

This Month's Lesson:

The Valor of Virtue



Objective:

This theme introduces the second Pillar of Liberty – Virtue. It illustrates how and why a virtuous citizenry is vital to sustaining liberty and invites discussion of the concept of “public virtue.”

Read-Aloud Book of the Month:

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
by C.S. Lewis



Weekly Lessons:

Week 1: Let's Explore Questions and The Hand of Virtue Activity

Week 2: Let's Explore Questions and Rewrite the Story Activity

Week 3: Let's Explore Questions and Make a Lantern Activity

Week 4: Let's Explore Questions and Family Enrichment Activity

Week 1 : Lesson

The Meaning of Virtue



Let's Explore

"To live a life of virtue, match up your thoughts, words, and deeds"

Virtue is choosing to do what is right with our actions

Actions of Virtue

"Be honest and tell the truth"

"Talk and work it out"

"Respect and value each person"

"Respect and take care of things"

"Don't give up and stick with it"

Questions to Ask!

- 1 Who do you know that shows you the example of doing what is right?
- 2 Think of 3 more actions of virtue.
- 3 What can you do to be more virtuous every day?



Activity:

The Hand of Virtue

The Hand of Virtue.

Have each child trace their hand on a piece of paper and on each of the fingers write one of the following characteristics of virtue: **"Brave, Selfless, Polite, Patient, Faithful."** Write **"Virtue"** across the palm.



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Video: What is Civic Virtue? <https://youtu.be/ANI4MqtHBxg>

Question 1: What were George Washington's virtuous decisions?

Question 2: What virtuous decisions have you made recently?

Week 2 : Lesson

Example of Virtue



Let's Explore

A Story of George Washington

(Freedom Series, American History Stories Volume 1 by Mara L. Pratt)

During the Revolution, George Washington was one day riding by a group of soldiers who did not know him. They were busily engaged in raising a beam to the top of some military works. It was a difficult task, and often the corporal's voice could be heard shouting, "Now you have it!" "All ready! Pull!" Washington quietly asked the corporal why he didn't help them. "Sir," the corporal angrily replied, "do you not realize that I am a corporal?" Washington politely raised his hat saying, "I did not realize it. Beg your pardon, Mr. corporal."

Then dismounting his horse, General Washington himself fell to work and helped the men till the beam was raised. Before leaving he turned to the corporal, and, wiping the perspiration from his face, said, "If ever you need assistance like this again, call upon Washington, your commander-in-chief, and I will come." The confused corporal turned red, and then white, as he realized that this was Washington himself to whom he had been so pompous; and we hope he learned a lesson of true greatness.

Questions to Ask!

1 What could the corporal have done better to be more virtuous?

2 Why did George Washington's actions make him a good leader?



Activity:

Rewrite the story

Rewrite the story using different characters, time period and setting but staying with the same theme and storyline. The story can take place anywhere in time. It can be science fiction, historical, fantasy, etc. The characters can be people, animals, mythical creatures, even inanimate objects. Use the storyboard idea here.

On another piece of paper launch your story and let your creative juices flow!

CHARACTERS	Time Period	Setting
STORY SKETCH		
Beginning	Middle	End

Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Do a Bible Treasure Hunt, searching for scripture pages with "virtue" in them. Write them down in a notebook, and what they mean to you.

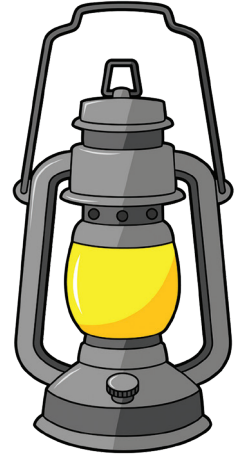
Week 3 : Lesson

The Light of Virtue

Let's Explore

The Light of Virtue

Adapted from Wings of Flame by Joseph B. Egan, 1929



One night, long before street lighting was heard of, as Benjamin Franklin sat cooling himself by an open window, he heard a man stumble and fall on the uneven cobblestones in front of his door. The man obviously hurt himself judging by the words he growled while picking himself back up.

