

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Tolerance v. Prejudice

Accepting others differences



We all have strengths and weaknesses that differ from the strengths and weaknesses of those around us. Tolerance is looking past another's weakness in order to appreciate the strengths. In business, some leaders prefer to surround themselves with "Yes, men", individuals who see things as they do and are not likely to disagree. A stronger leader will choose to have different thinkers in their inner circle in order to broaden their vision and possibilities. In today's global economy it is more important than ever that business and individuals are accepting of the differences in culture, faith and politics. As faith-filled believers, our tolerance should be further motivated by remembering how patient and merciful God has been with our own shortcomings. Our gratitude for this forgiveness needs to be extended to others.

This month, be aware of differences with those around you and appreciate the diversity they bring to your life.

God's Word on Tolerance

"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."

Psalm 103:10

"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love."

Ephesians 4:2

"And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."

Acts 10:28

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:1-8

And as they continued to ask him, Jesus stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 8:7



To Practice Tolerance I Will:

- not confuse what is right with what is popular
- expect the same of myself as I expect of others
- look for ways to help others mature
- accept my own unchangeables and the unchangeables of others
- listen before I form an opinion

Any others appropriate to your family?

Daniel Teaches Us about Tolerance

Daniel was an Israelite from Judah. He was of nobility and could have been from the royal family. He was carried off to Babylon when Jerusalem was besieged. He found himself, a captive in a strange country, where the language, customs, food and religion were very different. Daniel was one of several young men chosen to learn the language and literature of the Babylonians, and be trained for the King's service. The King assigned them a daily portion of food and wine from his table. Daniel wanted to keep God's laws and recognized that some of the food was forbidden. Respecting the authority of the chief official over him, Daniel asked permission to eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. Daniel had resolved not to defile himself when he accepted behavior would have been to eat the royal food and wine. Daniel believed in standing firm for what is right in God's sight. He excelled in his studies and was placed in the King's service. Throughout the Babylonian captivity, under different kings, Daniel taught us that tolerance is showing respect for the differences of others without compromising your own belief. Daniel became ruler over all Babylon, and through his influence kings put out decrees ordering all the people to respect his God.

Peaceful Pancakes

Add some food coloring to 3/4 cup milk. In a large, clear jar, combine the colored milk with 3 tablespoons of cooking oil. Put the lid on and shake the jar to combine the ingredients. They will mix for a while but then separate. Explain that the milk and oil are like 2 people who have a hard time accepting each other. Now stir 1 cup of flour into the mixture. Liken the flour to the Holy Spirit. Notice now how the milk and the oil stay mixed. Explain that when we allow the Holy Spirit into our lives, we are better able to accept those who are different from us. Now, turn the mix into pancake batter by adding 1 tsp. of baking powder, 1/2 tsp. of baking soda, and 1 egg. The pancakes will be a funny color. Just one more example of accepting something that is different than what you are expecting.



“Judge not, that you be not judged.” Matthew 7:1

POSTER IDEA:

Tolerance

Accepting others differences



“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

Colossians 3:15

**Do you treat others
like they are part
of the Body of Christ?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Tolerance in your life. We remember how you healed both Jews and Gentiles, alike. Remind us to not confuse what is right with what is popular and to expect the same of ourselves as we expect of others. Help us to respectfully look for ways to help others mature and accept our own unchangeables and the unchangeables of others. Guide us to listen before we form an opinion. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father. Amen.

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.
- 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.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit

www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=tolerance