

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Loyalty v. Unfaithfulness Character Council

Demonstrating my commitment to others

Loyalty is more than a spoken allegiance to a person, cause, or an ideal. Loyalty is an active character quality normally rooted in a passion. It serves as the basis for many other character qualities.

As Christians, we know that Loyalty to God starts in our hearts. We must want to be Loyal to him. It is not a command but rather, an invitation. Being Loyal to God is not the allegiance of a slave but the devotion of a family member.

Being Loyal to God means that we hold him in the highest place in our hearts - in a place that can influence our every thought, word and deed. Many times we find ourselves focusing on the tasks of being 'holy'. While these are worthwhile endeavors, without having that personal relationship with God we will not feel the pull of Loyalty. Our tasks become busy work rather than a result of our Loyalty, our relationship with God.

This month, be loyal to God first, and the actions will follow.

To Practice Loyalty I Will:

- serve my family and teachers
- encourage other in hard times
- not mock authorities
- point out the good in others
- honor my country

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Loyalty

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

Romans 13:1

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Revelation 2:10

"Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

Deuteronomy 7:9

"Jesus said: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

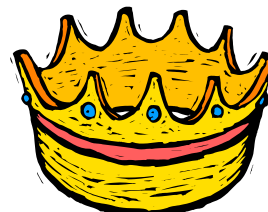
Matthew 22:21

Jonathan Teaches Us about Loyalty

Jonathan was the son of King Saul. Normally, a son would succeed his father to the throne but Jonathan knew that he would never be King. He knew that his best friend, David, was destined to be King.

When David demonstrated courage and bravery on the day he slew the giant, Goliath, it compelled Jonathan to love him as much as his own life. He saw that David also had great faith and trust in God and from then on, they were best friends. Jonathan gave David some of his treasured items: his robe, sword, bow and belt, and even his armor. Jonathan shows us how loyalty is rooted in love.

It was this same event that caused Saul to be jealous of David and seek his death. Jonathan was a loyal friend to David. He knew that Saul was jealous of David. When Saul threatened to have David killed, Jonathan would speak on his behalf. Jonathan was a man of courage and conviction. He would often put his own life in danger to protect his friend, David. Jonathan shows us that loyalty requires courage.



Lean on Me Arrange the family in a circle. If there are an odd number of people, have one person out of the circle to act as moderator. Instruct them to stand in a circle holding hands, or holding wrists to make it stronger, and count off in order, one, two, one, two... Tell them that when you tell them to, all the 'ones' should lean forward while the 'twos' lean back. If there are only 2 of you, hold hands and both lean back. Remind them to hold on tightly so that they can support each other from falling. Then, ask them to reverse, so that the ones leaning forward will lean backward and the ones leaning backward will lean forward. Did you like depending on each other? supporting each other? Did you think leaning in or leaning out was harder? Was it easier to support the other person when you were leaning or standing straight? Did you trust the people on either side of you to be loyal to you and hold you up? Why? What would have happened if someone had dropped hands? In real life, how do we show loyalty when we lean on each other for support? This game was easier when you were both leaning. How does that relate to supporting and being loyal to each other? Can you name ways we can be loyal and supportive of our family members? At school or afterschool groups? Sports teams? How does this teach us about leaning on God for support? Is God's loyalty to us more dependable than human loyalty? How do we show loyalty to God?




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

POSTER IDEA:

Loyalty

Demonstrating my commitment to others



“You shall have no other gods before me.”
Exodus 20:3

Are you Loyal to the Master?

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Loyalty in your life. We remember how you were Loyal to the Father, even unto death. Remind us to serve our family and teachers and encourage others in hard times. May we learn, with your help, to point out the good in others. Guide us to not mock authorities and to honor our country. 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.
- For more ideas visit www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php

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

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