Franklin made note of what had happened and said to himself, "It is evident that I am, in a sense, the cause of this man's fall. Had there been a light in my window it would have shone on the street and so prevented his misfortune."

The next morning, he hurried to the lantern maker's shop. The shopkeeper asked if he was looking for a small lantern to light his way as he walked in the night. "Oh, no," was Franklin's reply. "My friend, I want a huge lantern with wide light spaces on four sides and I want a good strong rack to hang it from." Mr. Franklin then pointed to the largest lanterns in the shop.

The keeper laughed. "There's not a room big enough in all Philadelphia for that lantern."

Franklin replied, "It's not too big for the out-of-doors. Please prepare the rack and hang it over my front door before nightfall. Make sure it carries out well onto the street, but high above every passing head. I shall personally tend to lighting it each evening."

The keeper was puzzled but agreed to do just as he was told.

Soon, people came from far and near to see the light Franklin had swung out in front of his own door.

"What an idea," said one.

"I shall do the same," said another.

"Why stumble over these cobbles when a little light over each man's door makes the dark way plain?"

"Why didn't someone think of this before?"

"Trust Old Ben to think up a scheme like this to get the citizens of this town busy on street lighting. Any other person would have talked and argued, but Old Ben—well—he just went ahead and hung up a light."

Questions to Ask!

1

How did Benjamin Franklin's lantern help people?

2

How does the lantern remind us of virtue?



Activity: Making Lanterns



Making lanterns is a fun way to teach the kids about reflecting the light and being a light in the darkness. There is a great quote by St. Francis Of Assisi – “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

There are three different lantern projects you can choose from. You can choose one or do all three, depending on the age of the children. See the video for instructions.



View the How-To Video at <https://vimeo.com/706664819>

Materials needed and preparation for each project are listed below.

Paper Lanterns Materials needed:

- 8-1/2 x 11 colored cardstock in various colors
- Embellishments as desired such stickers, streamers, etc.
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Glue

Glass Jar Lanterns Materials Needed:

- Glass Mason Jars in desired sizes
- Tissue paper in various colors
- 8 oz bottle glue
- Ribbon and other embellishments as desired

Preparation: Gather all materials. Clean and dry jars.

Tin Can Lanterns Materials Needed:

- Soup or vegetable cans (at least one for each child)
- Hammers
- 2 Penny Nails
- Ribbon, craft or spray paint and other embellishments as desired

Preparation: Collect cans throughout the month. Wash cans. Fill with water and put in freezer. Cans need to be in freezer at least 24 hours prior to the Activity Day.

Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: To practice the kind of virtue Franklin exhibited, you can imitate his habit of daily personal assessment. Each day, Franklin would make a mark on his chart next to the areas he neglected to reflect. Over the years, his improvement was visible as he kept these virtues in mind from day to day.



PURSUIT OF A VIRTUOUS LIFE

THIS WEEK FOCUS _____ DATE _____

<i>Temperance</i>							
<i>Silence</i>							
<i>Order</i>							
<i>Resolution</i>							
<i>Frugality</i>							
<i>Industry</i>							
<i>Sincerity</i>							
<i>Justice</i>							
<i>Moderation</i>							
<i>Cleanliness</i>							
<i>Tranquility</i>							
<i>Chastity</i>							
<i>Humility</i>							

MY PERSONAL PROGRESS:

Week 4 : Lesson

A Virtuous Family

Let's Explore



Learn and sing the song "We are Family"

<https://youtu.be/nBPmv01WTAQ> and discuss the questions.

We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing
We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing

Ev'ryone can see we're together
As we walk on by
(Hey) and we fly just like birds of a feather
I won't tell no lie
(ALL!) all of the people around us they say
Can they be that close
Just let me state for the record
We're giving love in a family dose

We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing
We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing

Living life is fun and we've just begun
To get our share of the world's delights
(HIGH!) high hopes we have for the future
And our goal's in sight
(WE!) no we don't get depressed
'Cause here's what we call our golden rule
Have faith in you and the things you do
You won't go wrong
This is our family Jewel

We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing
We are family
I got all my sisters with me
We are family
Get up ev'rybody and sing
We are family
We are family
We are family
We are family
We are family
We are family
We are family

Questions to Ask!

