

A Character study:

Diligence

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

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Memory Verse:

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Day 1

What does diligence mean? Steadily persevering, painstaking effort, constant in effort to accomplish something

How are some ways we can be diligent?

How are ways we are not diligent or lazy?

Story:

Luke 19:11-26 Well done good and faithful servant

Blessings of Obedience:

Luke 19:17 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

Consequences of sin:

Luke 19:26 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.

Questions:

1. Why was the master angry with the lazy servant?
2. Did the lazy servant receive a consequence for his actions?
3. Why do you think we should be diligent with what we have been given?

Weekly Challenge:

Be diligent in whatever you do today! Do it for the Lord!

Weekly Activity:

Use a whiteboard, or large chart paper. Make a list of ways you can be diligent in your household, then make a list of areas where you are not always so diligent. Try to work on this daily your list to move those items over to the 'we are diligent' side! Keep this chart up all week, and make sure to reward your family for their diligence!

Day 2

Story:

Jonah 1-3 Jonah did not listen to God, and was swallowed by a fish

Blessings of Obedience:

Jonah 3:10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Consequences of sin:

Jonah 1:12 "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jonah didn't obey God?
2. Did he get away with disobeying?
3. Was Jonah able to "flee from the Lord" as it says in verse 3?
4. How did the Lord use Jonah's disobedience to glorify Himself? (Jonah 1:16)

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Day 3

Story:

Genesis 39:1-6 Joseph made ruler over all Potiphar's household

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 39:3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did.

Questions:

1. Why did the Lord give Joseph success in everything he did?
2. Why did Joseph find favor in Potiphar's eyes?
3. Do you think that Potiphar would have given Joseph such responsibility had he chosen to be lazy with his duties?

Activity:

Give your child a small plant, teach them to be diligent in taking care of it.

Alternate: Assign a household responsibility such as feeding an animal, turning off the lights etc. Reward them at the end of the week for their faithfulness.

Day 4

Story:

Deuteronomy 6-7 A call for whole hearted commitment

Blessings of Obedience:

Deuteronomy 6:2 If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.

Deuteronomy 6:25 For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us.

Questions:

1. In this passage, what are we to be diligent with? (*God's Commands*)
2. What do you think our consequences will be if we are not diligent with God's Word?
3. What are some ways that we can be diligent with God's Word?
4. What effect can it have on other's if we are lazy regarding God's Word?
5. Did God tell us to be only half faithful with his Word? (*Deut. 6:5-6*)
6. What has God chosen us to be? (*Deut. 7:6 His special treasure*)

Diligence Card: Add the diligence apple to your character tree! (*If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree*)

Review Questions:

1. How does being lazy effect others?
2. How does being diligent effect others?
3. How does being lazy effect our relationship with God?

Application:

1. What does being diligent look like in our home?
2. How can we practice being a diligent?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to become diligent of all that You have blessed me with so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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Additional Verses

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful

Luke 13:6-9 A tree that doesn't bear fruit is cut down

Luke 19:17 Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. "Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities."

Ephesians 6:6-7 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.

Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 31:27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Proverbs 24:30-34 I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her.

1 Kings 11:28 Jeroboam was industrious and made an officer in the house of Joseph

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

Prov 19:15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. (NKJV)