

September 29, 2002

Hey Kids!



This is the last week of September, but before this month gets away, it's worth noting that it is

Children's Good Manners Month. It's a time to be reminded of how important good manners are.

What if there were no such thing as good manners? You might eat with your hands, slurp & burp. Ick! Would your bedroom stay clean? Would feelings get hurt? Would you know anything about taking turns?

Good manners help us remember to say special words like, "please" and "thank you." They remind us that it's good to share, to be honest, respectful, polite, and to apologize when we've done something wrong. Really, good manners help us to be kind. When we are kind, we don't hit, yell, or tease others. We are polite, and not rude.

The spirit of God that lives in each of us fills us up with love and kindness. Open your Bibles to the New Testament and read in Galatians 5:22-23, to discover these important words, "God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled." These actions are called Fruits of the Spirit. When we practice God's way of kindness, we love others as much as we love ourselves and treat others the way we want to be treated. (This is called The Golden Rule.)

Maybe the people who invented Children's Good Manners Month wanted to first call it "Fruits of the Spirit Month" but thought that might be confusing. They didn't want boys and girls spending all their time thinking about apples, grapes & bananas! So instead, we are celebrating good manners. Don't you think that's something to be celebrated all year long?

How are your manners?



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Activities

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Look up hymn #273 in our United Methodist hymnal to discover the missing words.

Jesus' hands were _____ hands, doing _____ to all, _____ pain and sickness, _____ children small, washing tired feet, and _____ those who fall; Jesus' hands were _____ hands, doing _____ to all.

Take _____ hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for _____; Make them strong and gentle, _____ in all I do. Let me watch you, _____, till I'm gentle too. Till my hands are _____ hands, quick to work for _____.

Kind to Me

Who are some of the people who are kind to you?
List their names here.

Kindness Quiz

Circle the words that someone with good manners would use. Cross out the bad manners.

Thank you. Your hair is messy. Yes, please.

This soup is awful. What planet are you from?

I'm sorry. May I help you? Let's share.

Hello! How are you?

In the week ahead, see if you can catch people being polite and using good manners.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for filling us with your kind spirit. Help us to share your kindness with others. Amen.