

Activity Day!

Outline & Printable Resources

This Month's Lesson:

A Time to Sow



Suggested Activity and Discussion for Kids

Depending on the size and makeup of your group, you may want to divide the children into age groups for the different activities.

Opening

- Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance (*located in the General Resource pdf*) You can have one of the children hold a small flag or use a larger flag. This is a great opportunity to teach the children respect and proper care and folding of the flag.
- Recite Preamble to the U.S. Constitution (*located in the General Resource pdf, doing this each day as a family will have your children memorizing it in no time at all.*)

Video & Discussion: "It's Just Good Manners" by Eddie Cat

Activity & Discussion: Manners Stop & Go Game

Story & Discussion: Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Suess

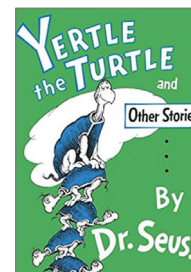
Activity: Formal Dinner/Tea

Closing

- Read/Recite "The American's Creed" (*located in the General Resource pdf*)
- Prayer
- Announce the next month's theme and date/location for next Activity Day

Preparation and Materials Needed:

- Review the entire outline to consider how best to present the activities to each age group.
- Cut out the copies of the preamble and American's Creed to have on hand, or use copies from the previous Activity Day.
- Bring an American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Prior to Activity Day, purchase (*on Amazon*) or borrow the book *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss. Also available as read-a-loud book video by viewing here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCpTxa-TTCU>
- Coordinate with the other families in your group to plan a formal dinner as part of your Activity Day. Ideas and suggestions are included in this outline.
- Print the chart for **Teaching Good Manners** with the children.
(provided on page 6)



Video & Discussion: Show the Video "It's Just Good Manners" by Eddie Cat.

View here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrGi_6c0lu8

Have the children repeat and discuss the concepts presented in the video. You may want to write the key points on a chalk board or dry erase board as Eddie repeats them. This can aid your discussion with the children.

Activity & Discussion: Manners Stop & Go Game

Discussion suggestions:

1. What are manners and why do we need them?
 2. What are some examples of using good manners?
 3. How do you feel when people use good manners?
 4. How do you think they feel when you use good manners?
- Play *Manners Stop & Go* with the children.

To play, give each child a red and green index card or cut some out from red and green cardstock. Use the scenarios of good and bad manners on the following page.

Read a scenario to the children and ask them to hold up the green card if it shows good manners and hold up the red card if it shows bad manners.

Good Manners Bad Manners

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Sticking out your tongue at someone | ▪ Holding the door open for someone |
| ▪ Saying "please" and "thank you" | ▪ Spitting |
| ▪ Rolling your eyes at someone | ▪ Burping loudly |
| ▪ Cutting in line | ▪ Sharing with others |
| ▪ Saying you're sorry | ▪ Throwing toys |
| ▪ Taking turns | ▪ Waiting in line (being patient) |
| ▪ Chewing gum with your mouth open | ▪ Saying "excuse me please" |
| ▪ Interrupting someone talking | ▪ Looking at people when they talk to you |
| ▪ Talking with food in your mouth | |

An additional chart for Teaching Good Manners with the children is provided on page 6. Print the chart and give to each child on Activity Day.

Story & Discussion: *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss

Yertle the Turtle raises questions about justice, political authority, and the responsibilities a ruler has to the people they serve and/or represent. While this is a book written for young children, it is a beloved classic tale that children of all ages (and adults) will enjoy. It teaches so many great lessons from individual rights to good leadership. Kindness, respect, and the Golden Rule are all great concepts the story introduces to spark engaging, thoughtful discussion. You can read the book and/or share the read-a-loud book video provided on page 2.

Discussion suggestions:

1. If all the turtles were equally unhappy, hungry, and in pain, would that be a good kingdom?
2. What characteristics of a leader make him or her one that is worth following?
3. Does every individual have basic rights, and if so, what are they?

Kids will likely have strong intuitions in favor of fairness. A great example is the idea that fairness is giving everyone the same things, when in actuality it is giving everyone the same opportunities. Fundamental rights is another great discussion topic drawn from the story.

4. It says that all turtles deserve to be free from tyranny. What does that mean for us?
5. What rights do people have?

Each suggested right can lead to more discussion if someone disagrees that the proposal really is a right of all people. This is a GREAT discussion older children can really delve into.

6. Yertle believes that if he sees something, then he owns it. Does Yertle really own everything he sees simply because he can see it?

7. What does it mean to own something? How can we resolve conflicts in which people disagree about who owns something?

Examples, people own their cars because they bought them. Kids own their Christmas presents because they were given them as gifts. Most kids will probably conclude that, to own something, one must have consensual agreement from the previous owner that they no longer own it. You can also discuss the idea of “finders keepers, losers weepers” discussing if that is actually a true and correct principle.

Activity: Formal Dinner/Tea

A great way to practice and promote good manners is by holding a formal dinner, or lunch, depending on the time of day you meet for your Activity Day. Making the kids in your group a part of the planning is a sure way to get them excited about the special day. You can have a formal “black tie,” suits and dresses, or a theme where they dress up in period costume such as Renaissance, Knights and Ladies, Colonial Tea, Royal Court, etc. The children/youth can help choose the menu, design the table décor and theme.

Teach the children proper table setting and have them practice. Youth can be in charge of table décor and napkin folding to make it fun, creative and something special they contribute to the dinner. Hand out assignments by age or family so everyone has a part.

And...to make it *really* fun, the parents can be the servers throughout the dinner. You will want to decide things like place settings, food assignments, name tags (if you choose to have assigned seating), background music, etc. All these are things each child/family can contribute and having the parents be the servers is a really fun touch to make it extra special for the kids.

Decide ahead of time some topics for dinner conversation to keep the children engaged throughout the meal while practicing good manners.



IDEAS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUTH *(optional)*

Fancy Napkins

A fun activity for older children is practicing folding napkins in fancy ways. You can go online or check out books from the library to get some good ideas. The youth can be in charge of setting the napkins for the formal dinner. A very popular napkin fold is the Bishop's Hat. It is simple to do and looks like you spend hours on it. The video below is a great tutorial on how to create it.

View here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2gKHtYVNOU



Print this chart for *Teaching Good Manners with the children.*

Teaching Good Manners with Children

General Guidelines

- ☐ Say "Hello" & "Good-bye"
- ☐ Be on time
- ☐ Say "Please" & "Thank you"
- ☐ Know how to make a phone call
- ☐ Hold the door open for people
- ☐ Sit properly
- ☐ If you bump into someone say "Sorry"
- ☐ Be appreciative
- ☐ Cover your mouth when you sneeze
- ☐ Clean up after you make a mess

with Adults

- ☐ Look people in the eye
- ☐ Use respect when talking to adults
- ☐ Don't interrupt
- ☐ Say "Excuse me" to get attention
- ☐ No foul language

with Friends

- ☐ Wait your turn
- ☐ Don't make fun of anyone
- ☐ Give compliments
- ☐ Use kind words
- ☐ Practice the golden rule

At the Dinner Table

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wash your hands before handling or eating food | <input type="checkbox"/> Use the correct utensils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe your mouth with our napkin | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't talk with your mouth full |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place your napkin on your lap | <input type="checkbox"/> Learn to set the table properly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lean over your plate to eat | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't slurp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chew with your mouth closed | <input type="checkbox"/> Say "Please" and "Thank you" when passing food |