

The Girls Friendly Society

Teddy Bear Activities

Handbook II



“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

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Purpose: The purpose of this handbook is to provide suggestions of activities to complete with GFS members in waiting ages 3 to 7 years old.

Structure: Each activity is structured around promoting a girl's faith to become living, conscious, and active by exposing members to the beauty of God's love through introduction to basic biblical themes and activities and responsibilities in the church and GFS.

Use of Activities: These activities are created to be flexible and should be adapted by each leader according to their branch's needs. For example, activities may be worked on for several sessions or eliminated if not indicated for their group. This book should be used in conjunction with other resources.

Special Note: All activities have been tried with ages 2-8 years. Working with children 3 to 7 years of age can be fun and rewarding. Here are some brief thoughts to keep in mind.

1. Don't worry about a lesson being too long. Instead change the learning mode of activity every 15 minutes (for example from drawing to singing). This will help maintain attention to task.
2. Use your imagination and encourage them to do so. This is the age of magic and imaginary play. So let them dress up, act, and become involved in the task they are learning.
3. Keep them active so that they continue learn.
4. Repeat activities over and over to reinforce learning.
5. Encourage friendships and good social interactions. This is a time when children learn Christian Hospitality.
6. Lastly, be enthusiastic and encouraging. This group loves hugs and high fives.

The Girls Friendly in Waiting Pinning Ceremony

Priest: The Girls Friendly Society was founded in England in 1875 and in American in 1877 for the purpose of extending God's Kingdom among women and girls. These girls are ready for admission as Girls Friendly Society members in waiting (or GFS Teddy Bears). At the end of the ceremony, these girls will receive pins as reminders of their commitment as Girls Friendly girls in waiting.

O' Lord, bless these Pins which represent the commitment these girls will make to learn the values of the Girls Friendly Society. Amen

Branch Advisors: Girls you may say your vows.

Girls Friendly Society Girls in Waiting: (Girls Friendly in Waiting should be dressed White)

I promise:

"To share God's love for all people.

To worship and serve faithfully,

To make my words true, and my actions right,

To grow strong in mind, body, and spirit,

To make this world a better place to live."

Amen.

(Current Girls Friendly Society Members (in standard uniform) stand directly in front of GFS Girls in Waiting or Teddy Bears and pin their pins on them. If possible, pins should be teddy bears.)

Current Girls Friendly Society Members: Received these pins as a sign of your commitment to learn the values of the Girls Friendly Society.

All: The Girl's Friendly Prayer

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to bless us and all who belong to the Girl's Friendly Society. Strengthen and protect us by Thy fatherly love and vouchsafe to us the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit. Help us all to bear one another's burdens and to live, not for ourselves but for others, as members of one family in Christ. Cleanse us from our sins, make us holy by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit and bring us all at last to the joy of Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Girls Friendly Society

Girls Friendly in Waiting Activities

We are all princesses



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear candidate will learn what it means to be a princess of God.
2. Teddy Bear candidate will learn the story of Queen Esther.
3. Teddy Bear candidate will understand the duties of a princess and how that is similar to being a daughter of God.

Activities:

- Have Teddy Bear Candidate read or listen to the story of Queen Esther
- Have Teddy Bear members' study the introduction to the word Etiquette and learn that manners are the outward expression of our inward character. Focus on the good Godly character.
- View Movie "Queen Esther"
- Make a crown out of cardboard, paper, and jewels.

Bible Verse to Learn: The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of worked gold.

Psalm 11:16

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Girls Friendly in Waiting Activities

Saying good things



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about use of kind words in speech.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn the story of the Shunamonite Woman
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about when to say "Thank you", "Please", "Your welcome" and "May I".

Activities:

- Share movie on Pollyanna with girls and point out how she uses kind words in her life.
- Taste honey and then use it to bake with girls. Talk about its sweetness. Talk about how girls may imitate this sweetness.
- Learn how say "Thank you", "Please", "Your welcome", and "May I" in sign language
- Create homemade gifts to give to needy or shut-in.
- Learn the song "This Little Light of Mine"

Bible Verse to Learn: "Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body." **Proverbs 16:24**

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Girls Friendly in Waiting Activities

Dressing Up



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about dressing appropriately for different occasions.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about the Virtuous women.
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will create a story of her own opportunities to dress as a girl for Christ...

