

*Powerfully Teaching
Your Children
Gospel Principles*

Lesson Plan: “George Washington: Compassionate Leader”

Objectives:

- **Emphasize George Washington’s example of showing compassion towards others.**
- **Talk about how we can show compassion towards others.**

Reinforces Principle of:

- **Compassion**

Each lesson contains 5 timed activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule.
Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip

Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder

Story Time: Story

Activity Time: Object lesson or activity

Treat Time: Prayer & theme related recipe

LDS Family Fun



ReverenceTime

Approximate Time: 5 minutes

Scripture Time: 1 Peter 3:8

8. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Prayer:

Sing Together: Hymn #223 "Have I Done any Good?"
If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
<http://www.lds.org/cm>

(Note: Navigate to the *Interactive Church Music Player* where you can listen to and print Church hymns and children's songs.)

Video Clip: Watch chapter 6 from the animated Complete Learning System, *George Washington* DVD.
(Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

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LessonTime

Approximate Time: 30 minutes

Lesson

(For younger children, it may be helpful to summarize the following ideas):

Summary:

“The father of our country.”

George Washington, the first President of the United States, is known as the “father of our country”. He believed in Christ and was guided by God in establishing a free nation.

Why do you think Heavenly Father helped George Washington lead his soldiers to victory during the American Revolution? (So this nation could be established with a constitution that would provide religious freedom, where the gospel could be restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith.)

Washington’s character made him the choice of his countrymen.

The people wanted to make George Washington king, but he thought the country needed a republican form of government. Instead he was unanimously elected president in 1789. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, said this about George Washington, “His integrity and character, more than the brilliance of his intellect, made him the choice of his countrymen as their leader.” *Joseph B. Wirthlin, Ensign, May 1990 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

An almost Godlike capacity for leadership.

A retired general and patriot by the name of William H. Wilbur, said “[George Washington] had an almost Godlike capacity for leadership.” One of George Washington’s soldier wrote this about him, “We are sitting in Valley Forge and waiting....Although we are suffering here terribly, I am loyal with all my heart to George Washington....He gazes with compassion upon the soldiers who are suffering from the cold. And sometimes he approaches one of the sleeping soldiers and covers him, as a father would cover his son.” *Given to Rebbetzen Sternberg by Rabbi Yehuda Mandelcorn zt*

Is compassion a Godlike quality? (Yes.)

“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.”
(Ps. 145:8.)

What does it mean to show compassion and how can we show compassion to others?

(Discuss ideas.)

“Compassion is an important aspect of Christlike love. It is the ability to feel what another is feeling—and then to help. When we have compassion, we open ourselves to feel with others their sorrows and joys....often we cannot do anything to make that pain go away. In such instances, just listening can be a form of genuine compassion.” *Ensign, Apr. 1993 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved*

Points to Ponder:

Does Heavenly Father expect us to be compassionate, like George Washington was? (Yes.)
“Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:” (Zech. 7: 9.)

If we follow the Savior’s and George Washington’s examples, and show compassion towards one another, will our family be happier? (Yes.)

“Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, *compassion*, work, and wholesome recreational activities.” (*Italic’s added*) *The Family: A Proclamation to the World, Sept. 1995*
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Should we show compassion to everyone? (Yes.)

President Ezra Taft Benson shared these words, “My heart has been filled with an overwhelming love and compassion for all members of the Church and our Heavenly Father’s children everywhere. I love all our Father’s children of every color, creed, and political persuasion. My only desire is to serve as the Lord would have me do.” *Ezra Taft Benson, November 11, 1985, press conference* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved)

LDS Family Fun



StoryTime

Approximate Time: 3 minutes

Mother wrapped a warm scarf around ten-year-old George's neck. "This should help keep you warm," she said, before sending him across the street to shovel the walks for their elderly neighbor. "I'm very proud of you for helping Mr. Pullem! I know he can be cantankerous at times."

