

## WEEK 3: EL SALVADOR

### CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Humans are social by nature. We need each other. Like the early disciples, we are called to come together and grow as a community—in our classrooms, church and families.

#### STORIES OF HOPE

In Sandra's home in Morazán, El Salvador, everyone helps with the chores by lighting the firewood to cook, making breakfast or grinding corn.

Santos, Sandra's husband, is a farmer, but extreme weather has reduced his harvests and, therefore, his income. Seeking to earn extra money, Sandra began selling food. When she heard about a Catholic Relief Services project on raising chickens, she didn't hesitate to join. She learned about preparing food for chickens and how to vaccinate them.

Sandra began to apply her knowledge with the chickens provided by the project. Now her family has access to their own eggs, saving them money on food. Sandra wants to support other families so she teaches them everything she has learned.

Our Catholic faith teaches us all people should participate in society, seeking the well-being of all, especially that of our sisters and brothers in need, just as Sandra does.

#### FACTS TO CONSIDER

- El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America, with more than 6 million people living there. The country has 14 administrative divisions called departments.
- Deforestation—when trees are cut down or removed—puts El Salvador at risk to natural disasters. The country is the second most deforested in the Western Hemisphere.



- The Prospera project—in which Sandra Amaya participated—focuses on improving food security of the most vulnerable households located in Morazán and two other departments in El Salvador, so that they can recover from the impact of COVID-19 and the losses suffered due to drought and other extreme weather events from climate change.



For downloadable photos, visit [crsricebowl.org/photos](https://crsricebowl.org/photos) and watch the video at [crsricebowl.org/stories](https://crsricebowl.org/stories).

## CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

45 MINUTES

### OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Sandra in El Salvador, students will learn about the Catholic social teaching principle of Call to Family, Community and Participation and consider what community means and why it is important to share our gifts with others.

### MATERIALS

- Week 3 story and video, available at [crsricebowl.org/stories](http://crsricebowl.org/stories).
- A map of the world.
- A ball of yarn.

### DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

1. Locate El Salvador on the map. What other countries are nearby? How close is El Salvador to your home?
2. Read the story from week 3. Use the video to supplement the story.
3. Reflect:
  - Who did we meet in this story?
  - Why do you think Sandra decided to teach other families what she learned?
  - What does it mean to be part of a community?

### ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the principle of Call to Family, Community and Participation: We, human beings, are social by nature and God invites us to come together as a community, whether in our classroom, workplace or family. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to work together, share our gifts and look out for one another.
2. Gather everyone in the middle of the room. Give one student the ball of yarn and instruct him or her to hold onto the end of the string and throw the ball to another student. While tossing the ball, invite the student to say one thing he or she could do to help the person catching it. The student catching the ball should hold onto a section of the yarn and then throw the ball to another student, while naming a way to

help that person. Repeat until everyone is holding a piece of the yarn.

3. Before you put the yarn away, invite students to observe how interconnected everyone in the circle is.
4. Explain that it is easy to see how we are interconnected to everyone in our class because we see each other on a regular basis.
5. Explain that the class is a community. Ask students to name other examples of community. Write their answers on the board.

### CLOSING PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

As Catholics, our community includes those who have gone before us. One of the ways we can ask them to pray for us is through a litany of the saints.

1. Encourage each student to name a saint who is special to them, inviting the whole class to respond, "Pray for us."
2. Conclude the litany by praying: "All you holy men and women, Saints of God, pray for us."
3. Pray the Our Father together.

### AT HOME

1. Explain to your family the activity of the ball of yarn and see if, as a family, you can think of examples of community other than the ones mentioned in class.
2. Discuss how you can participate in community service as a family.
3. As a family, read and discuss the daily reflection found in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

### IF YOU ONLY HAVE



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