



Senior Services Month May 2014
Sunday School Lesson & Craft

Treasuring God's Traditions

Sunday School Lesson and Craft for Senior Services Sunday

Bible Passage – 1 Corinthians 11:2 “I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you.”

Learning Objective – Children will understand: 1) the importance of traditions; 2) what they can learn from older adults; and 3) the passing on of God's love to others.

Target Age Group- Ages 4-12

Materials Needed for Craft – tissue paper, pipe cleaners, scissors, and ribbon

Key Messages:

1. Teacher: “Who can tell me what a tradition is?”
 - a. Definition: Traditions are things that many people do that have been passed down from generation to generation.
2. “Would anyone like to share one of their traditions?” Let the children share their traditions.
3. “Who started all of these traditions? Was it you? Was it your parents? Was it your grandparents?” Let children share.
4. “So, older people are pretty important. Without them we wouldn't have many of our wonderful traditions.”

Bible Reference:

1. Ask children to open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians 11:2. Ask for a volunteer to read. Or, the teacher can read the verse to the children.
2. The teacher asks, “What does this verse say about traditions?”
3. The teacher asks, “We talked earlier about traditions that your families have passed on to you. What traditions do we have that honor God?” Allow children to answer. Lead toward the tradition of God showing love to His people and His people showing love to others.
4. “How can we practice God's traditions?” Allow children to answer. Lead toward the answer that we should pass on God's love to others.
5. One way we can pass on God's love is to show others that we care about them. Today our church is celebrating the senior ministries of an organization called Lutheran Services Carolinas, or LSC. LSC takes care of hundreds of older adults around the state every day. They make sure the seniors they take care of not only have a nice place to live and good

healthy meals to eat, but they also provide activities for the older people to do that are fun and that encourage growth and learning.

On May 10, church members all across North Carolina shared God's love with the residents of LSC's senior living communities. They brought them fresh flowers as part of a new LSC tradition called Blossoms of Hope (*If your church participated in Blossoms of Hope, you can talk about your experiences.*) Today, we are going to be making our own flowers to share with an older adult in our lives. By giving them flowers, we are passing on God's love and we are thanking them for passing on their traditions to us.

Craft:

During the craft, encourage the children to talk more about the different traditions in their families and cultures.

Encourage the children to give their flowers to an older adult who has passed something on to them. This could be a grandparent, a family friend, or a member of the congregation.

Paper Flower Craft

1. **Cut and arrange your paper.** Cut each sheet of tissue paper to the same size. The larger the paper, the larger the flower. Evenly stack 6-8 sheets of tissue paper. Use multiple colors for a unique flower!
2. **Fold your paper.** Fold the combined sheets of tissue paper accordion style, making sure each fold is about 1 inch wide. Keep all the sheets of paper together as you fold, and continue until you run out of paper.
3. **Add your pipe cleaner stem.** Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center of the folded paper. Wrap enough that the paper is held securely, and then twist the ends together to form a knot. For extra security, staple the pipe cleaner to the paper.
4. **Trim the ends of the accordion.** To give the petals a unique look, cut the ends of the folded paper. Try different patterns to give the flowers different looks. Cut the ends to a point for a flower that looks like a dahlia or a daisy, or cut them into a half circle for a rose or a peony.
5. **Unfold the flower.** Gently separate each layer, pulling them upwards toward the middle of the flower. Be careful not to tear any of the sheets!
6. **Assemble a beautiful bouquet!** Make multiple flowers and tie the stems together with a beautiful ribbon. Share your gift and the gift of God's love with an older adult in your congregation, in your family, or in your community.

Alternate Idea:

This lesson could be conducted as a joint Sunday School class between a young class and an adult class. Have the older adults share their traditions with the young children and the children share their traditions with the older adults. They could then help each other make the flowers.