

Character Program

Year 8

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Love

Compassion

Compassion is...

- knowing when someone is hurting
- doing my best to help when they are hurt
- giving up my own time to make someone feel better
- listening to someone's problems
- being sensitive to the needs of others
- trying to understand how people feel

Activities

1. Imagine that you are born blind.
What are some of the difficulties you face?
How would you like others to treat you?
2. How can we show compassion to people who live in places where there is famine?

What does the Bible say about compassion?

Luke 10:25-36 The Good Samaritan

Matthew 9:36 Jesus was moved with compassion.

2 Samuel 4 & 9 King David had compassion on the lame prince, Mephibosheth.

1 John 4: 7-8 God is Love

Romans 12:9 Love without hypocrisy

Matthew 5: 43-44 Love your neighbour

Psalm 23 The caring nature of the shepherd

John 10 The Good Shepherd

God is a loving Father who understands how we feel. He knows when we are hurt. He cares for us like a shepherd. He loves people of all cultures and wants us to do the same.



Provision

Generosity

Generosity is...

- sharing our things with others
- 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

1. List three people who are generous with their time. Explain how each one is generous.
2. How can you be generous with your time and talents? Who could you help? What could you do?
3. Many people from other countries are suffering because of famine? Find out how these people can be supported financially through organizations.
4. Make something this week that you can share with others.
5. Write a list of ways that you could share material things with those in need.
Example: Your brother has forgotten to buy Mum a birthday present. What could you do?

From the Bible:

God provides for us, and He expects us to share His provision with others.

Matthew 25:35-40 I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

Mark 12:41-44 The widow's offering.

Psalms 112:5 Be generous and lend freely.

Proverbs 22:9 A generous man will himself be blessed.



Purity

Respect

Respect for people...

- having consideration for the feelings and rights of others
- treating people with care and consideration
- showing good manners
- honouring the rules of my family, school and church

Respect for our environment...

- treating property in our community with respect
- caring for the natural environment

Activities

1. Make a list of rules that would be important for families to get on together.
2. Which rules do you have in your family?
3. Choose one rule and say what might happen if this rule was not respected.
4. Now do the same for school rules.
5. Make a list of people you think are respectful and why you added them to your list.
6. Make a list of people you think should be respected.
7. What are three ways you can show your teacher respect?
8. What are three ways you can show your parents respect?
9. Make a list of things people say who are respectful. Here are a few: "please." "Thank you." "I appreciate that." "May I hold the door?" "Pardon me." "I'm sorry I offended you."
10. Make a list of things people do who are respectful. Here are a few: hold the door open for someone who needs help; listen without interrupting; don't talk back, whine, or sass; throw away trash.
11. List five ways we could show greater respect for our environment.
12. Describe a respectful way to answer the phone.
13. Suppose you're invited to your friend's home for a family dinner. What are some ways you could show respect and courtesy when your first arrive? At their table? When you leave? Write at least 50 words.

From the Bible:

Ephesians 6:1 Children obey your parents in the Lord.

Matthew 7:12 Treat others as you would want to be treated yourself.

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone.

Creation

Creativity

Through the study of the Creation we see the greatness of God's creative act. Although humans can never create in the way God can, we all have the ability to create. This doesn't mean that everyone is an artist, but we are all capable of using the creative side of our brain to develop new ideas.

Creativity is...

- Inventing or developing something new
- It could be taking something old and changing it into something new
- It could be a new idea or a new way of doing things

Our creativity comes from God the creator who...

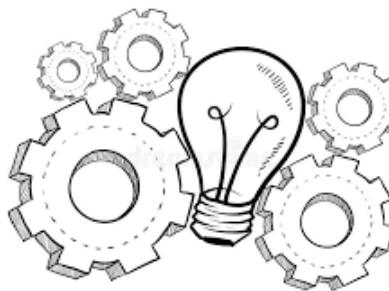
- created the universe by His power
- made us in His image, as creative beings

We can develop our creativity by ...

