

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith **Responsibility v. Unreliability**



Knowing and doing what God and others are expecting of me.

As believers, we know that our duty boils down to loving one another. This is our responsibility to the members of the many communities to which we belong: loving our family members, loving our friends and neighbors in our community, loving our fellow church members and those in other churches, as well. It extends to loving those with whom we do business whether it is part of our job or part of our everyday transactions at the grocery or gas station. We have a responsibility to bring our faith into everything we do. That's quite a responsibility!

On Judgment Day, we will be held responsible for all we have thought, said, and done, and our attitudes and motives that surrounded them. All of these will be evaluated based on how well we lived up to the

***To Practice Responsibility
I Will:***

- I will keep my promises.
- I will not make excuses.
- I will do all my work to the best of my ability.
- I will make things right when I do wrong.
- I will know my duty and do my duty.

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Responsibility

*"For each will have to bear his own load."
Galatians 6:5*

*"But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."
Luke 12:48*

*"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."
2 Timothy 1:7*

*"Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it."
Ezra 10:4*

*"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."
Colossians 3:23*

*Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:10*

responsibility of loving those around us.

This month show loving responsibility and treat your tasks and relationships with care.

David Teaches Us About Responsibility



King Saul of Israel had become very self-centered and ineffective in his governmental affairs and God decided that it was time to groom his replacement. God sent Samuel, the prophet, to find and anoint the new king, but only gave him instructions as to the city and family where the king could be found. Upon arrival at the home of Jesse, he examined all of the sons of Jesse as they passed before him. The prophet sensed that none of these men were God's choice, and asked Jesse if there were any others. There was one more, David, but he was young and out tending the sheep, a boring and dirty job. But he was God's choice. David was being responsible in a very simple thankless job, but as he was ruling over the sheep, he was learning how to rule over God's people, and he didn't even know it! His faithfulness in being responsible for what Jesse had assigned him, prepared him for greater things than he could have ever thought possible as the next King of Israel.

The Blame Game



Teach your children the finger symbols for winners and losers. For Losers, place your fingers in the shape of an L and place it on your forehead. For winner, use 3 fingers to resemble a W. Next, talk about how winners will take the blame when they have done something wrong and then try to learn from the mistake. Losers will blame someone else and invariably make the same mistake over and over. When you catch somebody shifting blame to someone else or a circumstance, make the Loser sign. Anyone in the family can catch anyone else. Same goes for when someone takes the blame or the responsibility for an action, cheer them with the winner sign.



POSTER IDEA:

Responsibility

Knowing and doing what God and others are expecting of me.



“Those who conceal their sins do not prosper, but those who confess and forsake them obtain mercy.”

Proverbs 26:13

**Who do you
blame
when there is a
problem?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of responsibility in your life. We remember how you took responsibility for the poor and helpless in your community. Help us to embrace our roles as your servants here on Earth and be all that we can be. Remind us to keep our promises and to do all of our tasks to the best of our ability. May we learn to not make excuses and to make things right when we do things that are wrong. Teach us to know our duties and to do them joyfully. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father. Amen.

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit
www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=responsibility