

This is the *Chivalry* week of the teacher's lesson guide. There are three days of lessons plus activities.

The Social Graces: CHIVALRY



Day 1

Introduction to Chivalry

Discussion Points

What Makes a Young Man Chivalrous?

1. Chivalry is a set of rules, or principles, for men on the ways of best behavior. Chivalry belongs to the gentleman, the kindhearted man who is swift to defend what is just and right. Chivalry was idealized during the Middle Ages and was considered the only way a man of courage and faith could behave.
2. Men who practiced chivalry were noble gentlemen of honor, courage, and faith; men who protected the weak, and respected ladies. Men who practiced chivalry were elevated to that of knight for his elegance, purity of heart, and bravery.

Instructions to Club Members

3. Round robin the boys for their definitions of the following character traits. Compare their definitions with the ones listed. Get a consensus from the group on the following:
4. Love of country – enlisting in the Armed Forces; serving the country through civic responsibility (i.e. serving on the school board, on the city council, running for political office) donating time or money to schools, hospitals, artistic enterprises
5. Honor – telling the truth, remaining true to your family members, admitting that you would rather join the debating team than the basketball team if that was in your heart, regardless of what your pals might say
6. Courage – refusing to be bullied; standing on your principles, even if you stand alone; doing the right thing, even when it is hard to do; walking on stage to recite your speech, even though you are nervous and shy
7. Faith – believing in yourself; trusting that your parents and your teachers have your best interest at heart; believing in the Golden Rule and practicing it
8. Valiance – protecting the weak; standing up for the new boy; dancing with the awkward, shy and plain girl even though you are the handsome captain of the football team
9. Respecting young ladies –displaying your best manners; being polite, attentive, and always courteous; never swearing around your sisters and their girl friends
10. Humility – never bragging; letting others speak of your accomplishments; keeping your first place trophy case in your bedroom and not in the family room. When your friend asks you how you did on your algebra test, you answer, “I did okay.” When you know you got an A+.

11. Generosity – sharing what you are able to part with; paying your pal’s way into the movies because his dad just lost his job. Generosity counters greed. It also encourages a compassionate heart when one is called for.
12. Forthrightness – being honest and aboveboard; having no ulterior motives; honesty is a sign of bravery, lying a sign of cowardice.

Activity

Instruct club members to make a list of men who they would consider chivalrous, and have them give their reasons why.

Have club members use their journals for this activity.

Day 2

Modern-day Knights

Instructions

Assign each club member to do research on one of the professions below. Club members can meet at the computer lab to get information from the Internet. After each club member has completed his essay, enlist each club member to get the picture of a famous knight in his category (i.e. get the picture of a famous forensic scientist). The famous knights, along with club members’ essays, can be displayed on a bulletin board for the larger student body to read and enjoy.

Modern-day Knights

Forensic Scientist
Police Officer
Firefighter
Victim Advocate
Prosecutor
Defense Attorney
Judge
Enlisted Soldier

How does each fall under the category of chivalry? Have them answer the following questions in their research. Don’t forget that women work as public servants in all of these professions, too.

How is each profession honorable?
How is each courageous?
How does each serve the common man?
How does each protect the weak?
How does each avenge the transgressed?

Use the “How to Communicate with a Modern-day Knight” worksheet with this lesson.

Day 3 Off-Campus Event Visiting a 21st Century Knight

There are many professions that champion the people, respect God and country, protect the weak, and are the purveyors of truth and justice. One such profession is that of Prosecuting Attorney.

Call or write to the town, city, or state’s prosecuting attorney’s office, or district attorney, for a visit. Ask the prosecutor if he or she could give a brief lecture to the boys on how today’s district attorneys serve as our modern-day knights. Make arrangements for club members to sit in on a trial, if possible.

Use the “All About Chivalry” worksheet to prepare for this visit.

**Or Alternative Activity
Off-Campus Event – Fun at the Movies**

Treat club members to a first-run movie where the theme and main character are tied to chivalry.

**Or Alternative Activity
On-Campus Event – Fun at the Movies**

Rent a movie to show club members. Make sure that the theme and main character are tied to chivalry. For added fun, pop popcorn and permit club members to invite other students.