- listening to God's voice as He communicates with us and shows us new things
- learning from and building upon the inventions of others
- using the resources in God's world to do extraordinary things
- asking the Holy Spirit to give us His ideas
- developing and using our God-given talents
- being willing to try new things
- asking God for original ideas for the extension of His Kingdom

From the Bible:

- Genesis 1 The Creation
- Genesis 1:27 We are created in God's image
- Psalm 33:2-3 Sing to the Lord a *new* song
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



Wisdom

Time management

Wisdom is:

- Knowing how to make good use of your time
- Being organized
- Doing the most important things first (prioritizing)
- Not putting off the things that need to be done today (procrastination)

Activities

1. Prioritizing

Imagine that you are planning a birthday party for your best friend.

Make a list of all the jobs that need to be done to make it happen.

Now put numbers on the things in the list, starting with 1 as the most important thing to get done, and so on.

2. Procrastination

What is the problem with procrastination?

Procrastination is "the act of willfully delaying the doing of something that should be done."
Procrastination is putting off until tomorrow what could be done today

Why do we procrastinate?

Sometimes we are being lazy.

Sometimes our to-do list is so full that we get overwhelmed and end up doing nothing at all.

Sometimes we allow ourselves to get distracted, e.g. by social media

Sometimes we are fearful about the job to be done so we put it off. Perhaps we think we are not capable of doing the job.

Steps in time management:

1. You must really, truly WANT to manage your time well.
2. Practice the areas in which you are slow and inefficient, and get better at these areas.
3. Make a list of the things you need to do. Prioritize.

From the Bible:

Proverbs 15:19; 18:9 Warnings against laziness

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do it heartily as if for the Lord

James 4:13-14 Life is short, We don't know what tomorrow will bring. Do today what you can do today.

Serving

Sacrifice

Sacrifice is...

To give up something in order to help others, or as an act of service to God

Activities

People make big and small sacrifices every day. Parents make sacrifices for their children. Community workers make sacrifices to help us.

1. Make a list of sacrifices a mother has to make for a new-born baby.
2. Make a list of sacrifices your parents make for you.
3. What would an athlete need to give up? (junk food, free time, their homes – if they have to train elsewhere)
4. What sacrifices do doctors and nurses make? (free time, sleep, money for education, years of their lives, etc.)
5. What would missionaries need to give up? (their homes, cultures, family, freedoms, money, favorite foods, etc.)
6. What kind of sacrifices might you have to make in being part of your family?
7. What sacrifices might you make to help someone outside of your family?
8. What sacrifices might you give up in order to serve God?
9. What greater rewards does God give to those who give up things to serve Him?

From the Bible:

Matthew 8:18-20. What did Jesus give up in these verses? (A home! He left the mansions of heaven to come to earth and He never even had a place to lay His head!)

Matthew 10:39 Whoever loses his life will find it.



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

Activities

How could the following actions cause you to get sick or cause damage to your teeth?

- Staying up until midnight every night
- Eating plenty of junk food
- Drinking fizzy drinks and not water
- Not eating vegetables
- Smoking
- Drinking alcohol
- Taking drugs

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.



Truth

Respect for truth

To have respect for truth we need to...

- find out what is true and what is false
- look to the Bible as the only measure for truth
- be alert, and watching out for things that are not right
- act according to what we know to be true and right

Truth in the world around us

Can we rely on the media, or advertising, to show us what is true?

The media can be biased, giving favour to the most popular opinion.

The most popular opinion is not necessarily the right one.

In fact, many people in the world would rather do what pleases them, even if it means hurting someone else.

What consequences might these things have for others, if they were introduced?

- Freedom to smoke in any building
- No limits on alcohol for under 18 years
- Making recreational drugs legal
- abortion

From the Bible:

- Matthew 7:15-21 Wolves in sheep's clothing
- Matthew 7:7 Seek and you shall find.
- Matthew 7:13-14 The broad and narrow way
- 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.
- Proverbs 11:1 The Lord hates dishonest scales. But He is pleased with correct weights.

