

Orderliness

Character... It starts with me!

MONTHLY FAITH BUILDER BULLETIN

JANUARY 2013

Vs. Confusion

I WILL:

- pick up after myself
- keep my work and play areas clean and neat
- put things back where they belong
- use things only for their intended purposes
- return lost things to their rightful owners

FEATURES

| | |
|--|----|
| Quotes | 2 |
| Character Model; Creating the Garden | 3 |
| Resolution Time; Team Building Activity - The Longest Sentence | 4 |
| Director & Builder; Memory Organization | 5 |
| The 5 S Way to Order | 6 |
| Croskey's Corner | 7 |
| For the Family | 8 |
| CEO this month | 9 |
| Poster | 10 |
| Prayer | 11 |

Bringing everything within my jurisdiction into conformity with the purposes for which it was created

You have all seen how orderly a fire station is. From each person's clothing and equipment to the vehicles themselves, all are highly organized so as to save time and guarantee that nothing required is left behind. This order takes planning and forethought about the purpose of each item.

It just didn't happen. It had to be consciously planned, tested and adjusted. The same is true for anything that we organize, from a kitchen utensil drawer to a PTA fundraiser. The success of any endeavor is judged upon how well it served its purpose.

On Judgement Day, our lives will be judged according to how well

we have lived our purpose. If we have ordered our lives according to the purpose set forth by our Creator, and then lived accordingly, we will be judged successful.

This month, plan your work according to divine purpose – then work your plan!



“For the person of faith, practicing good character is a matter of loving God, self, and others.”

John Pierce, founding member of the Character Council

Character Quotables

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of government and peace there is no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this”

2 Nephi 19:6–7
Book of Mormon

“Islam avoids extremes so as to maintain balance and orderliness in society. Monopoly and cut-throat competition are therefore disapproved. Justice to all is Islam's essence as it enables man to lead a good and happy life and at the same time strengthens bonds of human brotherhood and fortifies the social fabric.”

Mohammad Asghar Qureshi

“That ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.”

Leviticus 10:10

“Fish die when they are out of water, and people die without law and order.”

The Talmud

“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace... Let all things be done decently and in order.”

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

“All religion may be understood as a manifestation of mankind's instinctive longing for order as a means of aligning human life with a transcendent deity.”

E. W. 'Buck' Lawrimore

“Buddhism is not called that by its practitioners; rather, they use the term "Dharma" or "Dhamma," an ancient Sanskrit term very similar to our word "order." Edward Conze quotes a Pali-English Dictionary which defines "dhamma as the interpreted Order of the World," and says that what the Buddha preached "was the order of law of the universe, immanent, eternal, uncreated... this universal logic, philosophy or righteousness ("Norm"), in which the rational and ethical elements are fused into one.”

E. W. 'Buck' Lawrimore

“Many non-Hindus see a great amount of ancient wisdom in Hinduism's foundational texts, the Vedas and Upanishads, which Hindus believe were “breathed out” by the gods and represent knowledge. Many people believe that God was revealing God's-self through the ancient laws and ethical

principles contained in Hindu scriptures, which speak of a cosmic struggle between order (dharma) and chaos (adharma). Hinduism has helped billions of people to make sense of life, and to live orderly lives centered on belief in the existence of universal moral principles for thousands of years.”

Lipner, Julius
Hindus: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices.

“Scientists were rated as great heretics by the church, but they were truly religious men because of their faith in the orderliness of the universe.”

Albert Einstein

“It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is intelligence - an orderly, unfolding universe testifies to the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered - 'In the beginning, God.'”

Arthur H. Compton

“People in their handlings of affairs often fail when they are about to succeed. If one remains as careful at the end as he was at the beginning, there will be no failure.”

Lao Tzu

Adam and Eve, Model of Orderliness

To be orderly, we must have a sense of priorities, of what is most important. We can only put our lives in order if our priorities are clear. Following the priorities as set forth by God is what gives our life order and meaning. Adam and Eve were the first inhabitants of the earth charged with taking care of the world based on God's command. They were given "dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." (Genesis 1:26)

Adam and Eve modeled how to live in the order set forth by the purposes for which it was created. Orderly behavior is in harmony with the will of God



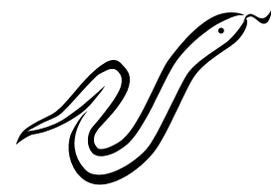
and produces the fruit of the Spirit. Using something in opposition of its intended purpose as set forth by God, creates dis-harmony or confusion. Adam and Eve also modeled this disharmony or what happens when we don't follow the divine order when they ate from the tree from which they were forbidden.

