

The Golden Thread of Truth Presents:

Interfaith Programs for Kids & Teens



A Twelve Month Program Volume 2

Welcome to The Golden Thread of Truth Annual Curriculum, Volume 2! The intention of this material is to teach our children that all the world's religions support a consistent message about the truth of who we are. Stories from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Native American traditions and contemporary authors support the same underlying messages and values. Love thy neighbor. You reap what you sow. We are stewards of the earth and each other. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Parents around the world, from all religious beliefs, cultures and lifestyles, teach these values to their children through timeless stories.

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Month #6: Treat and move your Feet

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June 2016 - Treat and Move Your Feet

Week #1: The Value of Work

Main Message: Each of us has the power within us to have exactly what we desire. This month's lessons shows us how our choices are reflected in our life. The values of work, persistence, honesty, and responsibility are demonstrated every single day. None of us is born knowing how to do every skill we will use during our life. It is through life's experiences and challenges that we learn and grow. Putting dedication, joy and love into your work is multiplied and comes back to you.

Readings:

"To learn and then to practice what one has learned, does not this bring with it a sense of satisfaction?" ~Confucius

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." ~ Vince Lombardi

Lesson: Mother Holle A Grimm Fairytale

Once upon a time there was a widow who had two daughters; one of them was beautiful and industrious, the other ugly and lazy. The mother, however, loved the ugly and lazy one best, because she was her own daughter, and so the other, who was only her stepdaughter, was made to do all the work of the house, and was quite the Cinderella of the family. Her stepmother sent her out every day to sit by the well in the high road, there to spin until she made her fingers bleed. Now it chanced one day that some blood fell on to the spindle, and as the girl stopped over the well to wash it off, the spindle suddenly sprang out of her hand and fell into the well. She ran home crying to tell of her misfortune, but her stepmother spoke harshly to her, and after giving her a violent scolding, said unkindly, 'As you have let the spindle fall into the well you may go yourself and fetch it out.'

The girl went back to the well not knowing what to do, and at last in her distress she jumped into the water after the spindle.

She remembered nothing more until she awoke and found herself in a beautiful meadow, full of sunshine, and with countless flowers blooming in every direction. She walked over the meadow, and presently she came upon a baker's oven full of bread, and the loaves cried out to her, 'Take us out, take us out, or alas! we shall be

burnt to a cinder; we were baked through long ago.' So she took the bread-shovel and drew them all out.

She went on a little farther, till she came to a tree full of apples. 'Shake me, shake me, I pray,' cried the tree; 'my apples, one and all, are ripe.' So she shook the tree, and the apples came falling down upon her like rain; but she continued shaking until there was not a single apple left upon it. Then she carefully gathered the apples together in a heap and walked on again.

The next thing she came to was a little house, and there she saw an old woman looking out, with such large teeth, that she was terrified, and turned to run away. But the old woman called after her, 'What are you afraid of, dear child? Stay with me; if you will do the work of my house properly for me, I will make you very happy. You must be very careful, however, to make my bed in the right way, for I wish you always to shake it thoroughly, so that the feathers fly about; then they say, down there in the world, that it is snowing; for I am Mother Holle.' The old woman spoke so kindly, that the girl summoned up courage and agreed to enter into her service.

She took care to do everything according to the old woman's bidding and every time she made the bed she shook it with all her might, so that the feathers flew about like so many snowflakes. The old woman was as good as her word: she never spoke angrily to her, and gave her roast and boiled meats every day.

So she stayed on with Mother Holle for some time, and then she began to grow unhappy. She could not at first tell why she felt sad, but she became conscious at last of great longing to go home; then she knew she was homesick, although she was a thousand times better off with Mother Holle than with her mother and sister. After waiting awhile, she went to Mother Holle and said, 'I am so homesick, that I cannot stay with you any longer, for although I am so happy here, I must return to my own people.' Then Mother Holle said, 'I am pleased that you should want to go back to your own people, and as you have served me so well and faithfully, I will take you home myself.' Thereupon she led the girl by the hand up to a broad gateway. The gate was opened, and as the girl passed through, a shower of gold fell upon her, and the gold clung to her, so that she was covered with it from head to foot.

'That is a reward for your industry,' said Mother Holle, and as she spoke she handed her the spindle which she had dropped into the well.

The gate was then closed, and the girl found herself back in the old world close to her mother's house. As she entered the courtyard, the cock who was perched on the well, called out:

'Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Your golden daughter's come back to you.'

