

Civil Air Patrol's ACE Program

Power Givers Grade 5 Character Lesson #3



Topic: humanitarianism (language arts, social studies)

Length of Lesson: 50 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will name characteristics of "power givers."
- Students will explore reasons why successful people become charitable givers.
- Students will identify examples of humanitarian spirit.
- Students will use critical thinking skills to determine how they can become contributing members of their community.
- Students will learn to make parachutes with a payload attached.

National Standards:

Character Education Partnership (CEP)

- Principle 1: Promotes core ethical values as the basis of good character.
- Principle 3: Uses a comprehensive, intentional, proactive, and effective approach to character development.
- Principle 4: Creates a caring school community.
- Principle 5: Provides students with opportunities for moral action.
- Principle 7: Strives to Foster Student's Self Motivation

English

- NL-ENG.K-12.2 Understanding the Human Experience
- NL-ENG.K-12.4 Communication Skills
- NL-ENG.K-12.8 Developing Research Skills

Social Studies

- NSS-C.5-8.5 Roles of the Citizen

Background Information:

Milton S. Hershey was born on September 13, 1857, in central Pennsylvania. Hershey first tried his luck as an apprentice in a local printing shop. After finding this was not to his liking, he became an apprentice in a candy shop in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It was here that Milton Hershey started his chocolate candy empire.

Hershey is known for his generosity to help others. He believed that fortunes should be shared. This is quite evident through his contributions to society. Milton Hershey cared about each and every one who worked for him. He built schools, hospitals, theaters, stores, and safe factories for the community of people he employed.

Hershey left the candy shop and started on his own company after developing a delicious caramel. He sold his caramel company in 1900 for one million dollars and built a chocolate factory in the area near the dairy farms where he grew up in Pennsylvania. In 1894 Hershey introduced his milk chocolate and chocolate almond bars. An entire town and community grew up around the factory built to produce milk chocolate candy. The famous street lights in Hershey look like foil-coated Hershey Kisses®.

Milton Hershey believed that his success should be shared with others. He and his wife, Catherine, had no children to inherit the Hershey fortune so they started a home and school for orphaned boys. The town of Hershey, still based around the chocolate factory built in the early 1900s, provided the community with many enriching opportunities. A museum, zoo, amusement park, hospitals, theater, and many other recreational and community organizations are still active today due to the fortune Milton Hershey left in trust to continue his dreams and visions.

Materials:

- For each student- 2 small Hershey snack-sized chocolate bars for each student (1 to add to parachute and 1 to eat!)
- For each student: 4 pieces of 12" string
- For each student: Handkerchief, or 12" x12" square cut from cloth or plastic trash bags
- Tape (if using plastic squares)
- permanent colored markers for adding decorations and student name to plastic or cloth parachutes
- younger students- 1 per student
- Hershey kisses (optional)

Lesson Presentation:

1. As an introduction to the lesson, have students share some of their personal heroes and have them explain why they have selected these people. Discuss traits that truly exemplify being a hero. (Being a good role model, doing things to benefit others, etc.)
2. As an example of a "Power Giver," either read to the students the background information on Milton Hershey above or one of the books on Milton S. Hershey found in the associated literature list at the end of this lesson.
3. Discuss the life choices Hershey made which demonstrated a caring character trait. (building a museum, zoo, amusement park, hospital, and theater; leaving his money in trust to continue financing these projects)
4. Provide another "Power Giver" example by asking students if they have ever heard of the World War II veteran Col. Gail Halverson, known affectionately as Uncle Wiggly Wings, The Chocolate Pilot, or The Candy Bomber.

Provide the background information below:

Uncle Wiggly Wings

After World War II, East Germany came under Russian (Soviet Union) control. In 1948-1949, the Soviet Union blocked all roads and railroads into Berlin, Germany and the people were cut off from the world. The only way to get the supplies needed to keep the city running and its inhabitants from starving was to fly them in via military airlift.

As a humanitarian mission to aid the people in getting necessities, such as food to coal to help them start to recover from the ravages of war, United States and United Kingdom aircraft began the Berlin Airlift and made airlift drops with the needed supplies.

