

Character Trait Mar 27th- 31st is Dependability

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.

Dependability: Fulfilling commitments even in the face of difficulty and unexpected sacrifice.

Derivation: De•pen•da•bil•i•ty n 1: quality of that which can be counted upon; able to be leaned upon 2: reliability 3: trustworthiness

Weekly Verse: Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

Bible Story: In the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus explains that being faithful in what God has asked us to do will result in being given more responsibilities.

Quote: "Trust is earned by following through and being dependable in small things as well as in large things."

Application: Focus Your Life: Busy schedules and a desire for approval can make it difficult to say "no" and even harder to keep up with everything.

Identify Responsibilities: Identify your most important responsibilities and prioritize accordingly. It does not matter how much you appear to have everything together at work, you cannot afford to neglect commitments to family, community, or friends.

Set Priorities: Setting priorities should help you fulfill your responsibilities and benefit others in the most reliable way you can. As you recognize your responsibilities, you can prevent the important from falling victim to the pressing or the potentially beneficial.

Earn Trust: Greater independence comes from greater dependability. When a teenage girl takes good care of the dog, her parents can more likely trust her with a car. When a repairman does a good job on the kitchen sink, you will more likely trust him to install a new dishwasher. As you develop greater dependability, you can successfully manage greater responsibility.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which one of the servants in Matthew 25 do you identify with the most? The ones who used their gold wisely, or the one afraid of the master?
2. What do you think about the master's response to the slave that hid the gold in the ground? Do you think it was excessive or just right?