

Character Program

Year 5

Character Theme	Page
Love	2
Provision	3
Purity	4
Creation	6
Wisdom	7
Serving	8
Protection	9
Truth	10



Love

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is...

- giving a person another chance, even if they have hurt me
- not wanting to pay someone back for the wrong things they have done to me
- being kind to those who have hurt me
- not reminding myself or the other person of the wrong things they have done to me

Activities

1. Sometimes we find it hardest to forgive people in our own family, because you see a lot of them and you might get tired of their actions.
2. Write about a time when you forgave someone in your family.
3. Do you think you should forgive a person even when they don't say sorry? Why?
4. How can it help YOU when you forgive someone?

From the Bible:

Ephesians 4:32 Forgive one another as God has forgiven you.

Matthew 18:21-35 The parable of the king's servant.

Luke 15:11-32 The son who left home.

Matthew 18:21-23 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this.



Provision

Stewardship

Stewardship is ...

Being responsible for the property of someone else

Taking care of another person's property

Who is the owner of everything in the whole world?

In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear that man was created to work; and that work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him.

God owns everything. We are simply managers, looking after what God has given us. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care. One day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us.

What are we expected to do with these resources?

Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have wisely used everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.

What does the Bible say about stewardship?

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Deuteronomy 8:18 Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

Matthew 25:14-30 The parable of the talents

Matthew 25:21 Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

1 Cor 4:2 Stewards should be trustworthy



Purity

Self-control

Self-control is...

- controlling *myself*
- being careful about what I do and say
- not doing the wrong thing when I *know* it is wrong
- being careful about the way I use my time
- not losing my temper
- not being greedy
- knowing when to stop
- saying 'no'
- being in charge of the things I do
- choosing to do the right thing

Activities

1. *Self-control in the things I do*

- a) What are some things that you can say 'no' to?
- b) What can you do when you are tempted to do wrong things?

2. *Self-control with time*

- a) How do you like to spend time?
- b) What would happen if you spent all your time just doing the things you liked?
- c) Sometimes we can spend too much time doing one thing. We need self-control to say "enough" when there are other important things to be done. Make up a list of ways you can spend your time outside of school hours. Keep a record of how much time you spend on each one over a period of a week. (Do not include holiday times).

Here is an example to show you how to set it out:

How I use my time

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount of time</u>
	watching TV	
	computer, phone or electronic games	
	hobbies	
	sport	
	reading and homework	
	helping	

- d) How could you improve the use of your time?

3. Self-control with food and things

- a) Why is it important to have self-control with food?
- b) Write down any material goods that you get tempted by. It is not wrong to have material things but it may be wrong to have too many. Why?
- c) Work with a group. Sit in a circle and make up a continuous story about a boy, or a girl or a family, who wanted every new and exciting thing. The story grows as each person adds a sentence.

4. Self-control in what I say

What can happen when you lose your temper?
How can we hurt people with words?

From the Bible:

Galatians 5:22-23 Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Do not be quickly provoked.

Titus 2:6, 11 Be self-controlled. Say "no" to ungodliness.

Hebrews 13:5 Be content with what you have.

James 3 Controlling the tongue

Ephesians 4:26 Do not let your anger lead you into sin.



Creation

Environmental sustainability

We are to care of the creation and the resources God has given us.

Environmental sustainability is ...

- looking after the plants, animals, soil and water in the environment
- thinking about the future and doing things that will keep the environment safe from destruction in the future
- acting responsibly when we use plants, animals, soil and water in our environment
- showing wisdom in using and preserving our nation's resources
- being wise stewards
- making wise use of the earth's resources
- recycling

From the Bible:

Genesis 1:28-31 God said, "Be fruitful, fill the earth and manage it."

Genesis 1:29 "God said, Look I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds in them. They will be food for you."

Genesis 2:15 God put man in charge of the creation

Psalms 96:11-12 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice, the sea and all that is in it.



Wisdom

Wisdom

Wisdom is ...

Knowing the right thing to do and doing it

Being wise is different than being smart. A smart person knows a lot of facts, but a wise person is able to apply those facts to the situation at hand.