"God is not the author of confusion but of peace... Let all things be done decently and in order"

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

Creating the Garden

For this lesson you will need a small ball of clay or modeling compound for each person. Start by reading a children's version of the creation story. Review the story and identify the items described in the story. Assign each of the items to each person and instruct them to make a clay model of something that was in the creation story. When everyone has created their sculpture, line them up together and set up the Garden of Eden. Discuss which is more powerful, the objects in the garden or the person who sculpted it. Obviously, the Maker has the power. And so it is with God and the world in which we live. We must remember that our Maker has dominion over us and that we need to order our lives according to his plan for us. Discuss the ways we find out how we are to live (Scripture reading, prayer, listening to instruction from church leaders and adults who have dominion over us).



Resolution Time

It is common to make a New Year's Resolution this time of year. Encourage the group to make a resolution to be more orderly. Be sure to give age appropriate suggestions. Does the order of their day include prayer? Scriptures? Reflection? Many of these resolutions will require the creation of new habits. The psychological press reports that if you do the same thing for 20 days it will become a habit. Encourage everyone to count these 20 days. Take frequent checkpoints to see if they are on target. For the benefit of those that may not be as on-target as they should, demonstrate the following story on the board. Draw 2 cities at either end of the board. Draw a solid line between the 2 cities. Draw an airplane leaving one of the cities. Use a dotted line to show the airplane's path. It will weave its way back and forth across the solid line between the two cities until it arrives at the destination. Point out that the airplane is constantly making corrections to stay on target. We need to evaluate our work in the same way in order to stay on target. God knows the imperfections of humans and has provided for us a way to get back on target when we have strayed from the path. He is always willing to forgive our transgressions if we but ask.



Team-Building Activity

Building a culture of good character requires building the group into a community. Here is this month's teambuilding activity:

The Longest Sentence

Divide into groups of 3 or 4 but have an even number of groups. A scribe is appointed in each group. Give the whole group a sentence starter such as "The purring kitten...". Each small group must create a sentence with the goal being the group who creates the longest sentence. You may want to create some rules such as no more than 3 modifiers per word and no more than 4 uses of "and", etc. To make it more appropriate, you can use a seasonal phrase, a topical phrase that deals with a recently completed lesson or one that deals with the character quality of the month. When the sentences are complete, have each group combine with another group and see if there are parts of the two sentences that can be combined to make an even longer sentence. Have each group report out their sentence and number of words. Point out similarities and differences. Did making the group larger make the sentence longer? What would happen if you counted just the nouns or just the adjectives or total number of letters? Would the same group still win? Did the longest sentence make the most sense? Which sentence was the funniest? most positive? After hearing all of the sentences, can any of them be made any longer? Point out that everyone can contribute to group projects.



Director and Builder

For this game, divide the classroom into groups of four. One student (the director) in each group takes 10 building blocks. Another student (the builder) takes an identical set of 10 blocks. The two remaining students are deliverymen. In a separate room, the director creates an object out of the building blocks, writing the instructions for the building on index cards. The deliveryman takes these index cards to the second delivery man, shuffling the cards as he walks. The second deliveryman takes these directions to the builder, again shuffling the cards. After receiving the index cards, the builder attempts to organize the directions correctly and build a copy of the director's structure. The winner is decided by which team's buildings match each other. When the game is over discuss how difficult it was to order the cards appropriately. Where there word clues in the directions that helped? How is the director like God and we like the builders? How much easier would it have been if the directions were in order?



Suit Sort



Another important aspect of organization is sorting. Employ a simple sorting game with students with an ordinary deck of cards. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4. You will need a deck for each group. Lay the cards face down on the table in a stack. Designate 4 spots for each of the card suits in a circle around the deck. You may want to mark the spots with the Ace of each suit to start. The first student then picks up the cards, one by one and sorts them by suit into the correct spots as quickly as possible. When the first student finishes, check all the piles of cards for accurate organization. The student who has scored the most points wins. Alternately, you can make the game shared between all of the students in the group by having the students take turns taking a card and sorting it. The competition can be between groups. You may also use half-decks if time is an issue. When the game is over, discuss how things are sorted. Ask for suggestions on what other criteria you could sort the cards (color, number, face vs. number, etc). Discuss why you need to know how to sort things so that you can order things appropriately. Use the items in the classroom to discuss why things are sorted together. Are all of the art supplies together (sorted by purpose). Is the garbage can by the door? (convenient for janitor to empty). Why wouldn't you put all of the purple things in the room together? Are all of your books for your afternoon classes together in your desk? (based on when they are used). How difficult would it be to find things if we didn't organize them or organized them on the wrong criteria?

