

# Character Program

## Year 7

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# 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 they might keep hurting us over and over again. Why does Jesus want us to keep on forgiving?
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?
5. What should we do in these situations:
  - a) Someone teases you because of the way you look?
  - b) Someone damages your property
  - c) Someone borrows something of yours and then loses it.

### 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.



# Provision

## Generosity

Our response to God's generosity to us, is to be generous.

### Generosity is...

- sharing our money and possessions
- giving our time and talents to help others
- giving to people in need
- giving cheerfully
- not being selfish
- not being greedy
- giving without expecting to receive something in return

### Activities

Most school students do not have money to give away. But can they still be generous? Some people are very generous with their time. They share their time to help others. Examples: sports coaches, youth leaders, parents and relatives

Think of a person who helps you in your free time. List the activity and the help you are given.

How can school students be generous with their time to help others?

### From the Bible:

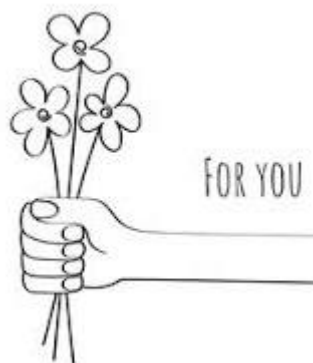
Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver.

Matthew 6:1-4 Let your giving be in secret.

Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than receive.

Matthew 5:40-42 Give to the one who asks.



# Purity

## Integrity

### Integrity is...

Having strong moral principles and living by them  
Being true to your word

### Activities

1. Choose the best sentence endings.

Act	your things neat and tidy
Keep	your best
Speak	on right principles
Try	others
Help	words that are kind and true

2. Discuss the reasons why we should or should not take the advice of the following:

- people who speak and act according to Biblical principles
- the media
- teachers
- government
- friends who are my age
- church pastors

### From the Bible:

Deuteronomy 6:18 Do that which is right and good.

Ephesians 5:8-11 Live as children of the light.

Philippians 4:8 Whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about these things.

*Do*  
THE  
*Right*  
THING

# Creation

## Gratitude

### Gratitude is...

- Expressing appreciation for what someone has done
- Being grateful for all we have
- An attitude of thankfulness

### Activities

1. Make a list of everyone who does things for you.
2. Start a “Gratitude Diary” and each day, write in it one thing you are grateful for.
3. Write a card or letter of gratitude to three people, and say why you are grateful to them.
4. Discuss whether we should have an attitude of gratitude if things don’t seem to be going well for us.
5. Write a prayer of thanks to your Creator.

### From the Bible:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances

Psalm 136:1; Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good

Psalm 103:2 Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above.



# Wisdom

## Time management

### Wisdom is:

- knowing how to make good use of your time
- being organized

### Activities

Make a list of all the important things you need to do outside of school time, like homework and jobs at home.

Now make a list of all the things you want to do to relax and have fun.

Make a plan for when you will do your work activities and when you will do your leisure activities. Give days and times for your activities over the next week.

Write a list of your personal talents you would like to work on. Now write a list of times and activities you will undertake to develop these talents.

### Is leisure time wasted time?

Leisure time is not wasted time if it is in balance with the time you work.

What is your favourite activity that you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

Getting your work done well, without wasting time, means that you have more time for doing what you really enjoy.

Make a list of how you spend your time. Fill in each section of the chart with the sorts of activities and the approximate amounts of time you would spend on them in a week.

<b>Family</b>	<b>Leisure</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Alone time</b>	<b>Favourite time</b>	<b>Friends</b>
<b>Helping others</b>	<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Homework and reading</b>

### From the Bible:

Matthew 25:14-30 The story of the talents. The servant who hid his money in the ground could have suffered from poor time management. How can poor time management restrict what we can do for God?

# Serving

## Humility

### Humility is...

- not making myself look important
- not boasting
- not being proud
- being willing to do jobs that are not recognized as being great
- being willing to admit that you are wrong
- being willing to accept help from others
- being willing to learn from others

### Activity

Which of these are the most important things to have in life? Why or why not?

- a) having beautiful clothes
- b) being rich
- c) being an important person
- d) saying sorry
- e) telling God that you need Him
- f) being really clever
- g) admitting that you have a lot to learn
- h) being a good runner
- i) being kind
- j) being humble
- k) following Him

### From the Bible:

Matthew 18:1-4 Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the tax collector.

John 13: 3-5 Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Matthew 20:20-28 Whoever wants to be great among you must become a servant.

Luke 14:7-11 The wedding feast: Don't choose the place of honour.

Even though Jesus was the greatest man who ever lived, He humbled Himself as a servant. He washed the feet of others and helped the poor. He could have lived in luxury but chose to live with few material possessions.

# Protection

## Responsibility

### Responsibility is...

- being reliable
- being accountable
- looking after myself
- looking after my possessions
- being in charge of the way I act
- doing the things I am meant to do

### Activity

How could the following foolish actions cause you to get hurt:

- Calling people ugly and stupid
- Playing with fireworks or matches
- Crossing the road without looking
- Swimming in water that has undercurrents
- Diving into water that you don't know the depth of

### From the Bible:

1 Peter 2:2 Grow up to be strong Christians.

Ephesians 5:8 Live as children of the light.

God provides protection for those who love and trust Him. However he expects us to take responsibility for our own actions as well. We cannot expect Him to protect us if we do not act in a responsible manner.

Would you expect God to protect you in situations where you have been deliberately irresponsible??





# Truth

## Discernment

### Discernment is...

- knowing what is true and what is false
- listening carefully and thinking carefully when we hear new ideas
- being alert, and watching out for things that are not right

### Activities

1. The "Truth Game" - Select a variety of objects or substances that have imitations, e.g. 2 look-alike drinking glasses, one made from glass, the other from clear plastic; a real plant and an imitation one; real pearls and imitation ones. See if your friends can pick the *real* item. Make sure they look at the items from a fair distance.
2. What is the meaning of the word 'deceive'?
3. Make a list of advertisements that are trying to deceive you. Explain how they try to trick you into buying things. Explain where they are not really telling the truth.
4. Someone tells you about a new club. It sounds to be great fun, but you are not sure about some of the rules. Which of these rules might make you think this club is not for you?
  - a) No shoes allowed
  - b) No pets allowed
  - c) No adults allowed
  - d) Bring a plate of food
  - e) Bring your most violent video game
  - f) Starting time: 10 p.m.

### From the Bible:

Matthew 7:13-14 The broad and narrow way.

John 14:6-7 I am the way, the truth, the life.

Acts 4:12 There is no other name by which we are saved.

John 10:1-18 The Good Shepherd.

Matthew 7:15-21 Wolves in sheep's clothing.

John 18:37 Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.

