

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

PUNCTUALITY



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.

This month, practice punctuality to show respect for God and others.

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”.

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Punctuality

“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

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

Psalms 108:2

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

John 7:6

How Punctual Are You Toward God and Others?

Do you meet God punctually each morning in prayer?

Do you arrive for church on time or early?

Do you quickly do all you can to meet a need that God has made known to you?

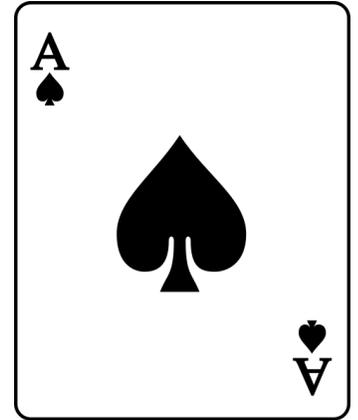
Do arrive on time for meals and family gatherings?

Do you arrive on time for work or school, prepared for the day?

Do you promptly write thank you notes and return borrowed materials?

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. Continue the discussion on what things could be better organized or prepped earlier so as not to be late for work, school or church services.



POSTER IDEA:

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.

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=Punctuality