

“Teacher Trail Mix”

A simple lesson and activity to demonstrate thankfulness for our teachers.

For The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta By Katie McRee

Key verses:

Several verses that encourage teachers.

Objectives:

- ACKNOWLEDGE how hard our teachers work
- MAKE something nice for our teachers
- PRAY for our teachers

The Set up: Medium

Don't let the supply list scare you... this lesson is not very complicated, you just need a lot of supplies because you are making simple treats for teachers!

The Plan:

- Hook: **Things Teachers Think**: (5-10 mins) Watching a video that tells us something we all already know... that being a teacher is hard work!
- Book: **Teacher verses**: (5 mins) Choosing verses that could be encouraging to our teachers
- Look: **Teacher Trail Mix**: (20-25 mins) Making special gifts for our favorite teachers.
- Took: **Teacher Prayers**: (5 mins) Praying for our teachers.

The Supplies:

- Copy of lesson
- AV equipment to show video
- Several copies of “Bible Verse Options” - the students can share
- Notecards or blank stationary
- Pens
- Copies of “Trail Mix Options”, one per student
- Envelopes OR stapler
- Snack bags
- Trail mix supplies (see the LOOK section)- Popcorn, Pretzel Twists, Chex, Cheerios, Cheese crackers, Sunflower seeds, Nuts, PB chips, M&Ms, Marshmallows, Yogurt raisins, Craisins, Banana Chips
- Scissors
- Ribbon

(Open in prayer, announcements, and any other start of gathering traditions)

Things Teachers Think (Hook, 5 mins)

Watching a video that tells us something we all already know... that being a teacher is HARD work! This section should be short and sweet! Save time for the “Look” section.

- Choose a video and show it!
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wch_oJEp5c
 - This one is hilarious, but has the word “hell” in it. Use your best discretion.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TIC305rfcQ>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHjquEupgzM>

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think is the best part of teaching?
- What about being a teacher might be frustrating or exhausting?
- Can you think of a specific time when one of your teachers was expected to do something that seemed ridiculous and more than what they should be required to do?
 - You may want to talk to some teacher friends beforehand and have a few stories to share in case the kids have nothing to offer.
- What could you do to be a better student and make your teacher’s life a little easier?

Transitional Statement:

We could probably brainstorm a long list of things we could do to be better students and make our teacher’s life easier, but sometimes we have a tendency to come up with ideas but never act on them. Today we are going to do something concrete and create a small gift for our teachers. Before we create the gift, let’s find some verses that could be encouraging to our teachers.

Teacher Verses (Book, 5-10 mins)

This is another very simple section... save your time for the "Look" section. All they are doing is picking out an encouraging verse for their teachers and writing it on a notecard.

- Pass out notecards/stationary, pens, and envelopes (or use a stapler later if you are not using envelopes)
- Ask them to think of one (or more if you are doing several) teacher that they want to make a gift for and then to choose one verse that they think would be encouraging to that teacher. Write the verse on their stationary.
 - If they want to choose a verse that is not on the page of suggested verses, they can do that too!
- Set the verse aside for now...

Teacher Trail Mix (Book, 20-25 mins)

Each youth will be creating a bag of customized trail mix for a teacher they want to encourage.

- Pass out scissors, treat bags and copies of the “Trail Mix Options” page- they will need one bag and one page for each bag of trail mix they are making.
- Have them select the trail mix options that match with the sentiments that they want to say about their teacher.
- Then they will cut out the ingredients they chose, and throw away the unused slips of paper.
- They can then either put all their slips of paper in an envelope, or staple them to the notecard with the verse.
- On the other side of the verse notecard (created earlier), have them the name of the teacher and “Mix.” For example, “The Mr. Brown Mix.” (Obviously they can name it something more creative if they want to!)
- Close up the trail mix-filled treat bags and attach the name/verse notecards and ingredient slips with a piece of ribbon.

TIPS:

- Make sure each kid starts with one or more grain (popcorn, pretzels, Chex, cheerios, cheese crackers) and fill up their bag 50-75% of the way... otherwise they will end up with a giant bag of candy, which no one wants, and it will cost you a lot more money!
- Set up your ingredients in big bowls with cups or spoons that they can use for serving (don't leave them in the original bags), otherwise, just like above, they will end up with bags of candy and seeds.
- Set aside some extra of best items (sweets, seeds, nuts) in the back so you can replenish... otherwise the last kids will be left with few options and their teachers will be eating lame trail mix.

Teacher Prayers (Took, 5-10 mins)

The students will be committing to a specific teacher and time to deliver their trail mix, and then closing in prayer for their teacher.

- Have them get in groups of 2 or 3
- In their groups, have them share:
 - WHO they will be giving their trail mix to and why
 - WHEN they will deliver it (accountability!)
- Close in a prayer of thanksgiving for teachers. You can do this however you would like, but it would work well to open with a few words, allow them to offer up words of thanksgiving for the teachers they made gifts for, and then close with one of the verses from the “Bible Verse Options” sheet.

Bible Verse Options

Luke 6:40 “The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”

Proverbs 22:6 “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

Psalms 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Romans 12:6-7 “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;”

James 3:1-2 “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.”

Titus 2:7-8 “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”

Proverbs 4:13 “Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Proverbs 1:2-4 “To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.”

Trail Mix Options

Popcorn... because you help new ideas POP into our heads!

Pretzel Twists... because you help me out when my thoughts are all TWISTED!

Chex... because you give up your free time to CHEX all our work!

Cheerios... because you've CHEER-ioed for me all year long!

Cheese crackers... because you have the best CHEESY jokes!

Sunflower seeds... because you have planted so many SEEDS of wisdom this year!

Nuts... because I am sure we make you NUTS but you are still so good to us!

Peanut Butter Chips... because CHOOSY MOMS choose you!

M&Ms... because you are COLORFUL on the outside, and SWEET on the inside!

Marshmallows... because you respond to our questions in a SOFT and GENTLE manner!

Yogurt raisins... because this job is hard, YO(gurt)!

Craisins... because you gracefully manage a room full of CRAZY students!

Banana Chips... because we are your MINIONS!