

Honoring Servicemen & Women

Month: Nov.

Week #: 11

Day: e. Fri. Time: 1 hour

Thank You Notes

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: recognize the service of those serving in the armed forces by writing them thank you notes.

Materials

paper, pencils, envelopes, stamps or Internet access

Illustration

This little girl goes out her way to support our troops because she personally understands how big a sacrifice it can be... On the shelf there's a picture of her daddy who was killed while serving in Iraq.



Background

Whether one believes a particular war is just or not, or doesn't even believe in war, it is important to honor and support those Americans who are currently serving in the armed forces . These men and women are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice: to give up their lives in order to protect our country and our freedoms. Many of these people are serving in distant lands, far away from family and loved

ones. At times, they wonder if the folks back home appreciate, or even care about the sacrifices that they are making.

Note: Contact your local base or go on the Internet to acquire contact addresses. It might be that sending e-mails is easier than sending snail-mail (although a service person might appreciate a letter written in the child's own handwriting).

Group Activity

1. Say, "While we are sitting in the safety of our classroom, surrounded by our friends, with family only minutes away, there are people serving in the armed forces in far away countries. Now close your eyes. Imagine for a minute that you are in the Army, Navy, Marines or Air Force. You are stationed far from your family, friends and home in a country like Iraq, Germany or South Korea. You joined the armed forces because you believe in democracy and freedom. As the months, or maybe even the years go by, you at times wonder if Americans appreciate, or even care about the sacrifices that you are making. You may open your eyes."

2. Say, "By a show of hands, how many of you would want to be appreciated and supported if you were serving in the armed forces?" *A: Hopefully, yes.* "To show our support troops, you're going to have the opportunity to write thank you letters to show your appreciation. I say, 'have the opportunity', because you will write a letter only if you choose to do so. If I was in the armed services, I really wouldn't want a letter from someone who really didn't care or who only wrote the letter because their teacher made them write it. Before we begin, we're going to brainstorm about

Group Activity (continued)

what you might include in your letter. What would you want in such a letter?" List suggestions on board. *A: Jokes, poems, information about yourself, why you appreciate their service, etc.* "Since part of showing our appreciation is doing our best job possible, (a hastily, poorly written letter would communicate that you really don't care), we're going to write a rough draft, edit it and then write a beautiful final draft. Any questions?"

Conclusion (After the final drafts are collected and sent)

Say, "Thank you. On behalf of that man or woman, who is stationed far away from home, who is serving our country, which means you and me, and our family and friends, I say thank you. As they sit reading your letter, it makes them feel good, like people really care about what they are doing and that what they are doing is important. So once again, a heartfelt thank you!"



This little girl goes out of her way to support our troops because she personally understands how big a sacrifice it can be... On the shelf there's a picture of her daddy who died while serving in Iraq.