“He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” Matthew 3:12

The 5 S Way to Order

Businesses have been studying the positive effects of being orderly. This is one of the concepts behind Lean Manufacturing. You may have heard the term “5 S” in relation to that. The 5 S’s are:

Sort - the first step in making things cleaned up and organized

Set In Order - organize, identify and arrange everything in a work area

Shine - regular cleaning and maintenance

Standardize - make it easy to maintain - simplify and standardize

Sustain - maintaining what has been accomplished

You’ve heard that Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Being orderly accord to God’s will means that Cleanliness is **part** of Godliness. How can these steps be applied to living according to God’s plan.

Sort - “And Jesus said to them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they were amazed at Him.” Mark 12:17

Set In Order - “Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:40

Shine - “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.” Isaiah 1:16

Standardize - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

Sustain - “Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!” Psalm 119:10



Croskey's Corner

God, show me the ways to silence the old lies I've believed for too long.

- Evelyn Bence

I carry “poop bags” in my pants pockets, my jacket pockets, my coat pockets, and in the flap compartment of my hoodie. If you have a dog, and even if you don't, you probably know why. I don't like having to pick up dog manure. But, even stronger is my dislike for stepping in fresh dog manure. I may be mistaken, but I am under the impression that almost all people, whether or not they are dog owners, feel the same way. You know that feeling: first, the unnatural *slide* of your foot. Then the smell hits you. It could have been old, or frozen, or crumbled – but it's not! So you get to do the cleaning and deodorizing. When God created dogs, he also might have decreed the Orderliness rule: **Keep everything that is under our jurisdiction (our yards, our walks, and the paths we traverse) neat, clean, functional, and poop-free!**

I know; you're sitting there arguing with me. Orderliness is about tax records, and files, and “10 for \$10 Specials,” and BOGO deals. It means you shouldn't hoard and should keep your home clutter-free. My wife, Nancy, shared a piece of research with me which says that hoarders are a type of personality disorder covered under the new (May, 2013) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association – Fifth Edition (DSM-5). This Manual says that hoarders need to be cared for and cared about like other people with a personality problem. According to an NBC News article,

(<http://vitals.nbcnews.com/news/2012/12/08/15757938-not-crazy-cat-ladies-hoarding-gets-new-diagnosis?lite&ocid=msnhp&pos=1>)

it is a separate diagnosis, characterized by a "persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value." In fact, it may involve abnormal brain activity.

Does that research modify your view of hoarders? We make some pretty drastic value judgments about hoarders, don't we? They're dirty, probably germ-infested, lice-ridden, sub-humans. Too strong? Probably so. I know I hold on to too much “stuff.” Why? Well, I always want to “Be Prepared.” I want to have what I need – and not have to go out and buy it – when I need to fix or replace something. More than that, though, I am afraid of being inadequate, caught napping, not up to the task. Will I be called upon to offer evidence of why I did what I did? Will my judgment be questioned if I don't have the evidence on which my decision was based? Will I show that I am imperfect if I don't always have the tool, the information, the ANSWER!? I want to be perfect, though there is probably no connection between a messy house and perfection.

Orderliness tells us to keep everything that is under our jurisdiction neat and clean. Avoiding hoarding tells us to throw out or recycle what we can no longer make use of. Orderliness is a valuable Character Quality, but it often needs to be tempered with Resourcefulness (finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard). We have to give up the prejudices, the judgmental attitude, and the biases which are the old lies we've believed. As usual, there is a way to be both Orderly and Resourceful. If I acquire more wisdom, I will know not only when to hold 'em (what to store); I will know WHAT to hold and WHAT to recycle. I'd like to be wise enough to tell the difference and wise enough to trust that I will choose correctly most of the time. After that, I'll have to accept my imperfection and enjoy the serenity of that acceptance. As they used to say on *Ally McBeal*, after that, “Bygones.”

There's more, too. We need fresh perspectives to help us bring order to our lives and to recycle in the same situation. We will maybe stop looking down on those less organized and help them find ways to channel what they are afraid to let go of to someone or somewhere that is in need. With prayer and God's help, we can silence those lies.

Bill Croskey is a school psychologist from the Loveland City Schools



For the Family

We are studying the character quality of **Orderliness**: Bringing everything within my jurisdiction into conformity with the purposes for which it was created

To practice Orderliness I will:

- pick up after myself
- keep my work and play areas clean and neat
- put things back where they belong
- use things only for their intended purposes
- return lost things to their rightful owners

“So you also must be **ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Matthew 24:44

Family Activity:

Be Ready

Does everyone in the family know what to do in the case of emergencies? Do the kids know how to climb out of a window if a fire blocks a door? This month's family activity is about being prepared. Start off with a family discussion of the types of emergencies that can happen. Involve the whole family in identifying what you need to prepare for and how you are going to do it. Make a game of practicing crawling on the floor under the smoke from a fire or reacting to the smoke detector. Make a binder that lists all of the emergency procedures and where things are located. Assign each of the children a different section to document. Include in the plan things like how often you test smoke detectors or change the batteries. Do you have quick prayers at your disposal to pray for help? Perhaps you can write some quick, easy to remember prayers as a family to say whenever even small disasters occur. Do you have an emergency kit for community disasters? There are many websites that can help identify what you need to plan for and how to do it. Once you start researching, you will be surprised at how full the binder will become.