"It's okay Mom. I know he's only that way because he's lonely. I hope *this* time he'll let me visit with him when I'm done."

"You're a mighty compassionate boy, George. Just like the man you were named for," Mother praised.

George smiled. It always made him proud knowing he was named after his mother's favorite U.S. President, George Washington, the father of our country. George lifted the snow shovel over his shoulder, with one gloved hand and gave a salute with the other. "Just call me Mr. President!" he said, before running across the street to Mr. Pullem's.

"I came to help you, Mr. Pullem," he said to the elderly man, who was breathing heavily from shoveling the heavy snow.

"Phooey!" the elderly man said, while wiping his sweaty brow. "I don't need your help. Just get yourself on back home, where you belong."

George looked worried. "He's too old to be doing this by himself," he thought before walking a few steps down the walk. When George began shoveling, Mr. Pullem shook his fist and hollered, "Are ya daft, boy? I said, go home!"

"I can hear just fine, Mr. Pullem, but I'm helping whether you like it or not!"

The elderly man swatted the air and shook his head, "Do what ya want, but don't think I'm paying ya!"

The young boy and the old man worked side by side until the walks were clear.

"Is there anything else I can do for ya, Mr. Pullem?" George asked.

Mr. Pullem removed one of his gloves and reached into his pocket and pulled out some dollar bills. "Here! Now be on your way!"

“I didn’t help for money, Mr. Pullem, but If you want to pay me, you could show me your trains!”

“You never give up, do you boy? Always asking to see me trains?” Mr. Pullem asked.

“Well, I keep hoping that *someday* you’ll let me see ’em!”

“Well, I guess you can come in and take a look-see, but you keep your mitts off. Understand?”

A huge grin crossed George’s face. He was careful to wipe his wet feet on the door mat before entering Mr. Pullem’s house.

Mr. Pullem laid his coat and gloves on the kitchen table and motioned for George to do the same. He then lead him into the *train* room. George’s eyes grew big with excitement as Mr. Pullem began flipping switches. “Clickity clack, clickity clack, woo-ooo,” the sound of the miniature trains filled the room. When Mr. Pullem was telling George all about the different kinds of engines and trains, his face changed. The sour expression disappeared and was replaced with an almost childlike glow.

“You want to manage the controls, while I go git us some hot cocoa?” he asked George.

“But, you said not to touch anything!” George answered.

“Oh, phooey! For two years I’ve been telling ya I don’t need your help and not once did ya ever listen to me.” He chuckled, as he handed George the train control. “Just be careful not to go too fast!”

Soon, Mr. Pullem made his way back from the kitchen, carrying a tray of hot cocoa and peppermint sticks. “My boy always liked peppermint in his cocoa,” Mr. Pullem said, as he stirred his cocoa with a peppermint stick. George eagerly stirred his cocoa. Taking a sip he exclaimed, “Mmmm, this is great!” After taking another sip, he asked, “Where’s your boy live now?”

“He and his ma were killed in a car wreck when he was just about your age,” Mr. Pullem answered. Wiping a tear from his cheek, he went on, “He was a good boy, my Tommy. Full of compassion for others. Just like you!”

George listened to the lonely elderly man, as he opened up, sharing an afternoon filled with memories of his wife and son. When George was leaving, Mr. Pullem patted him on the back, “I guess I’ve been feeling sorry for myself so long now, I forgot to remember the good times. Thank you George for listening to an old man ramble!”

“What are friends for? Besides I really enjoyed hearing about your family.”

“See ya tommorow?” Mr. Pullem asked to the young boy as he ran home.

“See ya tomorrow!” George hollered back to his new friend.

George ran inside to find his mother. “Mom, Mom!” he called, “You were right! If ya just keep giving and trying and giving some more, you really *can* make a difference!”

by Margie Nauta Lee © 2007 Living Scriptures, Inc.

