



Faith in Action

“The Political Community”

“Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone” Romans 12:17

Lesson: As God created order out of chaos when creating the universe, so too are governments meant to provide structure for our daily lives. Their secular nature, however, does not exempt government leaders, or us as citizens, from remaining under God’s authority and rule. Instead, governments are to be held accountable to God for the fair, just and equal treatment of all people under their domain. This includes the protection of basic human rights, fair and equal access to resources and humane treatment – those dignities, that is, that are guaranteed to each one of us as citizens of God’s Kingdom.

This week, put faith in action by...

Great Leadership Starts... in the Bible!

The book of Acts tells us that David was “a man after [God’s] own heart” (13:22). Sure, he had his flaws. Don’t we all?!? We’re human! But that’s the wonderful thing about Biblical leaders – they’re relatable!

So, this week do some “relating” with your family by delving into some biblical stories of leadership greatness! Then, step back in time and talk to your child about the virtues behind the women and men who were able to serve God while also serving their nation and how they (and you) can emulate them!

Looking for a great place to start? Try Queen Esther!

It’s never too late or too early to start expressing concerns over justice. In fact, some research shows that pre-scholars are already developing a sense of fairness.

This week, why not encourage your child to find a social issue of fairness in an age-appropriate way that moves their heart, then help them move a little bit further by helping them write down their concerns in a letter to a public representative. The following link can help you get started <http://kidgovernor.org/student-action-resource-center/writing-to-your-elected-officials>

I Do Solemnly Promise...

After you and your family have had an “audience with” one or two Biblical leaders, try applying what you learned by creating a “If I was the President...” letter. The following link offers a great (and free) downloadable template to help you get started (scroll down the page and click):
<https://www.sandycangelosi.com/2016/02/pr-essident-for-day-activities.html>

Salt of the Earth

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told His disciples that they were “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13) and so are we! Part of our work as living, preservatives of the Christian faith is to enhance the world by seasoning it with God’s justice. The following link provides an “egg-cellent” object lesson that can help you reinforce Christ’s command for for justice in the world and how our “saltiness” as followers of Jesus can help support those who are on the “rotten” side of unfairness (scroll down).

<http://www.yessafechoices.org/parents/character-education-corner/fairness>

Earth

This Land was Their Land

Signed into law in 1830 by President Andrew Jackson, the Indian Removal Act helped to decimate the Native American population of North America, a cruel demise that Jackson called "inevitable." Under Jackson's administration alone over 46,000 Native Americans were forced from their land, ultimately paving the way for the Trail of Tears.

The following link provides a useful interactive tool to determine whose tribal land your family is either living or vacationing on <https://native-land.ca/>

To learn more about Native Americans, including a description of tribes go to this site, designed specifically for children and teachers <http://www.native-languages.org/kids.htm>.

It's Sooooo Unfair!!!

And so is this activity. But that's the point – to help build the Christ-like empathy that helps to make real change in this world. So, this week pick a family job – any job – like lawn work, household chores, the laundry, washing the car, washing the dog, etc. Then, equip everyone for the task...except for one person who should get nothing more than a big, unfair disadvantage (i.e. inferior or inadequate tools that are necessary to do the job at hand). NOTE: if you have more than one child, you'll want to slight them all.

After putting in the hard labor and hearing how unfair it was, make sure to acknowledge their revelation...and then give plenty of time to debrief their experience and how it relates to the world.

Let It Shine

Born to a family of sharecroppers in Mississippi, Fannie Lou Hamer shone her light in the Civil Rights movement by actively working to help ensure voting rights for African Americans. One day, while traveling to register to vote, the bus carrying her and fellow sharecroppers was stopped by the police, who arrested their driver. Fearing for their lives, Fannie Lou began to sing "This Little Light of Mine" to help strengthen and comfort brave freedom riders. The song has since become the anthem for Civil Rights Justice.

This week, take a few moments with your family to listen to Fannie Lou prayerful plea for God's social justice to prevail...and then talk about how your family can shine their light in the darkness of injustice.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FgBb3u8p9U&list=RD5FgBb3u8p9U&start_radio=1&t

Prayer for Fair

Civil Rights activist, humanitarian and First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, once said that "it is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself."

Have a conversation this week with your family to talk about who those people are in your community, country and world who have to do or endure things we wouldn't want for ourselves or those we love. Then, pray together for God's fairness to prevail.