Life for the people of Berlin was very difficult and had it not been for the airlift of supplies, thousands would have died from starvation and disease. A young pilot for the US Air Force, Gail Halvorsen, decided the children of Berlin were in need of a little hope. Halvorsen had a hobby of making home movies and on one of his days off, decided to visit the city he was saving. At one of the airlift runways, he noticed a group of children watching the planes land from behind a fence. He started a conversation with them and they were fascinated when they found out he was one of the pilots who was flying in their life-giving supplies.

The children were so grateful that they were receiving basic supplies to live. He noticed they did not ask him for handouts of gum or chocolate, even though they had not seen any candy at all for months. He was so impressed with their gratitude and politeness that he reached into his pocket to find them a treat. Unfortunately he only had two sticks of gum with him, but he gave those to the group of children, half expecting them to fight over the rare treat. Instead, the children split the sticks to share them as far as they could go, and those who didn't get any of the gum were given small strips torn from the foil wrappers so they could at least smell the sweets.

The unselfishness of the children touched and impressed the young pilot so much that he made a decision that could have gotten him court-martialed for breaking flying regulations. He knew he wouldn't be able to get back to the fence line because of the flying schedule, so he told the children to watch for his aircraft in the sky. He told them he would "wiggle his wings" on approach to the airport so they could recognize him and he would drop candy to them from the aircraft.

True to his word, the very next day, on approach to Berlin, he rocked the airplane's wings and dropped some chocolate bars attached to handkerchief parachutes to the children waiting below. Every day, the number of children would increase and he

made several more drops. Soon there was a stack of mail at Base Operations addressed to "Uncle Wiggly Wings," "The Chocolate Flyer," and the "Chocolate Uncle."

The young pilot asked some of his fellow pilots for their rations of candy so he could share more candy with the children. His fellow pilots warned him of the consequences of throwing anything like that from an aircraft in flight without permission, but he would not be swayed.

When the crowds of children became too large, the safety of the children was a primary concern. So, the crew would drop the candy in areas around the city where they saw children playing. Candy was also sent to children in schools, hospitals and orphanages.

Eventually the young pilot was reprimanded by his commander when a picture was published in a German newspaper of Halvorsen's plane flying by with tiny parachutes trailing it. His commander wasn't happy about it, but the General thought it was just the kind of morale boost that the airlift operation needed, so Halvorsen was not severely disciplined.

The German newspaper article led to worldwide publicity for the "Candy Bomber," as he was also being called by then. Donations of candy and handkerchiefs from American manufacturers and individuals were used to make even more sweet parachutes. Eventually, service clubs across America were making the parachutes and attaching candy for all of the aircraft to drop throughout the city of Berlin.

American aircraft dropped more than 23 tons of candy to the children of Berlin during "Operation Little Vittles," as the candy bombing operation eventually was called. More than 250,000 parachutes loaded with candy were dropped on the city of Berlin bringing a little joy to the nearly 100,000 children of Berlin during the Russian blockade.

The Berlin Airlift is today remembered as a remarkable accomplishment of man and machine in the face of adversity. The Berlin Airlift operated over 15 months, and more than 2.3 million tons of critically-needed supplies were flown into the besieged city, including 12,900 tons on April 16, 1949, the highest one-day tonnage of the operation.

While hundreds of pilots and aircraft from various countries were eventually part of the Berlin Airlift, Colonel Halvorsen, who also became known as the "Candy Bomber," is still the most recognized individual to come out of that landmark operation.

That act of kindness eventually led to a prominent place in the history books for retired Col Gail S. Halvorsen. He went on to win the Cheney Award in 1948 for "...an act of valor, extreme fortitude or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest."

One powerful message Colonel Halvorsen has shared with children throughout his life is that they should do things for others not because of any rewards that might come out of it, but because it's the right thing to do.

"It's called service before self," Colonel Halvorsen has told audiences of children through the years. "Look at me. My contributions to the world came about all because of two sticks of gum. I've had a lot of great things happen and met a lot of wonderful people, but really it's all because of two sticks of gum."

