

Choosing God's Way

Teaching young children to look to their hearts to live for God.



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Politeness & Manners

I will walk with integrity in my heart. (Ps 101:2)

[This lesson will help you teach your children the importance of being polite and mannerly toward others as they learn more about God's will for us to treat all others with consideration no matter what.]

Today, we are going to talk about what it means to be polite to one another. Before we get started with our lesson today, let's start with our prayer:

Child's Daily Prayer:

Lord, whether at work or at play
Be by my side to guide my way.
Help me to do things that are right
Help my heart stay pure and light.
Help me to respect and to obey,
Help me to listen and to behave.
Help me play nice and learn to share
Help me understand and show I care.
Help me be thoughtful, loving, and kind,
Help me be of good heart and mind.
Thank you, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Child's Character Song:

Let's sing our special song together.

(sung to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star...)

We will learn to honor God
And what He expects of us.
Being nice and cheerful, too
He'll be proud of me and you.
Pleasing God is so much fun
It brings joy to everyone.



Introduction to Politeness:

What do you think it means to be polite?

[Allow your children time to discuss their responses.]

Being polite means being considerate and mannerly towards others. It means saying things like *please* and *thank you*.



God's Words to Think About and Remember:

As you have faith in Jesus our Lord, show polite consideration to all persons no matter what. (James 2:1-4)

Having manners and being polite shows consideration to others. And if we follow the Golden Rule, we should always treat others with polite consideration just as we would want to be treated. We need to treat others politely and with consideration no matter what because God says it's the right thing to do.



Polite or Not?

Can you look at these two pictures and tell me whether or not the little boy is being polite?



[In this picture, the little boy is being polite because he is patiently waiting for his mother's attention.]



[In this picture, the little boy is not being polite because he is rudely interrupting his mother.]



Examples of being Polite:

Let's talk about some examples of being polite.

- When you want a snack, God wants you to be polite by saying "May I please have a snack?" instead of "I want a snack now."
- If you accidentally step on someone's toe, God wants you to be polite by saying "Excuse me. I'm sorry."
- Whenever you need or want something, God wants you to be polite by saying "Please", and when you receive that something, say "Thank you."
- When you do not clearly understand what someone has said, it is more polite to say "Pardon Me?" instead of "What?"
- When you want to get down from the dinner table after mealtime, God wants you to be polite and ask "May I please be excused?"
- When someone says "Thank you" to you, it is polite to say "You're welcome."
- Can you think of other examples of being polite and mannerly?
[Allow your children time to discuss their responses.]

[Feel free to write your own examples here to use with your children.]

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## *Politeness Song:*

Here is a little song that will help you always remember to be polite. I'll sing it once for you then we can all sing it together...

(sung to the tune of I'm A Little Tea Pot)

I should always say "please" and "thank you"  
Because it's the polite thing to do.  
Saying "excuse me" and "may I please."  
Will make Jesus so proud of me.

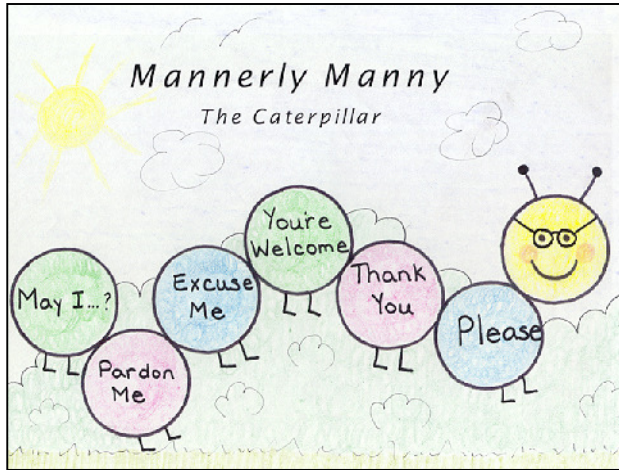
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Mannerly Manny the Caterpillar

Craft Page

This caterpillar will help remind children of the many ways they can be polite. Simple things like Please; Thank You; Excuse Me; Pardon Me; May I Please..?; Yes, Please; No, Thank You; etc. Be sure to stress that they will likely have to use their manners even when doing this craft, as they may have to say "May I please use the blue crayon?" and then have to exercise patience while waiting for the crayon to be free for them to use.



Materials: For each child, you will need 1 copy of the Mannerly Manny craft sheet (found in the Appendix) in addition to crayons and a black marker.

Directions: Provide each child with a Mannerly Manny color sheet. Using the black marker, have your child write (or Mom or Dad help them write) within each circle on Manny something they could say or do to be polite. Then let your children have fun coloring Manny and decorating him and the background any way they wish.

Mannerly Manny can then be displayed on your refrigerator as a helpful reminder to your children of the many ways they can honor and please God by being polite.





You Decide

Politeness Activity Page

(This sheet may be reproduced for your children to complete.)

You decide whether or not the children are being polite and mannerly in the following stories. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

Story 1: One day little Davie was at the library, and he noticed another child sitting in his favorite green reading chair. He immediately went up to the child and told him to move because he wanted the green chair.

- Was Davie being polite and mannerly? Yes No
- Would God have been pleased with him? Yes No

Story 2: One afternoon, Sarah wanted a snack. But she noticed her mother was busy at the door talking to the mailman. So she waited patiently until her mother finished talking and then said, "Mother, may I please have a snack now?"

- Was Sarah being polite and mannerly? Yes No
- Would God have been pleased with her? Yes No

You decide whether God would be pleased or displeased with your behavior. Circle the correct answer.

- A little girl accidentally bumps into you, and you push her and tell her to look out.
- You help a child who has fallen down.
- You say "pardon me" to get by someone who is in your way.
- You say "give me a drink right now" to your mother.
- You say "thank you" when you leave a friend's house.

PARENT'S NOTE: Discuss with your children alternative ways to handle the displeasing behavior.

TRY THIS: Discuss with your children how they would handle a situation where another person was treating them rudely.

