

In the Beginning 17 - Activities

LESSON ACTIVITIES

- ✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Characteristics of a good government

Man's right to govern was established when God gave him authority over the earth. To be good, government has to be subjected to God's authority and act in accordance with both the written and natural laws God has put in place. The founders of our nation understood biblical principles when they set up our government. Read the Preamble to the Constitution and think through each element of government and why it is necessary and good.

***We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union(1), establish Justice(2), insure domestic Tranquility(3), provide for the common defense(4), promote the general Welfare(5), and secure the Blessings of Liberty (6) to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

- 1 – Form a more perfect union: Join together as one people, under one good and effective government.

What happens when a nation isn't unified? What happens when the government is not good? What happens when the government is not effective?

- 2 – Establish justice: Make law fair for and apply it equally to all people.

What happens when laws are not fair? What happens when laws don't apply equally to everyone? What are examples of laws not being applied equally?

- 3 – Insure domestic tranquility: Keep peace and stability in the land through good laws and a police force.

What happens when there isn't peace and stability?

- 4 – Provide for the common defense: Protect from outside invaders.

What happens when there isn't an army strong enough to protect a nation?

- 5 – Promote the general welfare: Encourage and strengthen that which helps people prosper like property rights and a work ethic.

What happens when people don't have a right to their own property? What happens when people don't know how to sustain hard work?

- 6 – Secure the blessings of liberty: Instill the principles of good government and the importance of good character in the people so the nation and the protection of rights will be sustained for future generations.

What happens when people see the role of government to take care of them rather than fulfill the principles of good government stated in the preamble? What happens when the people of a nation do not as a whole demonstrate good character?

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✓ **Activity:** Being a Good Steward

The responsibility to rule over the earth means that people are to be good stewards of God's creation. A steward is someone who takes charge of and carefully and responsibly manages the resources that belong to someone else. What are ways we as individuals can conserve and responsibly manage the resources of the earth? Write down ways that you can be a good steward. Make a poster to illustrate what you have written down.

✓ **Game:** Mother may I?

As a reminder that we are to submit both to God's authority and those he has given authority to rule over us, play "Mother may I?"

Instructions: Select one child to be the mother. The mother stands at one end of the play area and the other children line up at the other end. The mother gives an instruction as to how many and what types of steps each child can make. To take the steps the child must ask, "Mother may I?". If he forgets to ask permission, he has to go back and start again. The first child to reach the mother gets to be the next mother.