If you want to make wise decisions, you must realize that every decision is important. Just as it takes thousands of small bricks to construct a large building, your character is made up of thousands of small decisions.

Every decision we make has a consequence. It can be a good consequence or a bad consequence. Sometimes consequences affect just one person, and sometimes they affect many.

Whether the outcome is good or bad, a wise person learns from past decisions and makes better ones in the future. Even the worst mistakes can become the best lessons for those who are willing to learn!

How to become a wise person:

- listen to my parents and teachers.
- learn from mistakes.
- choose my friends carefully.
- consider the consequences.
- ask, "What is the right thing to do?"

Questions:

Who are some wise people you know? What can you learn from them?

Who are some friends that encourage you in the right direction?

What do you think the saying means, "You reap what you sow"?

What do you think happens if you don't learn from your mistakes?

From the Bible:

Prov 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Galatians 6:7 You reap what you sow.

Serving

Flexibility

To be a good servant, I need to be able to “fit in” with what my leader wants, and what other people want.

Flexibility is...

- being willing to change
- not getting upset when things change
- agreeing that other people's ideas might be better than my own, and learning from the ideas of others
- not always wanting my own way
- listening to what others have to say, and learning from the good ideas that other people may have
- saying, "Your ideas just might be better than my ideas. I will listen and try to see your point of view."

Question: How do I know which ideas are good ideas?

Answer: They are good ideas if they are helpful, creative, and do not go against what God says in the Bible.

Activities

1. Work with two or three other people. Design something together. It could be a playground, a new restaurant, a holiday resort, or something of your own choice. Work together and listen to each other's ideas. You have 15 minutes. At the end of that time, answer these questions:
 - Who had the most ideas?
 - Who had the best ideas?
 - Did you listen to everyone's ideas?
 - Were you flexible in accepting ideas other than your own?
2. See if you can find a creative way to solve this problem:
There is only one computer in the house and you need it to do your homework that is due in tomorrow. Dad says that he needs the computer for an important work project. Instead of throwing a tantrum, see if you can find a way out of your problem.
3. Here's a situation that will require flexibility:
You have invited some friends over to celebrate your birthday. You have either hired a movie or decided to watch TV. Suddenly there is a power failure. What will you do?

Protection

Faith and Trust

Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Trust is being certain that the 'someone' or the 'something' will not let you down.

Having faith and trust means:

- we trust those who have proven themselves trustworthy.
- we feel safe with people we can trust.

Christians put their trust in God who is trustworthy. They have faith that God is in control of their life and whatever happens, He is still looking after them.

Discussion and activities

Tell your partner about a time when you felt afraid.

Tell your partner about something you might be afraid to do in the future.

What do people worry about mostly?

Finish this sentence: "When I am afraid I can have faith because ..."

From the Bible:

- Isaiah 41:13 "I the Lord hold your right hand. Do not be afraid. I am the one who helps you."
- Romans 8:28 All things work together for good, in the lives of those who love and trust God.
- Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
- Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.
- Ephesians 6:16 Put on the shield of faith.
- Matthew 17:20 Faith as a grain of mustard seed.
- Matthew 21:21-22 If you have faith, you can say to this mountain, 'move' and it will move.
- Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Truth

Honesty

Honesty is...

- speaking the truth
- not cheating
- not stealing
- not exaggerating
- being trustworthy
- being yourself and not trying to be someone you are not.

Activities

1. Sometimes people think they are telling the truth by saying the right words, but the meaning of their words is not completely truthful. This is called a white lie. Here is an example:

John is asked to clean his room. He goes to his room and pushes all the things on the floor under the bed. The room looks neat and tidy but really it isn't.

Mum calls, "John, have you cleaned your room?"

John answers, "Yes."

Why would you say this is not telling the truth?

2. Why would you like your best friends to be honest?
3. Which of these are caused by dishonesty:
 - a) shop-lifting (stealing)
 - b) fighting
 - c) swearing
 - d) cheating in a test
 - e) riding on a bus without a ticket

From the Bible:

Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira lied about giving money.

James 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Proverbs 8:7 My mouth shall speak truth.

Proverbs 12:17 When you tell the truth, justice is done.