5. Have students discuss the contributions of Col. Halvorsen. Discuss how Col. Halvorsen's efforts from the air contributed to the well-being of the children of war-torn Berlin. (This gave them something to look forward to; gave them hope for the future; and demonstrated how even in times of war people can show a humanitarian spirit.)
6. Discuss with the students some reasons successful people may have for giving back to the community in ways related to their interest. (Examples are having tax benefits, believing that it is an important part of the economy, being dedicated to a cause, and wanting to give back because they have been so abundantly blessed.) List these reasons on the board and have students determine which reasons are completely *humanitarian* in nature. (Tell the students that humanitarian means selfless giving. In other words, the giver gives with the expectation of receiving nothing in return.)
7. Let the students become "candy bombers" and distribute small snack-sized chocolate bars attached to cloth/plastic parachutes to younger students, such as kindergarteners in the school. Reading the story, *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*, or telling the story of Uncle Wiggly Wings to the students will give them a background about the event. (Retelling the story also aids students in vocabulary development and story retention.)
 - Use a paper napkin, handkerchief, or a 12" X 12" square from a thin piece of cloth or a plastic trash bag (one per child)
 - For each child, cut two 14" pieces of string or yarn. Using sticky dots (paper reinforcers), have students attach one end of each piece of string to each of the 4 corners of the napkin/cloth/bag .
 - Hold the 2 loops of string so the napkin hangs toward the floor and is evenly balanced.
 - Slip a paper clip onto the 2 loops of string.
 - Attach the miniature candy bar to the paper clip with tape.



- Have the students drop the parachute from a high location to awaiting younger children.

Summarization:

Explain to students that many successful people show their care and concern for the community. Their charitable character is demonstrated through their giving of money, time, support, and willingness to provide comfort just for the sake of making life better for others.

Further explain that many times we think of successful or famous people as being wealthy. But, in the case of Col Gail Halverson, an ordinary man made extraordinary contributions to make a difference in the world by simple, yet courageous, efforts to improve the life of children in another country.

Ask students to share other ideas of how people who are not famous or wealthy can show charitable character. Encourage students to always show care and concern for others in order to make the world a better place to live for all people.

Assessment:

- teacher observation
- student reports

Additional activity ideas to enrich and extend the primary lesson (optional):

- Plan one activity the class can do to be *Power Givers* themselves.
- Students work in groups to design a Hershey Space City using Hershey Kisses, sugar cubes, icing, toothpicks, and other various candies. The city could include a museum, zoo, amusement park, hospital, theater, and stores. Students need to write a narrative about their space city to include where it is located in the solar system and what significant contributions are accomplished in their city.
- Have students work in groups of 2 or 3 to research through the internet or books the generous activities of one specific celebrity. Some suggested celebrities are Andrew Carnegie, Mother Teresa, Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie, Bill Gates, Bill Cosby, and Tiger Woods. Have students complete the "Power Givers: Celebrity Report" from the perspective of the celebrity. When students finish, they can share their information without stating the name of the celebrity. Can the other students guess who the celebrity is?
- Research the steps necessary in making milk chocolate. Write an expository paragraph explaining the directions.

- Groups work together to design a poster displaying some of the priceless heroic activities of the celebrity they researched. Hang the posters in the hallway to share with the student body.

Associated Literature:

- *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margot Theis Raven
- *Chocolate by Hershey: A Story About Milton S. Hershey* by Betty Burford
- *Milton Hershey (History Maker Bio Series)* by Jane Sutcliffe
- *Tiger Woods: A Biography for Kids* by Libby Hughes
- *Bill Gates* by Children's Press
- *The Children's Book of Heroes* by William J. Bennett

Power Givers: Celebrity Report

1. Your name and area of fame:

2. How did you become famous?

3. In what type of cause(s) or organization(s) are you involved and why are these important to you?

4. Do you share your time, talent, money, or all three?

5. How do you share your resources listed in number 4?

6. Is there anything else you would like to share that demonstrates your care and concern for your community, country, or world?
