

Character Trait Dec 5th – 9th is Responsibility

Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Responsibility: Knowing and doing what is expected of me.

Derivation: Re•spon•si•bil•i•ty n: the quality of being responsible, answerable, or liable 2: that for which a person is answerable 3: dependableness, generally due to good judgment

Weekly Verse: James 4:17 “Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” (NLT)

Bible Story: Genesis 24 shows us how Abraham’s servant demonstrated responsibility as he searched for a wife for Isaac.

Quote: “It is not only for what we do that we will be held responsible, but also for what we do not do.”

Application: **1. Seek clarity:** Make sure you know what others expect from you and what you expect from them in order to avoid conflict and confusion later on.

2. Manage expectations: Expectations are a natural part of life—but they can get us into a lot of trouble. If you expect one thing and I expect something else, we’re going to have conflict.

3. Keep commitments: Once we’re clear on our job tasks, projects, functions, policies, and procedures, we need to give everything we’ve got in order to complete them as agreed.

If something beyond your control keeps you from honoring your commitment, communicate the challenge as early as possible and be willing to engage others in a solution. If you keep the problem to yourself, you’re most likely to fail. But if you work with others, you might find a way to pool your ideas and resources in order to meet the deadline.

Discussion Questions:

1. The opposite of responsibility is being unreliable. When was there a time in your life you were affected by someone being unreliable?
2. When was the last time you were unreliable? How does it make you feel when you know you have not done what others expected of you?