanics have type O blood compared to 45% of Caucasians. (True.)
5. Chiles, corn, and chocolate were introduced to the world by Mexico. (True.)
6. Mexicans are the second largest Hispanic group in the United States. (False – Mexicans are the largest Hispanic group in the United States.)
7. The National University of Mexico is the oldest university in North America. (True.)
8. The United States is the seventh largest Hispanic country in the world. (False – The United States is the fifth largest Hispanic country in the world.)
9. The border between Mexico and the United States is the largest border in the world. (False – It is the second largest border after the border between the United States and Canada.)
10. The Mexican flag has three stripes colored green, white, and red. (True.)