1

Why is it important to be virtuous as a family?

2

What activities can we do as a family to be more virtuous in your neighborhood?



Activity: Family Enrichment

Plan a Family Service Project. As a family choose a project or act of service you can do for a neighbor, the elderly, your church or community.

Some ideas are park beautification, neighborhood clean-up, humanitarian service, yard work for neighbor, etc.



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Organize your family and your friends' families and create a community service project. Try to get as many people in your community involved as possible. Take pictures (and videos) and make a presentation of the project and share it with everyone that was involved. With you parent's permission, share it on social media.



Other Helpful Resources

Other Suggested Books:

- ❑ *Childhood of Famous Americans: Ben Franklin*
- ❑ *Benjamin Franklin* by Ingri & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- ❑ *Dangerous Crossing: The Revolutionary Voyage of John Quincy Adams* by Stephen Krensky
- ❑ *Big George: How a Shy Boy Became President Washington* by Anne Rockwell
- ❑ *Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies* by Cokie Roberts (Note: overall this is a very well put together and informative book, but you may notice a couple brief negative references to "women were not seen as important at this time" and slightly negative instances told about a couple of the founding fathers).
- ❑ *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh
- ❑ *They Called Her Molly Pitcher* by Anne Rockwell
- ❑ *Alliance* by Gerald N. Lund (recommended for 10-12+)
- ❑ *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- ❑ *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- ❑ *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine (10-12+)
- ❑ *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- ❑ *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- ❑ *Harold Loves His Woolly Hat* by Vern Kousky
- ❑ *Rolling Thunder* by Kate Messner
- ❑ *Being A Good Citizen* by Mary Small



Special Note:

See the **Cottage Kids-5-2-Activity Day Outline pdf** for fun activities and discussions you can do with your children or a group of kids in your community at the end of the lesson! There are activities for younger and older kids!
The only requirement we have is that you HAVE FUN!

Suggested Movies:

Parental guidance is always recommended for any films we list.

*To find where these movies are available,
search at <https://www.imdb.com> unless noted otherwise.*



☐ The Prince of Egypt (1998)
Rated: PG



☐ A Man for All Seasons (1966)
Rated: G



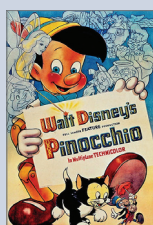
☐ The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005)
Rated: PG



☐ Davy Crockett: King of the Wild Frontier (1955)
Rated: Approved



☐ The Other Side of Heaven (2001)
Rated: PG



☐ Pinocchio (1940)
Rated: G



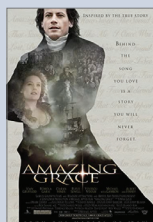
☐ Cinderella (2015)
Rated: PG



☐ Brother Bear (2003)
Rated: G



☐ Frozen (2013)
Rated: PG



☐ Amazing Grace (2006)
Rated: PG



☐ Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)
Rated: PG-13



☐ Joan of Arc (2015)
Documentary
View Here:
<https://www.byutv.org/player/98102eb7-69d9-45e5-9322-2e9d-7284c3a6/joan-of-arc-joan-of-arc>

Suggested Movies: (continued...)

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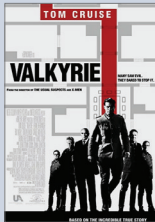
☐ The Sound of Music (1965)

Rated: G



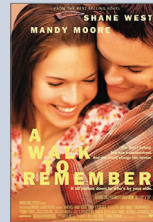
☐ Pollyanna (1960)

Rated: Approved



☐ Valkyrie (2008)

Rated: PG-13



☐ A Walk to Remember (2002)

Rated: PG



☐ Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993)

Rated: G



☐ McFarland, USA (2015)

Rated: PG



☐ Facing the Giants (2006)

Rated: PG



☐ Captain America: The First Avenger (2011)

Rated: PG-13



☐ The Giver (2014)

Rated: PG-13