

Punctuality

Character... It starts with me!

FAITH BUILDER BULLETIN

JANUARY 2014

Vs. Tardiness

I WILL

- Be at the right place at the right time.
- Prepare for unexpected delays.
- Do my work ahead of time.
- Plan a daily schedule and keep it.
- Not fall into the trap of "just one more".

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Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time

For the person of Faith, punctuality goes beyond just showing up on time. It requires a respect for time in that we spend our precious moments on those things that God has deemed important. It means putting

Godly things ahead of worldly things.

It is giving our first fruits: the first minutes of our day, the first dollars of our paycheck and the first day of the week to him.

We all have been

given a precious gift of time. None of us know how much time we have left so it is important that we use it wisely. We are accountable to God for how we use our time.



"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

No Matter How You Say It

Puntualidad vs. Lentitud

Puntualidad
vs. Lentitud

Mostrar estima por otros,
haciendo lo que es correcto en
el momento oportuno



↻ ↻ Go to the Root ↻ ↻

The word **punctual** is derived from the Latin word *punctum* which means “a point”. Originally, the English word expressed “scrupulous exactness” in all measurements. Can you see how **punctuality** is precision in timing?

Idioms

On the dot to be punctual

Right on time arrival as expected

Day late and a dollar short late and ill-prepared

Too little, too late arrived too late to save the situation

Found on www.thefreedictionary.com

Sign Language

Check out the ASL Pro website for the American Sign Language interpretation of the word Tardy. Check out the Lifeprint website for the sign for On Time. Can you see how On Time is very precise and Tardy is rather Wishy Washy?

www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro.cgi
<http://lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/t/time.htm>

Character Quotables

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

“Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth. “

Proverbs 12:27

“The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.”

Proverbs 20:4

“And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. “

Colossians 1:17

“There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) health and free time for doing good.”

Bukhari 8/421

“Then Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.”

John 7:6

“Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.”

Psalms 108:2

“Punctuality is the stern virtue of men of business, and the graceful courtesy of princes.”

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

“You cannot kill time without injuring eternity.”

Henry David Thoreau

“I could never think well of a man’s intellectual or moral character, if he was habitually unfaithful to his appointments.”

Nathaniel Emmons

“Unfaithfulness in the keeping of an appointment is an act of clear dishonesty. You may as well borrow a person’s money as his time.”

Horace Mann

“The while we keep a man waiting, he reflects on our shortcomings.”

French Proverb

“Until you value yourself, you won’t value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.”

M. Scott Peck

“Each of us has the same quantity of the most precious commodity in the world....time.”

Ted Janusz

“Time is what we want most, but what we use worst.”

William Penn

“Punctuality is the stern virtue of men of business, and the graceful courtesy of princes.”

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

Queen Victoria: Queen of the Clock

Alexandrina Victoria, May 24, 1819 – January 22, 1901, was the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from June 20, 1837 until her death. The time of her reign is known as the Victorian era, a period of industrial, political, scientific and military progress within the United Kingdom. Queen Victoria's day was strictly orchestrated and her day's schedule was timed to the minute. Each year, she made visits to the outlying areas and these visits were the same time each year. Queen Victoria valued punctuality and considered tardiness a "heinous crime". One never kept the

Queen waiting! The quest for punctuality became a key trait of the Victorian era.



An important development during the Victorian era was the improvement of communication links. Stage coaches, canals, steam ships and most notably the railways all allowed goods, raw materials and people to be moved about, rapidly facilitating trade and industry.

Trains became another important factor ordering society, with "railway time" being the standard by which clocks were set throughout Britain. As the industrial revolution proceeded, clocks regulated the day of the employer and employee alike.

Team~Building Activity

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



What Does Your Plate Say?

Begin this activity with what you see on a car's license plate. The state will be identified and a unique number/letter combination is on every plate. States can add slogans and individuals can select from additional decorations such as for military or handicapped as well as selecting their own number/letter combination known as a vanity plate. Whatever they select must be unique. Emphasize that all of the plates within a state are unique. Now allow each student to design their own License Plate. They can choose the number/letter combination they want, they can Name their "State" by choosing a character quality or emotion that describes his/herself. They can add artwork or a motto or slogan or something that describes them. If you have students with the same first name, make sure they are making plates that are different. Both can use the same name on the plate as long as they are in different states. When they have finished, let them share their plate in small groups. Emphasize that even though God made us in his image, He created us all to be unique. Each of our unique qualities contribute to the personality of the classroom.

Ohio - Birthplace of Aviation

Indiana - Bicentennial 2016

Kentucky - has image of horse and the words Unbridled



The Punctuality Hunt



When you are on time, you are the one in charge of your schedule. When you are habitually late, it shows a distinct lack of control. In order to get more control or *power* look at the reasons for being late. Have the students identify reasons people are late. Prepare a few ahead of time that are age appropriate in case you need to get the discussion going. Ask them to think about being late for school, church, sporting events, practices, etc. Trace being late back to the beginning – not putting shoes where they belong the night before, not writing down assignments. Identify that being late doesn't start the minute the clock ticks past a deadline. It starts when they fail to plan. Tell the students they are punctuality detectives and have them search for when the tardiness actually begins for each reason that they list on the board. Once the reasons are identified, have them come up with suggestions of what they can do to prevent that from happening again. Try to have them come up with more than one solution.

