



Kids Care Lesson 2

# Chagas Prevention in Bolivia

## MAIN POINT

**God is good.**  
*He cares that our  
bodies are healthy!*

## SCRIPTURE

“Know that the Lord is  
God, it is he who made  
us and we are  
his people.”

Psalm 100:3a

## BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

CBM has a Chagas prevention project which aims to reduce disease and mortality due to Chagas disease. This is done through training and prevention interventions in communities with high rates of infection. They train families, work to identify and treat those infected, and renovate houses to prevent the spread of vinchucas (the bugs that carry the disease) inside the house.



**Kids Care Vids:** Download educational videos – created by kids for kids – to better engage your Sunday school students as you teach the God is Good lessons.

There are 3 videos - watch for the Kids Vids symbols throughout the lesson to indicate when to play them. *Please note, these are completely optional!*



OPENING DISCUSSION: 2 MIN

## What kinds of bugs do you get inside your house?

Maybe you've seen ants, beetles, spiders or flies. Have you ever gotten a bug bite from one of these? What happens when it bites you?

In Bolivia there is a bug called the vinchuca that people find in their homes and they might get bitten by it. This kind of bug is a dangerous one and it gives people Chagas disease. Sometimes people don't even know they've been bitten until they get sick.



STORY: 5 MIN

## Meet Edwin and his family

Edwin, his wife Camila and their four children, who are between the ages of 13 to 21, live in Tipa K'asa Municipality of Mizque where they farm.

*Edwin: Our house was an adobe wall dwelling. Earth would all everywhere and there were many cracks in the walls. This allowed for the Vinchuca bug to get in and our family was exposed to the Chagas disease. When the project was done our house was renovated. Now it does not have those cracks for the Chagas bugs to live.*

*Camila: Our house is very beautiful now, I like it a lot! It is much cleaner and we are happier. There are no vinchuca.*



*Edwin: Our community has many people that do not know or want to know Christ. We were some of these people until the project happened and our house was transformed. Then we were willing to learn about God. Our family has decided to follow Christ. I love to learn more about God and we are getting baptized.*

*Camila: Now we share the gospel with our neighbours and we have brought them to the church. When the neighbours see how the house changed from before and then church meetings happen in our home, we see the community change as they learn more about God, too.*

*I want to thank the people who have helped us and our community. God bless you.*

DISCUSSION: 3 MIN

## General questions

- What are the bugs that carry disease in Bolivia? (*Vinchuca*)
- What are the people doing to protect themselves from the bugs? (*Fixing their homes*)
- How does fixing houses and training people to keep safe show God's love? (*It shows that God cares about their health and protecting them from harm*)

## Additional questions for older kids

- Why are home renovations so important in addressing the problem? (*Getting rid of cracks or crumbling houses stops the bugs from finding places to live inside*)
- How does protecting the community against the bugs share the gospel with them? (*fixing the houses is a visible sign of transformation and people start opening their hearts to hearing the Gospel, the buildings offer safe places to meet and talk about God*)

ARTS & CRAFTS: 12 MIN

## Bugs and Houses

**Supplies:** paper · pencil crayons/  
markers · airdry clay



### Bugs that Bite

Vinchucas carry Chagas disease. This disease might start with flu-like symptoms but if it goes untreated it can result in heart damage, digestive issues, or other severe issues. Chagas disease can be treated if it is caught in time. The vinchuca is an insect with 6 legs, a cone-shaped head and thin antennas. Its body is usually black or dark brown with yellow, red or orange stripes around the edges. It does not have wings. Their bites might not hurt, so someone might not know they've been bitten until they get sick. Vinchucas usually come out at night.

1. Give everyone paper and something to draw with.  
Draw some bugs that we have around us.
2. Discuss: Which of those bugs bite? Which bugs do we need to be careful of because they carry disease? (*Ticks, mosquitoes*)

### Adobe houses

1. **House with cracks:** Give each person a chunk of clay. Work the clay until it starts to dry out and crack. Make it into a house shape. *See the cracks in the house? This is similar to adobe houses when it gets old or worn. These cracks are perfect places for vinchucas to make their homes and multiply.*
2. **Renovated house:** Wet the clay or give them a new chunk and form the house again. Smooth any cracks with water. *When the houses are fixed or renovated, they can get rid of the cracks. Now there is nowhere for the vinchucas to live! By taking care of the houses they can protect themselves. Plus, others in the community can see how the houses have been fixed and maybe start asking questions to learn more about how they can protect themselves and even hear about Jesus!*

### Addressing the problem

What is CBM doing and seeing?

- Helping communities renovate the buildings so vinchucas don't live in the houses.
- Providing training for families.
- Identifying people who are infected and providing treatment.
- The community is transformed and now Bible studies are held in the homes of those that received help. Other families come and the news keeps spreading. The whole community can see the change, and they see that the family is different because they know Christ.

## SNACK

### Humintas

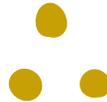
A Bolivian corn cake.

#### Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt or seasoning salt
- 2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoon anise seeds (substitute with star anise, fennel seed or caraway seed)
- 2 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 cans creamed corn
- 1 cup melted butter
- 2 boxes corn muffin mix
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups grated mozzarella

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F and grease a 9x13 glass or metal baking pan.
2. Beat eggs with sugar until creamy.
3. Add salt, cinnamon, anise seed, chili powder, corn and butter. Mix well.
4. Add muffin mixes, cheese and baking powder. Mix well.
5. Pour into pan and bake 45-60 min (check for browning) then lower temperature to 350°F for 15 minutes.
6. Turn off oven and leave for 10 minutes.
7. Remove from oven, let cool.  
Serve in squares.



## BODY BREAK (5-10 MIN)

### No Bugs In!

Grab any stuffed animal and name it “Vinchuca” for this game. Break into 2 teams. One team forms a circle, holding hands, and facing outward. This is their house. They select 1 person as a captain to be in the middle. The other team has Vinchuca and is trying to get him to land on the floor inside the circle. The captain and the circle members try to defend their house and keep Vinchuca out. Remember, the more cracks there are, the easier it is for Vinchuca to get in! Once Vinchuca makes it in, have teams switch roles. You may wish to have a designated area that is the minimum size of the circle.

### Voices Verse

Say the verse in different voices! If you whisper, crouch down while saying it. Jump while shouting, and do other actions that suit the voices you choose. Psalm 100:3a “Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us and we are his people.”

## PRAYER

We pray for all the people who suffer from Chagas disease. We pray for healing for those infected and we thank you for everyone who is working to prevent and treat it. Thank you for helping people transform their homes to make them safer and for training families so they can protect themselves against disease. Thank you for giving us ways to protect against disease. We see your goodness in your love for the people of Bolivia. Amen.



**VIDS**  
Part 3

## TAKE ACTION

**Pray** for those who are infected and for the protection of those who aren't!

**Fundraising:** In Lesson 1 we learned about the work CBM is doing to build latrines in El Salvador so that communities can have healthy and safe places to use the washroom. This is one of the many ways we can show God's love! It costs \$750 to build a latrine.



Help prevent people from disease by helping build latrines. Put a nickel in your outhouse for every square of toilet paper you use!



**Done this lesson?** Fill out the Bolivia Postcard, take it home and pray for Bolivia.



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