STEPPING STONE TWO
Love God

AHG PROGRAM FOCUS
Level Award Namesake

AHG PATHFINDER HANDBOOK
Page XX

AWARD REQUIREMENT

F2

LESSON TITLE

FANNY CROSBY—MY HERITAGE AND FAMILY

LESSON DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This chapter of Fanny Crosby's life story explores her heritage, the family God gifted her, her struggles as a girl, and her courage to lean on God's promises, encouraging girls to love God and cherish their families.

Lesson Activity

Prepare this suggested activity in advance to support girls' engagement and participation through a hands-on experience during the Lesson Script.

FANNY CROSBY VISIT

Girls will gain a tangible understanding of the importance of hiding God's promises in their hearts, so they can remember that when they are doing hard things or going through tough times, God is with them and working all things for their good.

SUPPLIES

- ☐ Costume:
  - Dress: long-sleeved, dark colors, full skirt, accented waist, lace at the neck
  - Glasses: small, rectangular, black opaque, wire-rimmed
  - Pelerine: thin shawl to drape over the shoulders, dark colors
  - Flat shoes: shoes similar to ballerina slippers
  - Hair style: curled in big ringlets
- ☐ *AHG Pathfinder Adult Guide: Fanny Crosby—My Heritage and Family*

INSTRUCTIONS

Have an older Girl or Adult Member dress up like Fanny Crosby and "visit" the girls. She can act as a living historian, staying in character and dialect, to tell the girls this chapter's story. Consider having another Girl or Adult Member lead her as a guide to enhance the realism of the encounter.

Lesson Script

Gather all the girls in a central location, facing you (i.e., carpet squares, chairs, or marked spots in the grass), with the LESSON ACTIVITY: FANNY CROSBY VISIT prepared.

This year is all about adventure and growth as a Pathfinder! Does anybody remember what a namesake is and who the Pathfinder's namesake is?

Give girls time to respond.

(continued on next page)

A namesake is a person who shows the same traits as a group, like the Pathfinders. The Pathfinder namesake is Fanny Crosby. She was a remarkable woman whom you started learning about in your AHG meetings. Can anybody remember the last part of her story?

Last time you learned her name—Fanny—and what it means. It's time to learn another part of her story today!

CHAPTER TWO—My Heritage and Family

Incorporate the LESSON ACTIVITY: FANNY CROSBY VISIT here.

As my family grew in America, so did my last name, Crosby. My great-great-great-great-grandfather, Simon, helped start Harvard College to teach pastors. My great-grandfather, Charles, and other family members fought for freedom as soldiers and spies during the Revolutionary War. This is the war where the brave American colonies united to win freedom from the unfair rules of the king of Great Britain.

The Crosby family spread across the people in America. Two hundred years after the Crosbys arrived in America from England, on March 24, 1820, John and Mercy Crosby had their only daughter in Brewster, NY. That was me—Fanny! I was born before computers, telephones, cars, or bicycles. There were no cool machines like washing machines or dishwashers, but my life was very special!

When I was still a baby, just six weeks old, something sad happened. I got really sick with a cold. Although my mother took care of me, the cold worsened and affected my eyes. My eyes became inflamed and infected. Mother decided to take me to see the doctor, but he was not there. Another man who was in town claimed to be a doctor and tried to help me. Back then, we did not have the same medicine that you have now. The doctor did his best to take care of me. He made a thick mustard seed paste and spread it across my eyes. It did not work but actually made it worse! Before anyone realized, I lost my eyesight and was never able to see again. From that point on, I was blind.

Have you or someone you know ever struggled to accomplish a task? Now imagine trying to do that task without being able to see. If you close your eyes tightly, you can imagine how it felt for me all the time. I had to depend on others to help me with many things, but as I grew, I did not let my blindness stop me.

Just a few months later, my father got sick, too, after working outside in the rain. Before my first birthday, he passed away, and it was just my mother and me. We were very sad. It is okay to feel sad when bad things happen, but my mother always reminded me that God has a plan! This helped me feel strong! When I was young, I held onto verses like Romans 8:28b: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." The Bible, filled with God's promises, and the songs we sang in church, encouraged me to be brave. With my father gone, my mother and I started a new part of our journey with Grandmother Eunice by our side.

At this point, switch back to narration by the Pathfinder Unit Leader.

Just like Fanny thought about God's promises, you can, too! Remember, God wants good things for you. Sometimes that means doing hard things or going through tough times. Every place God takes you helps you grow and get closer to Him. Now it's time to keep exploring Fanny's heritage and her early life and discover how God has a plan for everyone, including you.

Continue exploring Fanny's life with one or more of the following activities. As you transition each girl to a new activity within this lesson, you can:

- *Encourage each girl to share her last name with a friend and any facts she knows about her family.*
- *Invite girls to share how life might be different for them if they lost their eyesight like Fanny.*

(continued on next page)

Handbook Activity

FANNY CROSBY—GOD'S PROMISES

Girls discuss the reinforced message, "Jesus knows my name," while coloring.

SUPPLIES

- ☐ *AHG Pathfinder Handbook*
- ☐ Safety scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Coloring supplies

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Girls can turn to the corresponding page in their *AHG Pathfinder Handbooks*.

   > God's promises encouraged Fanny to be brave when she had to do hard things or go through tough times. Cut and paste the rainbow, clouds, and sun onto the picture to read the message. Color the rest of the picture.

2. Read the instructions to them from their worksheet.
3. Provide each girl with the supplies needed to complete the page.



(continued on next page)

Additional Activities

BLINDFOLD CHALLENGE

Girls rely on others for help, building understanding and empathy for those with varying abilities.

SUPPLIES

- ☐ Space for movement
- ☐ Stopwatch
- ☐ Obstacle course objects such as cones, chairs, blocks, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set up a simple obstacle course with different pathways accommodating the number of girls.
2. Explain that the objective is to see which pair can navigate through the obstacle course first.
3. Divide the girls into pairs, blindfolding one girl from each pair.
4. Instruct the "seeing" girl to speak to her blindfolded teammate to explain where she should step.
5. The first team to exit the obstacle course wins!

ALTERNATIVE

Feel free to try one round, allowing girls to lead each other by the hand, and then alter the course and play another round with no physical contact, strictly verbal instructions.

I AM THINE, O LORD (DRAW ME NEARER)

Girls listen and learn a Fanny Crosby song while coloring an abstract piece of art, without using their eyesight. The goal is to draw inspiration from other senses and understand what it might feel like not to be able to see.

SUPPLIES

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Audio and lyrics to Fanny Crosby's song, "I Am Thine, O Lord."

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the following script to start this activity:

> Although Fanny could not see, she did not let her limitations hold her back from what she could do as she grew older. She knew God was **always** with her when she was sad.

2. Teach the girls the uplifting lyrics of "I Am Thine, O Lord (Draw Me Nearer)."
3. Discuss the messages of hope and promise in the lyrics.

ALTERNATIVE

Provide girls with a piece of paper and coloring supplies. Play the song, and have them draw what the song means to them. Discuss their listening experience and what they envisioned as they drew.