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Character Development

Lesson 10: Responsibility

Lesson Keys

- Introduction
- Definition
- Expectation
- Stewardship
- Biblical Teaching
- Real Life Application
- Spiritual Stewardship
- Conclusion

Preparation

There are two main points of this lesson. Teaching the children to be good stewards over their possessions and the possessions of others and to be good stewards over their lives which have been given to them by God. Pray that this connection is made.

Supplies

- Box
- 15 Talents

Scripture Guide

Matthew 25:14-30
I Corinthians 6:19-20

Teaching Coach

Let this introduction be fun as the kids are sharing what their responsibilities are. Maybe ask them what the strangest chore that they have to do. Share some of your own strange jobs.

Introduction

Ask the kids how many of them have responsibilities at home? Have several share what their responsibilities are. Ask the kids how many of them have responsibilities at school? Have several share what their responsibilities are.

Have a volunteer come forward and have them hold a box. Tell them, "What if I told you that what is inside that box is very fragile and worth about \$500?" "Would you hold the box any differently if I told you that there was just trash in the box?" Certainly. Your sense of responsibility told you that you needed to be very careful, otherwise, you might be responsible for the \$500.

Today we are going to discuss responsibility. Responsibility is a character trait that can be developed through time and practice. As a Christian, we have certain responsibilities and not being responsible will let others, including God down.

Definition

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

Expectations

To best understand what responsibility, you have to know your expectations. Your parents may expect you to feed the dog simply because they told you that you had to do it every day. Knowing and doing this chore, feeding the dog, is showing responsibility.

When you begin to drive a car, the law expects for you to wear a seatbelt and to drive the speed limit. They expect this because you had to take the test to get your license. To obey the law is showing responsibility because you are doing what is expected of you.

In the same way, God has expectations of you. We know that God wants us to read the Bible, to pray and to go to church. Doing these things simply shows responsibility.

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Let the children see the connection of expectations and responsibility. Show them that there are expectations on them coming from many different directions. Help them to recognize those expectations and respond to them by being responsible. Have the kids take a few moments and call out all the different expectations on them that they can think of.

With the story of the talents, you can either read this straight from the text or tell the story in your own words. Have three children come forward to play the part of the three servants. Give the talents to them as you would if you were the master while you are telling the story. Acting the story out in this way reinforces the point by giving the children something to look at and the three servants to do.

However, we will be held responsible if we do not do what is expected of us. If we do not feed the dog, we could get grounded. If we speed and do not wear our seatbelts, we could get a ticket. If we do not do what God asks of us, we will never become what God wants for us.

Stewardship

Responsibility is often demonstrated on how well you take care of something that is not yours. Taking care of someone else's pet or things is a great test of responsibility. This is often called stewardship. To be a good steward of something means that you are very responsible.

Biblical Teaching

The story of the talents

Matt 25:14-30

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, '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!'

22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, '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!'

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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Give the children lots of examples of how they can show responsibility.

- Making sure their classroom is clean
- Putting things back where they belong after using them
- Being careful with your school books and library books

Show the kids that taking care of their own lives are just like taking care of their friend's bike, just a whole lot more important. In the end, we will stand before God and give an account of our lives. It will look a lot like the story of the talents. If we have been responsible with our lives, we will be able to show God how much we have been able to do with the life that he has given us. If we have been irresponsible, we will be ashamed.

Real Life Application

This story was all about stewardship and responsibility. However, it may change your view of responsibility. Many people would think that the third servant was responsible. The master gave him one talent and in the end, he had kept the one talent safe. Many people would think that losing the talent or spending it would be irresponsibility. However, the Biblical view of responsibility goes beyond just that.

True stewardship and true responsibility means that whatever is entrusted to you needs to be better when it is given back to the owner. If someone lends something to you, being responsible not only is making sure that it is safe and protected, but causing it to be better when you give it back.

Example: If someone a friend is going out of town and lets you borrow his bike, being a good steward certainly means keeping it safe and not wrecking it. But it also may mean washing it, polishing it and being sure that the tires are filled up. Going the extra mile may even mean fixing the brakes that have not been working for months.

In the story, the first servant was responsible and was given more. When you show responsibility, people are going to be more willing to give you more things to be responsible for. You have to prove yourself responsible, and the more times you pass the test, the more you will be given charge of.

Spiritual Stewardship

It is important to note that as a Christian, your life is not your own

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price.

Your body and your life is on loan from God. Your life belongs to him and you are entrusted with it. The true test of responsibility is this: What are you going to do with your body?

- Are you going to be irresponsible and slide through life doing everything average?
- Are you going to be responsible and do all things at your maximum potential, developing your yourself in every way possible.

The principle is the same as if you are dealing with borrowing someone's

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Let the children pray for each other. Try to get around to all the groups and hear what they are praying. Groups that may have a tendency to cut-up will be less likely to do so if you are coming around.

things or living your own life. The more responsible you are, the more you will be given. If you show responsibility by developing yourself physically (eating healthy, exercising, playing sports), Mentally (Studying hard, reading) and Spiritually (consistently praying, reading the word and worshipping), you will be given even more in life. God will give you many good things to be in charge of.

Conclusion

Split the children break into pairs to pray with each other. Do not let the children pick since it may cause a disruption. Have each child pray for themselves to be more responsible over the things that they have and to be more responsible for their own lives. Also have each child pray for his/her partner in the same areas. Once everyone is done, close with prayer over the whole class.