Then she went in to her mother and sister, and as she was so richly covered with gold, they gave her a warm welcome. She related to them all that had happened, and when the mother heard how she had come by her great riches, she thought she should like her ugly, lazy daughter to go and try her fortune. So she made the sister go and sit by the well and spin, and the girl pricked her finger and thrust her hand into a thorn-bush, so that she might drop some blood on to the spindle; then she threw it into the well, and jumped in herself.

Like her sister she awoke in the beautiful meadow, and walked over it till she came to the oven. 'Take us out, take us out, or alas! we shall be burnt to a cinder; we were baked through long ago,' cried the loaves as before. But the lazy girl answered, 'Do you think I am going to dirty my hands for you?' and walked on.

Presently she came to the apple-tree. 'Shake me, shake me, I pray; my apples, one and all, are ripe,' it cried. But she only answered, 'A nice thing to ask me to do, one of the apples might fall on my head,' and passed on.

At last she came to Mother Holle's house, and as she had heard all about the large teeth from her sister, she was not afraid of them, and engaged herself without delay to the old woman.

The first day she was very obedient and industrious, and exerted herself to please Mother Holle, for she thought of the gold she should get in return. The next day, however, she began to dawdle over her work, and the third day she was more idle still; then she began to lie in bed in the mornings and refused to get up. Worse still, she neglected to make the old woman's bed properly, and forgot to shake it so that the feathers might fly about. So Mother Holle very soon got tired of her, and told her she might go. The lazy girl was delighted at this, and thought to herself, 'The gold will soon be mine.' Mother Holle led her, as she had led her sister, to the broad gateway; but as she was passing through, instead of the shower of gold, a great bucketful of pitch came pouring over her. Then pine tree needles fell and got stuck in the pitch.

'That is in return for your services,' said the old woman, and she shut the gate. So the lazy girl had to go home covered with pine needles, and the cock on the well called out as she saw her:

'Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Your prickly daughter's come back to you.'

But, try what she would, she could not get the pitch and needles off and it stuck to her as long as she lived.

Questions and Answers

Q1. Did the step daughter do everything asked?

A 2. because it was in her nature to think about others and not just herself.

Q2. Space why didn't the selfish daughter help with the bread or the apples?

A2. Because her needs or more important to her than the needs of others.

Q3. Why is working harder and giving more to others important?

A3. If each of us only thought of ourselves, the world would have less love. Space when we do for others, the compassion grows in the world.

Craft/Activity:

Bring apples, bread and butter to share as the story is read.

Material

magazines

Paper

Scissors

Marker crayons



Or draw pictures of yourself in a job or activity that you would love to do.

Advanced Material for 4th and 5th Grade

What you think you become

*“Watch your thoughts, they become words;
watch your words, they become actions;
watch your actions, they become habits;
watch your habits, they become character;
watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”*

FRANK OUTLAW

Late President of the Bi-Lo Stores

Each of us are born with the unique set of gifts and talents. As these talents emerge they will become obvious because they are the things that seemed easy to you. The sheer effortless joy of wanting to go out and ride your bike or swing on swings or help others or walk the dog, as you discover the things that bring you joy, this is the time did think about how you want To spend hours you have in your day. Space everything is available to you.

Q1. Are there any skills you believe you do not have?

Q2. Are there skills you believe you can do better than others

Tween & Teen Activity

Natural abilities that people possess are called aptitudes, which include mathematical abilities, problem-solving skills, and physical dexterity.

Try these skills to see what feels fun and easy!

1. Problem solving... THE GREAT DISCOVERY.

CLUES

A penknife
Two pennies
A used cinema ticket
A necklace
A pack of chewing gum
A baby's doll

Detectives

This is a simple and fun activity. Take a selection of everyday items like the ones listed here. You could put them all in a bag or list on a piece of paper. Tell your children that they are detectives and these are the only clues they have to help identify a mystery person. They have to use all the clues to build up a composite picture of who the owner might be. Encourage them to examine each clue carefully and individually. Try to stop them from jumping to conclusions based on only one or two of the clues – perhaps by presenting them with only one clue at a time. This helps children to appreciate the importance of examining each part of a problem individually.

