Citizenship

Activity tie-in: Littering

Object- Crumpled up Newspaper

Bible Verse- Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Lesson- God gave us governments for a reason, and we should obey the government because we love God.

Introduction Ideas

- You might throw some crumpled up newspaper on the ground, and ask the students how the world would look if everyone threw their garbage on the ground. Then have them pick it up and throw it away. (Beware of wind, we don't actually want to litter.)
- If you're outside, you could play a game of Red Light, Green Light and emphasize how it is important to follow the laws of the road.
- You could look up some strange laws from around the world and relate them to the students. Emphasize how even if you don't understand a law, God commands us to obey the governments which he established.

Lesson Suggestions

- Transition from your introduction into a lesson on why citizenship is important. God gave us government in order to keep us safe from those who would hurt us and to keep us from hurting each other. Even if we do not like those who are placed over us as an authority we should recognize those people as an authority established by God.
- Quote the Bible verse: Romans 13:1
- Object lesson: Explain that following God's law is important, but the grace that God gives us through Jesus gives us faith and salvation. Therefore the most important aspect to citizenship is our willingness to spread God's Word to our fellow citizens.

Questions For Interactive Lessons

- As you go through the lesson, you could ask the students to make applications:
    - What should we do when others complain about the people who run the government?
        - Defend the government as a thing which God has established for important reasons, and recommend praying to God that the government acts wisely.
    - What do you do if the government tells you to do something that is against God's Word?

- Quote Acts 5:29 “We must obey God rather than men.” God’s Word is more important than any earthly mandate and when God’s established government goes against His will, you should stay true to His will.

Closing Prayer

God, you have established the government. Help us to follow the laws that are set up in order to protect us. Remind us to follow your Word and your commands above all else and send us out into the world as good citizens who tell people about God’s saving grace. Amen.