The Power of Five



It's that time of year for New Year's Resolutions. Have this exercise focus choices on organizing time and space to aid in punctuality. Each student will need three sheets of paper on which they will trace their hand. Inside the palm of the first hand they should write Start, on the second hand Stop and on the third hand Continue. On the hand labeled Start, they should write 1 thing on each finger and thumb of things they can start doing that will help them be more organized. On the hand labeled Stop, they should write 1 thing on each finger and thumb of things they can Stop doing that get in the way of being organized and punctual. On the hand labeled Continue, they should write 1 thing on each finger and thumb of things they can continue doing that will help them. You may want to review the 5 "I wills" of Punctuality to give them ideas. Be sure to include suggestion of how to be "on time" for God. Are prayers an important part of the day? You may also list suggestions on the board for them to copy. When they have finished, they should be put someplace that they can be re-visited frequently to serve as reminders of their resolutions.

Ace of Spades

This exercise requires that you set up two decks of cards ahead of time. One deck should be in order of suits and values and the other deck should be completely shuffled with some cards even being turned around. Recruit two volunteers and provide each one with one of the two decks without explaining that the decks are different. Have the volunteers face each other and race to see who can find the Ace of Spades first. Typically, the volunteer with the organized deck of cards will find it first. Use this demonstration to explain that when things are organized it is easier to find what you need and not be late because you couldn't find something.



\$86,400

For this exercise, divide the class into small groups and tell each group to pretend that they have \$86,400.00 to spend however they want. Let them know that they must spend it all - no saving! If they do not spend all of it, they will lose it. It isn't important that they know actual prices of things. They can just budget so much of the money to purchase a group of items. For example, they may budget \$200 on pizza, \$500 on CDs,

\$2000 on new shoes for the group. Ask each group if they would be able to buy all of the items in a single day. If you have younger students, then do this as a class exercise where you record the purchases on the board and keep a tally of what is left to spend. When you are finished, then tell them that God gives us 86,400 seconds in a day. It is important to use this gift wisely everyday. Just as we planned on what we would spend money, we should also plan on what we should spend time.



For the Family

We are studying the character quality of **Punctuality**: Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time

To practice Punctuality I will:

- Be at the right place at the right time.
- Prepare for unexpected delays.
- Do my work ahead of time.
- Plan a daily schedule and keep it.
- Not fall into the trap of “just one more”.



Family Activity:

The Big Picture



For this activity you will need a challenging puzzle that can be assembled by the family. Do not show them the picture of the puzzle but let them be challenged to assemble it based on their skill. If the challenge is too difficult, provide the picture after they have spent some time without it. When they are finished, explain that in order to plan our work, we have to know what the big picture is. What are the important goals of the family? What does God want us to do? Perhaps this would be a good time to write a family

mission statement or for each family member to set goals for the year. Punctuality requires knowing what is more important. Discuss how knowing God’s big picture makes it easier to assemble a puzzle and to make choices in daily living.

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

Punctuality

Showing esteem for others

by doing the right thing at the right time.



**“Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with first fruits of all your produce.”**

Proverbs 3:9

**Does God get “first dibs”
on your time?**

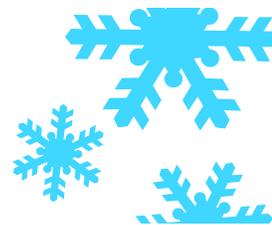
Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of punctuality in your life. We remember how you were conscious of the time schedule that God had in mind for you. Help us to embrace our roles as your servants here on Earth and be all that we can be. Remind us that it is important to be at the right place at the right time. May we learn to prepare for unexpected delays and to do our work ahead of time rather than waiting to the last minute. Teach us to stick to the schedule that we or others have prepared for us and avoid the trap of "just one more". Guide us as we plan our day to keep you first in our thoughts and actions. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

**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
- 2 National Motivation and Inspiration Day
- 8 War on Poverty Day
- 13 National Clean Off your Desk Day
- 14 Organize Your Home Day
- 20 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 National Day of Service
- 21 National Hugging Day
- 24 Compliment Day
- 26 Toad Hollow Day of Encouragement
- 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 29 National Puzzle Day
- 31 Chinese New Years

Week 1 New Year's Resolution Week

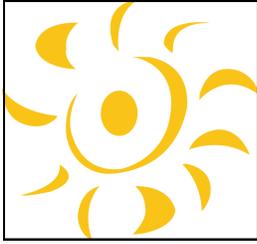
Week 2 Letter Writing Week

Week 3 Clean out your Inbox Week, No Name Calling Week

Week 4 National Snow Sculpting 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>



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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.