LDS Family Fun



ActivityTime

What you need: A copy of the “I Will Show Compassion” activity for each child (artwork included with this lesson), scissors, stapler/staples or needle and thread, pencils and crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

Preparation

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Cut out along dotted lines.
3. Fold cover in half along center line.
4. Place individual pages inside cover.
5. Staple or sew together to create a book.



Activity:

A. “A retired army general and patriot by the name of William H. Wilbur discovered that [George Washington] came from a good home where he was taught and guided carefully by his parents. They taught the boy to have faith in the Lord and how to pray. They gave him certain rules to memorize and keep so that he could live a wholesome and righteous life of service. The rules helped the boy to develop character, consideration, modesty, **compassion**, respect, proper conduct and manners, and he tried hard to live by them.” *Ezra Taft Benson, Friend, July 1975 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

B. Is compassion an important character to possess? (Yes.)

C. Give each child a copy of the “I Will Show Compassion” book.

D. Fill in the blanks on pages 1–4.

Answer Key: 1. Listening. 2. Helping (or visiting). 3. Sharing. 4. Cheering, glad.

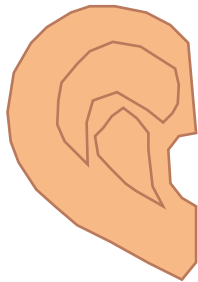
E. Discuss who you can show compassion to by following the completed statements.

F. For pages 5–10, help children finish the statements by writing how they can show compassion to the people in their lives.

G. Help children draw and color a simple illustration for each statement.



I will show compassion towards those who are in need by _____ if they need to talk.



1

I will show compassion by _____ the sick and the weary.



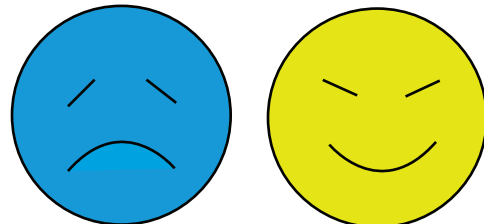
2

I will show compassion towards others by _____.



3

I will show compassion by _____ up the sad and making someone feel _____.



4

**I will show compassion
towards my parents by**

5

**I will show compassion
towards my siblings by**

6

**I will show compassion
towards my grandparents by**

7

**I will show compassion
towards my friends by**

8

**I will show compassion
towards my teachers by**

9

**I will show compassion
towards my neighbor by**

10

LDS Family Fun



TreatTime

Approximate Time: 50 minutes

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Bake Time: 20-25 minutes

Cool Time: 30 minutes



George Washington [Mini] Birthday Cakes

(This cake is named after the father of our country because, according to an 1843 newspaper story, it was “a favorite at the table of General Washington.” Recipe adapted for the modern cook.)

3/4 c. butter

1 c. sugar

3 eggs

1/4 c. apple juice

1/2 pint heavy cream or

1 c. milk + 2 Tbs. vinegar

1 c. whole wheat flour

1 3/4 c. all purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. nutmeg

1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Cream Cheese frosting

Apple slices

Birthday candles

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F.

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and apple juice. Sift together flour, baking soda, and spices. Mix by hand or on medium speed, while slowly adding half of the flour mixture and half of the cream. Continue mixing while adding the remaining flour and cream. Mix an additional 2 minutes or 300 strokes. Fill muffin tin (greased and floured or lined with paper baking cups) 2/3 full. Bake for 20–25 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes. Frost and decorate with apple slices if desired. Tip: To keep apple from turning brown, soak in lemon juice. Then pat dry with paper towel before decorating cakes.

Treat Time: Americans celebrated Washington’s birthday while he was still alive, because they were grateful for a leader who had proven a democratic government could work. The Federal statute designates the 3rd Monday in the month of February as **Washington’s Birthday** (commonly known as Presidents’ day). Put a birthday candle in each cake. Light candles and sing “Happy Birthday” to President Washington.

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.