

## Character Trait Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – 10th is Diligence

### 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.

**Diligence:** Focusing all of my energy to complete the tasks assigned to me.

**Derivation:** di•li•gence n 1: steady application of effort to accomplish a task 2: exerting oneself to fulfill what is undertaken without unnecessary delay 3: acting with great care and effort

**Weekly Verse:** I Timothy 4:15 “Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

**Bible Story:** Acts 20:17-38 tells of Paul and his desire to finish the task that God has given him.

**Quote:** “Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction.”

**Application: Get started.** Sometimes the most difficult part of a project is getting started. Your head may be filled with wonderful ideas, and your heart may be excited about the possibilities of what the outcome might bring, but still you find yourself at a loss at where to begin. It can be helpful to break your project down into smaller, more manageable steps.

**Focus your energy.** Life presents us with many distractions – sometimes even in the form of good things. It is important to set aside distractions and concentrate your mental and physical energy on the task you want to accomplish.

**Finish strong.** A lot of well-intentioned projects start with energy, only to run out of steam before the finish line. Be an encourager to your teammates by giving your all until the project reaches completion. If you find yourself languishing or getting bogged down, remind yourself of the steps in your plan, how far you have come, and determine the very next thing that needs to be accomplished. Then buckle down and keep pushing forward to your goal.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What would you say is the opposite of diligence?
2. How does the quality of your work reflect on who you are?