THE GOOD AMERICAN VACATON LESSONS, PP. 1-104

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The Good American Vacation Lessons

Prepared by
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THE GOOD AMERICAN VACATION LESSONS

AIM

To define and stimulate Christian citizenship in children.

GROUPS

The lessons are prepared for two groups, Primary Group, children under nine, and Junior Group, children between nine and twelve:

A. Of various denominations, in communities where church schools are discontinued.

B. In church schools which continue in session, but whose attendance is much depleted.

C. In summer camps and resorts.

D. In mid-week work in churches that can continue the graded lessons on Sundays.

TEACHERS

Primary Group: One teacher who is a good story-teller and one assistant.

Junior Group: One teacher who can command the attention of boys and girls, and one assistant for each group of eight.

MEETING PLACE

A. Church-school rooms.
B. Private piazzas or living-rooms.
C. Hotel piazzas or parlors.
D. Tents, woods or beach.

TIME

A. Usual church-school hour.
B. Late afternoon or early evening.

METHOD

Since these lessons will be used largely with the ever changing group of the summer vacation period it has seemed best to make each lesson a unit as far as possible.

THE CHILDREN'S CODE OF MORALS

Prepared by William J. Hutchins, and accepted by the National Institution for Moral Instruction, Washington, D. C., Milton Fairchild, Chairman.

The Good American Vacation Lessons are based on The Children's Code of Morals. A lesson is outlined also on one additional law, not included in the code, The Law of Reverence.

Boys and girls who are good Americans try to become strong and useful, that our country may become ever greater and better. Therefore they obey the laws of right living which the best Americans have always obeyed.

First: The Law of Health. The Good American Tries to Gain and to Keep Perfect Health

The welfare of our country depends upon those who try to be physically fit for their daily work. Therefore:

1. I will keep my clothes, my body, and my mind clean.
2. I will avoid those habits which would harm me, and will make and never break those habits which will help me.
3. I will try to take such food, sleep, and exercise as will keep me in perfect health.

Second: The Law of Self-Control. The Good American Controls Himself

Those who best control themselves can best serve their country.

1. I will control my *tongue*, and will not allow it to speak mean, vulgar, or profane words.
2. I will control my *temper*, and will not get angry when people or things displease me.
3. I will control my *thoughts*, and will not allow a foolish wish to spoil a wise purpose.

Third: The Law of Self-Reliance. The Good American is Self-Reliant

Self-conceit is silly, but self-reliance is necessary to boys and girls who would be strong and useful.

1. I will gladly listen to the advice of older and wiser people; I will reverence the wishes of those who love and care for me, and who know life and me better than I; but I will learn to think for myself, choose for myself, act for myself.

2. I will not be afraid of being laughed at. I will not be afraid of doing right when the crowd does wrong. Fear never made a good American.

Fourth: The Law of Reliability. The Good American is Reliable

Our country grows great and good as her citizens are able more fully to trust each other. Therefore:

1. I will be honest, in word and in act. I will not lie, sneak, or pretend, nor will I keep the truth from those who have a right to it.
2. I will not do wrong in the hope of not being found out. I cannot hide the truth from myself and cannot often hide it from others.
3. I will not take without permission what does not belong to me.
4. I will do promptly what I have promised to do. If I have made a foolish promise, I will at once confess my mistake, and I will try to make good any harm which my mistake may have caused. I will so speak and act that people will find it easier to trust each other.

Fifth: The Law of Clean Play. The Good American Plays Fair

Clean play increases and trains one's strength, and helps one to be more useful to one's country. Therefore:

1. I will not cheat, nor will I play for keeps. If I should not play fair, the loser would lose the fun of the game, the winner would lose his self-respect, and the game itself would become a mean and often cruel business.
2. I will treat my opponent with courtesy.
3. If I play in a group game, I will play, not for my own glory, but for the success of my team and the fun of the game.
4. I will be a good loser or a generous winner.

Sixth: The Law of Duty. The Good American Does His Duty

The shirker or the willing idler lives upon the labor of others, burdens others with the work which he ought to do himself. He harms his fellow citizens, and so harms his country.

1. I will try to find out what my duty is, *what I ought to do*, and my duty I will do, whether it is easy or hard. What I ought to do I can do.