2. Mathematical Abilities

Mirror Diamond XYZ

X
X Y X
X Y Z Y X
X Y X
X

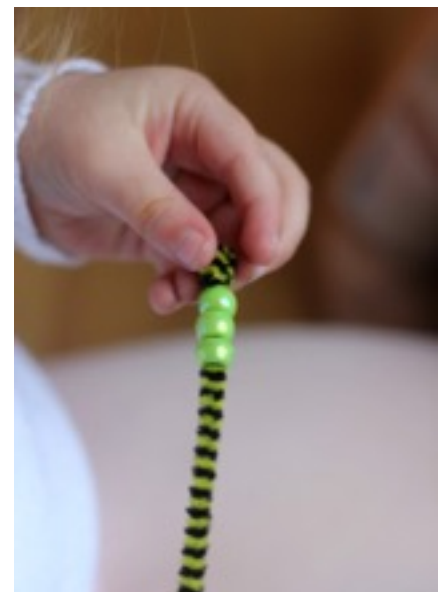
How many ways can you read XYZ off the diamond?

The correct answer is 12. Below are all the possibilities.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| X | X | X |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| XYZYX | XYZYX | XYZYX |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| X | X | X |
| X | X | X |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| XYZYX | XYZYX | XYZYX |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| X | X | X |
| X | X | X |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| XYZYX | XYZYX | XYZYX |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| X | X | X |
| X | X | X |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| XYZYX | XYZYX | XYZYX |
| XYX | XYX | XYX |
| X | X | X |

3. Dexterity .

- race to see who can put the most beads on a pipe cleaner in 30 seconds.
- draw a perfect Circle.
- stand and, with your leg straight, see how close you can get to touching your toes.



Week #2: The Value of Persistence

Main Message: In ourselves rather than in material nature, lies the true source of life of the beautiful. The human soul is the sun which diffuses light on every side investing creation with its lovely hues and calling forth the poetic element that lies hidden in every existing thing. With persistence, we unveil that hidden substance.

Readings:

“Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan Press On! has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.” ~ Calvin Coolidge

Lesson:

The Little Red Lighthouse

The little red lighthouse had an important job. The little red lighthouse warned the boats on the busy Hudson River of the rocks nearby. Every night a man climbs up to the top of the lighthouse and turns on its flashing light. When there is fog, the man additionally turns on the lighthouse's fog bell. The lighthouse is pleased with and proud of its important job.

One day, something changes. The little red lighthouse watches, mystified, as men build a great gray bridge right next to it. When the bridge is finished, it towers above the lighthouse, which now feels small and unimportant. Even worse, one night a light begins to flash atop the bridge's tower, and the lighthouse is convinced that it is no longer needed.

That night, a storm whips up and fog clutches at the boats. But the man does not come to activate the lighthouse, confirming its fears that it will never shine again. But the boats cannot see the light high atop the bridge, and without the lighthouse's light or bell, the "fat black tug" crashes upon the rocks nearby. The bridge calls to the lighthouse, reassuring it that it is still needed, "each to his own place." The man finally arrives, complaining that some boys had stolen his keys. The lighthouse resumes its job, glad that it still has work to do. Though it now knows that it is small, it is still very proud.

Q1. Why does the lighthouse still know it is important?

A1. The boats still need his light for guidance.

Q2. How is the lighthouse persistent?

A2. His light always shines girding all home.

Q3. Why is the little red lighthouse proud?

A3. Because he is helping others.

Craft: Lighthouse

Use empty tubes or roll cones to make a surface to paint!



Advanced Material for 4th & 5th grade:

A lighthouse does not try to save everyboat.
it just shows the path for those that come to it.

Published in 1942, this children's book uses the story of the building of the George Washington Bridge next to the small lighthouse to affirm the idea that even the small are important.

The book ends by encouraging the reader to go to Riverside Drive in New York City and "see for yourself" the lighthouse next to the bridge. The "great gray bridge" is clearly the [George Washington Bridge](#), though it is not named in the book. Construction on the bridge began in 1927, only six years after the lighthouse was erected at its current location, and concluded in 1931.

Lighthouses

Static lights, static sound waves
Flawed theories, flawed destinations
Hope blanketed in camouflage

Pressure of silence building
until your ears ache -
we are divers in a wretched sea

Salt water running down the face,
Salt water flaming in the fissures
Careful, don't drown

Wordless enemy, suffocating
Stomach rolls, rolls again
Stay calm, stay quiet, stay

Hope in a glass box; naked
Small movements, careful
You are deaf, you are mute

Tween & Teen Activity

Jesus is many times referred to as a light house - persistent is always shining his light.

John 8:12

Verse Concepts

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Draw a lighthouse!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjCutygPEVw>