Activities:

- Review the "Fruits of the Spirit".
- Have girl assist with cleaning bedroom at home and GFS room. Take picture for documentation.
- Create a photograph album of girl dressed in different outfits doing various activities such as alcolyting, a hobby, church dress, and school uniform.
- Reinforce each outfit brings a strength and dignity to the task of learning.
- Learn the "Fruits of the Spirit" Song from GoFish

Bible Verse to Learn: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

Proverbs 31:25

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Hospitality



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will share the meaning of hospitality.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn how to practice hospitality in the church, home, and community.
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will complete one hospitable act in each of the above areas.

Activities:

- Have Teddy Bear Candidate learn the definition of hospitality.
- Have Teddy Bear Candidate make tray favors for church, nursing home, or some mission out of materials which they have gladly given from home. (For an example: Rainbow loom bracelets, Hot mug coaster, and grow a plant or flower to give away.)
- Have Teddy Bear Candidate host a "Tea party" for church members or friends.

Bible Verse to Learn: Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13

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Cleanliness



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about eating a balanced meal.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about keeping personal space clean.
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about basic hygiene.

Activities:

- Make homemade scented soap for use at home.
- Make a hair ribbon
- Create storage box out of old shoe box and decorate with paper.
- Create a pencil holder out of old can of soup and paper.
- Review the benefits of brushing teeth and washing hand.
- Have dentist and or doctor come and talk about teeth and personal care.
- Show how to care for nails. May paint nails if this is option.
- Teach how to wash hands the proper way and have practice.
- Have girls clean up after GFS meeting.

Bible Verse to Learn: "But all things should be done decently and in order." **1 Corinthians 14:40**

The Girls Friendly Society
Girls Friendly in Waiting Activities

The Perfect Posture



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about “Putting on the Full Armor of God”.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn about graceful and holy ways we move in the church.
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will practice holy postures in the church.

Activities:

- Learn a liturgical dance.
- Try Yoga or Pilates.
- Study the Putting on the Full Armor of God. Review what posture most be like for someone to wear armor both physically and spiritually. Emphasize soldiers, dancers, and others who have good posture.
- Put on Armor Set and name what each area means.
- Make pretzels a reminder of “Holy Postures”
- Study the meaning of genuflection, making the sign of the cross, folded arms over chest, and praying hands mean in the church.
- Visit church sanctuary and practice the above signs.
- Learn the song “Putting on the Full armor of God” by GoFish

Bible Verse to Learn: “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” **Ephesians 6:11**

The Girls Friendly Society
Girls Friendly in Waiting Activities

You are a special child of God.



Goals:

1. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn how we are brought into God's Family by Baptism.
2. Teddy Bear Candidate will learn the colors of the Girls Friendly Society uniform and understand how it uniqueness brings us into the Girls Friendly Society Family.
3. Teddy Bear Candidate will identify their talents, strengths, and uniqueness.

Activities:

- Have Teddy Bear member create a decoupage of activities Teddy Bear likes to participate on Paper Plate. Add a stand to it.
- Have Teddy Bear member create name tags for name wall for GFS Classroom. Add pictures with Uniforms if able.
- Read Baptism Story in Bible.
- Have Teddy Bear members practice baptism process on doll over water.
- Take field trip to church and view Baptismal Font.
- Encourage Teddy Bear member to attend and view church Baptism.
- Encourage Teddy Bear member to have show and tell of talents or favorite activity.
- Consider bracelet or hair ribbon craft.

Bible Verse to Learn: "I will praise you; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are your works; and that my soul knows right well." **Psalm 139:14**

Resources

- The Movie Pollyanna 1960 Disney Movie
- GoFish Songs: <http://store.gofishguys.com/>
- Rainbow Looms: <https://www.rainbowloom.com/>
- Oriental Trading: www.orientaltrading.com (Full armor of God)

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