

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Dependability v. Inconsistency



Keeping commitments even in the face of difficulty.

Most lessons on dependability begin with teaching individuals to be dependable. As people of faith, we not only need to be dependable to others, we also need to recognize our dependence on God. We may think of ourselves as independent but in reality, we need God. We are dependent on him for life. He provides love, guidance, forgiveness, and strength. Recognizing our dependence on God is the beginning of our relationship with Him. We needn't wait until we run out of our resources before we place our challenges in his hands. He wants to be a part of everything we do. By recognizing our dependence on God, we can stay centered on keeping our faith a part of everything we do.

This month, practice dependability by giving God your worries and accepting His Peace.

To Practice Dependability I Will:

- keep my word
- be careful what I promise
- correct my mistakes
- pull my share of the load
- not have a bad attitude

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Dependability

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

"Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26:

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Jesus said: "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5

The Birds Teach Us about God's Dependability



In the Gospel of Matthew, we see Jesus teaching to a gathered crowd. He tells them not to worry about their life, or what to eat or what to wear. He points to the birds and explains that they do not worry because God provides for the birds. He also points to the wildflowers and says the same thing. He reminds them how important they are to God, much more important than the flowers or the birds.

The story of the flowers and the birds tells us not to worry either. Depend on God and he will take care of you. That doesn't mean we can sit around and expect food and clothing to drop from the sky. It means we keep our focus on Godly things and recognize his providence in our lives.



Car and Driver

This activity needs an open space in which to play. Everyone should be paired up. One person in each pair is blindfolded. (Toilet paper wound around the head makes a good disposable blindfold.) This person is “the car”. The person who can see is “the driver”. Drivers should stand behind their car and grip the tops of their shoulders so that they can steer them. Cars should put their hands straight out in front of them as the bumper.



The object of the game is to move around the area (define limits) and not run into anyone or anything. Declare a slow speed limit so that driving is not reckless or too fast. Allow them to drive for 3 – 5 minutes depending on the size of the area and the rowdy factor. Call an All Stop and have the car and driver reverse roles. Start the group again and allow them the same amount of time as before. When the time is up, ask everyone which role they liked better, car or driver? How did it feel to be dependent on someone else? How did it feel to have others dependent on you? In what ways do we depend on God?

FROG = Fully Rely On God

POSTER IDEA:

Dependability

Keeping my word even if it means unexpected sacrifice.



“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?”

Matthew 6:26

**Do you let go
and let God?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of dependability in your life. Your disciples depended on you and you provided for them. Help us to know your will in the promises that we keep. Help us to do our share and to keep our attitude in line with our dependence on you. 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=dependability