



April 2009

Character Council Educator Quality of the Month Virtue

Virtue:

The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right.

I will:

- do what is right and encourage others to do the same.
- guard my eyes, ears, words and thoughts.
- learn to stand alone.
- abstain from anything which might damage or pollute my mind or body
- treat others as I would want them to treat me

Virtue may seem very generic compared to the other character qualities we have covered but that doesn't make it any easier! Virtue is not simply making the best choice at a point in time but consistently making good choices and the results of those choices are evident. This month live your character OUTLOUD!

- ☺ **Flour Power** – For this activity you will need a tall drinking glass, flour, and a dime. Cover the surface you will be using with newspaper or a large dishtowel. Place the dime at the bottom of the glass, and then fill it with flour, packing it very tightly. Turn the glass over on the table and tap it a few times to get the flour out and it should stand on its own. The dime should be on the top of the 'tower'. The first time the students play this game, do not associate any moral analogy with it. The object of the game is to keep the dime on top of the 'tower' without it sinking in. Take a knife and slice off small pieces of the 'tower' vertically. The person whose slice makes the dime fall is eliminated from the game. Gather up the flour and remake the 'tower', this time using the analogy that the dime is our character, and the slices we make on the tower are bad influences on us. As the bad influences take hold of us, our character can fall. Another way to play is to have the students name a bad influence as they take a slice out of the 'tower'. Also, if you don't want the mess of using flour, you can have the students play "Jenga" in groups, with the same analogy.



- ☺ **All Shook Up** For this activity you will need a small mason or pickle jar with lid, 2-3 teaspoons of metallic glitter, 1/2 cup of sand, 1-2 cups of water, and 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil. Add the glitter to the jar and then cover with the sand. Pour in the water and the oil. Screw the lid on tight. Ask the students if they think you can separate the glitter from the sand without opening it or putting anything else into the jar. Now shake the jar really hard. While you shake, explain that the jar represents someone's life. Shaking the jar represents the trials and troubles that life can throw at you. Stop shaking the jar. The sand will settle on the bottom and the glitter will rise to the top. (Curriculum Connection-Science: The reason the sand settles and the glitter rises is because of their different densities.) Explain that having good character and habits will see you through tough times. Sometimes it takes having our virtue tested to see the value in it. Times might be difficult, but if we stand firm in our character, we will overcome life's challenges.



- ☺ **The Golden Rule** – Visit our website (www.charactercincinnati.org) and click on the link for the Character Quality of the month for a list quotes that are similar to the Golden Rule. For each of the quotes, write the quote out on paper with lots of space between the words, and then cut the words apart. Divide the students into groups and let them unscramble the quotes. When they are done, have each group report out. Then ask what other famous quote (the Golden Rule) it sounds like. Discuss the Golden Rule and how many different cultures embrace this ethic.

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