<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

<http://72hours.org/>

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

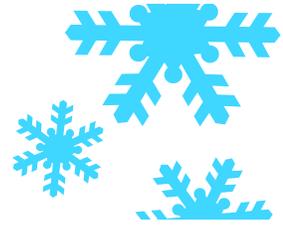
<http://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/prepare-my-family-disaster>

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- Review the “I wills” and see if there are specific actions you can add to this list.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php

**Character
Education
Opportunities**

In January



Martin Luther King Day - January 21st

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." Martin Luther King, Jr

The first character quality that comes to mind when studying the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is Tolerance. His life also provided lessons in Boldness, Determination, Initiative, Justice, and Persuasiveness, to name a few. After you have studied his life in the classroom, provide a list of the 49 character qualities (<http://www.characterfirst.com/assets/CFDefinitions.pdf>). Ask the students to pick qualities that his life demonstrated and to provide an example of how he did that. You may be surprised at how many they can relate to his life.

Below is a list of resources for teaching about Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Content of Your Character: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

www.achievement.org/atv/atv029/pdf/atv029tea.pdf

www.achievement.org/autodoc/curriculum/cc010tea1-1

Education World - a buffet of lessons:

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson248.shtml

Other Days You Can Use To Teach Character This Month

- 1 Global Family Day, St. Basil's Day
- 2 National Motivation and Inspiration Day
- 3 Humiliation Day
- 6 Epiphany, Twelfth Night, 3 Kings Day
- 7 Orthodox Christmas
- 8 War on Poverty Day
- 14 National Clean Off your Desk Day
- 16 Religious Freedom Day
- 18 Pro-life Day
- 20 World Religion Day
- 21 Martin Luther King Day
- 21 National Hugging Day
- 24 Compliment Day
- 26 Toad Hollow Day of Encouragement
- 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Week 1 New Year's Resolution Week

Week 2 Letter Writing Week, Vocation Awareness Week

Week 3 Clean out your Inbox Week, No Name Calling Week, Week of Christian Unity

Week 4 National Snow Sculpting Week, Catholic Schools Week

The Month of January is National Blood Donor Month, National Get Organized Month, Celebration of Life Month

For more information on these and other holidays visit: <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/january.htm>
or <http://www.brownielocks.com/january.htm>

Prayer for Orderliness

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of orderliness in your life. We remember how you always followed the plan that had been set before you by our Father. Help us to remember to pick up after ourselves and to put things back where they belong. Remind us to keep our work and play areas clean and neat. May we learn to honor the order and purpose of what we have been given and to use things only for their intended purposes. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

Orderliness

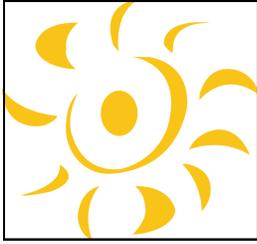
Bringing everything within my jurisdiction into conformity with the purposes for which it was created



**“Early in the morning, well before sunrise,
Jesus rose and went to a deserted place
where he could be alone in prayer.”**

Mark 1: 35

Does your day start with prayer?



The Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

P.O. Box 33144
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233

Mary Andres Russell, Executive Director

Phone: 513.467.0170

E-mail: mrussell@charactercincinnati.org

www.charactercincinnati.org

Written by Jill Tomey

© 2013 Character Council of Greater Cincinnati &
Northern Kentucky

The 49 Character Qualities are adapted from Character First! materials and are used with permission.

Use of external website links in our articles does not imply endorsement of the site, its content or the views and opinions of the external Web site's sponsoring organization. Please use your own discretion when using material from these links.

Character...It Starts With Me!

How to Use this Bulletin

This bulletin contains ideas that can be used for youth groups, Bible study groups, Sunday school classes, families or anyone who wants to build their faith with character. Pick those activities that are appropriate for your group or can be modified to be appropriate for your group.

Combine bible stories or verses with an activity to further the lesson.

Join older and younger groups, allowing the older group to lead an activity that they have already done for a younger group.

More resources can be found at www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php

We would Love to hear from YOU!

Let us know what you think. What adjustments or additions did you make so that the activity was appropriate for your group? What other activities or stories did you use to teach this month's quality? Send your questions or comments to jtomey@charactercincinnati.org and you just may be featured in a future edition.