

Discovering God on Route 66 LESSON #45

GOOD CITIZENS SHOW HONOR AND RESPECT

PREP: Read the verses **Romans 8:1-13** to become familiar with the lesson.

Make a copy of the handout with the blanks for each child. Gather enough pencils for each child.

Print (*on card stock*) the 18 words that the volunteers will describe. Cut them apart so that they can be revealed one at a time.

Prepare a song about America or honor/respect/obedience! A suggestion from All the Best Songs for Kids by Lillenas is *I Am Thankful to Be an American*. Other suggestions are *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, or *Every Move I Make* by David Ruis.

Do some homework to find recent, interesting information about your mayor, senator, governor, or other gov't employee that you can share with the children. Visit www.presidentialprayerteam.org !

Gather supplies for the children to draw pictures and/or write letters to people paid by the government. You will need: paper, crayons, pens, markers, envelopes, stamps, and addresses.

Copy FUNSHEETS to pass out to the children at the end of class.

PRAY: Ask the children for prayer requests. Then, lead the children in a brief prayer. Ask God to guide each person in understanding what the Bible has to teach.

OPEN: Ask the children to name some things that the government pays for. List their responses on the board. You may need to get them started by giving them some examples. Here are just a few of the items/jobs that the children should be familiar with:

Schools	Judges	Trash Pick up
Teachers	Jails	Water Treatment
Roads	Guards	Humane Society
Firemen	Parks	Food for the poor
Policemen	Zoos	Housing for the poor
Print money	Senators	Mayor/Governor
CIA/FBI	President	Postman

BIBLE: PREP: Make copies of the handout of **Romans 8:1-7** with the blanks. Print the 18 missing words on card stock. Volunteers will be coming to the front of the room, where you will show them the missing word. Then, the volunteers will describe the word that they want the other children to guess. They may use any kind of sounds or music or words, but they may not say any part of the word to be guessed. For example, if describing “fireman”, they may not say “fire” or “man”. *Use older children for the harder words such as “gladly” or do those words yourself.*

Plan on using a few words to practice showing the children how you want them to describe/guess these words. Here are 3 suggested words:

Dog	Radio	peace
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Pass out the handouts to the children with the verses from **Romans 8:1-7**. Children will need pencils to fill in the missing words. One at time, ask up to 14 volunteers to come to the front of the room to describe the words. Allow the other children to shout out their guesses. When the word is correctly guessed, have all the children write that word on the corresponding blank. *Go ahead and write the word on the board so that children can see the correct spelling.*

After all the missing words have been completed, have up to 7 volunteers read each of the 7 verses. Then, discuss these verses with the children. Here are some suggested questions that you could ask:

Verse 1:

"Who put our government into place?" *(God.)*

"Are we to obey the government all the time?" *(Yes. We should always obey the government unless it goes against what the Bible teaches. For example, in some countries it is illegal to pray to God, but people talk to God anyway.)*

Verse 2:

"If we do not obey the laws the government has made, who are we really disobeying?" *(God!)*

"What will happen if we disobey these laws?" *(We will face punishment.)*

"What are some examples of punishment we might face?" *(Tickets, jail, fines, community service, expulsion, house arrest, embarrassment in the newspaper or on the news, bad reputation, etc.)*

"Does this punishment always happen right away?" *(No, sometimes the punishment is delayed and we may think we can continue to disobey.)*

"What are some examples of laws that we might disobey?" *(Littering, Not wearing a seat belt, Not pulling over for an ambulance, Not stopping for a school bus, Stealing, Not having your dog on a leash, etc.)*

Verse 3, 4:

"Who is afraid of policemen?" *(People who break the law.)*

"What should we do so that we are not afraid of policemen?" *(Obey the laws.)*

"Why do we have policemen?" *(God has established the role of the police to help us.)*

Verse 5:

"What does Romans say are 2 reasons that we should obey the laws?" *(1- So that we won't be punished, and 2 – Because as Christians we know this is the right thing to do!)*

Verse 6:

"What are 'taxes'?" (*Various ways that the government gets money from us to pay for things. Examples would include taxes on our pay from work, sales tax, special taxes on gas and cigarettes, Hospitality taxes on entertainment and hotels, import taxes, etc.*)

"Do you ever pay taxes?" (*Yes. Anytime you buy something at the store, you pay taxes.*)

Verse 7:

"Is it fun to pay taxes?" (*No. We can think of other things to do with the money.*)

"Even if we feel like we don't have much money, should we pay taxes?" (*Yes. God tells us to pay our taxes and it is a sin if we do not.*)

"What is honor and respect?" (*To give another person consideration and to be courteous to them. We should go beyond just obeying them. We should obey in a kind way with a good attitude!*)

"Who should we show honor and respect to?" (*To those that God has put over us including parents, teachers, other adults, policemen, etc.*)

SING: Sing a song about America or honor/respect/obedience! A suggestion from All the Best Songs for Kids by Lillenas is *I Am Thankful to Be an American*. Other suggestions are *My Country*, *'Tis of Thee*, or *Every Move I Make* by David Ruis.

LETTERS/PICTURES: How often do we stop and thank government officials or those paid by the government? So many times we protest or write letters to share our concerns. Today, lead the children to write letters and/or draw pictures of thanks!

Before children arrive, you should make a list of 3 or 4 people/groups for the children to choose from. Have the addresses ready so that the children can address the envelopes themselves! Children may be familiar with policemen and firemen, but they may not know much about your local mayor, governor, or state senator! So, find recent stories to share about positive things that these people have done.

Visit <http://www.presidentialprayerteam.org> !! You'll find fabulous current information about praying for the president and much, much more!

Give the children sufficient time to draw and color a picture. They can write a note on the picture or write a letter to go with the picture. Then, help them fold these and place them in an envelope. Make sure that they address the envelope correctly and put sufficient postage on the envelope.

If you have time, allow the children to come to the front of the room to show the pictures that they have drawn and why.

CLOSE: Let the children know that you will be mailing their letters/pictures on Monday.

Remind the children how important it is to obey the laws. When we obey the government, we are obeying God! When we show honor and respect to others, we are showing honor and respect to God.

Pass out this week's FUNSHEET. End with prayer.

government

1

fear

10

God

2

help

11

power

3

wrong

12

laws

4

two

13

land

5

know

14

punishment

6

taxes

15

policeman

7

workers

16

right

8

gladly

17

evil

9

honor

18

Romans 13:1 – 7 (The Living Bible)

Obey the government, for God is the One who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power.² So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow.³ For the policeman does not frighten people who are doing right; but those doing evil will always fear him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well.⁴ The policeman is sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose.⁵ Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should.⁶ Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you.⁷ Pay everyone whatever he ought to have: pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due.

Romans 13:1 – 7 (*The Living Bible*)

Obey the _____, for _____ is the One who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in _____.² So those who refuse to obey the _____ of the _____ are refusing to obey God, and _____ will follow.³ For the _____ does not frighten people who are doing _____; but those doing _____ will always _____ him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well.⁴ The policeman is sent by God to _____ you. But if you are doing something _____, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose.⁵ Obey the laws, then, for _____ reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you _____ you should.⁶ Pay your _____ too, for these same two reasons. For government _____ need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you.⁷ Pay everyone whatever he ought to have: pay your taxes and import duties _____, obey those over you, and give _____ and respect to all those to whom it is due.