

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Thoroughness v.



Incompleteness

Taking care of necessary details

Plan your work and work your plan is motto for getting things done correctly. Setting goals and creating action plans is one way to be thorough in your work habits. Having clearly defined goals with measurable results is the first step. Working that plan and turning it into action is where the results are produced.

As Christians we need to take our plans one step further and determine if they are God's will for us or our own. Being Thorough for a believer means that we need to make sure that are actions support our mission. It means that God's plans for us must be front and center when we set our goals and make our plans. His goals are not an add-on to ours or only worked on if there is time leftover. His work must be first on our To-Do lists and action plans.

This month, challenge yourself not only to plan your work with Christian thoroughness, but to work your plan as thoroughly as you created it.

To Practice Thoroughness I Will:

- **plan my work**
- **pay attention to details**
- **make a list so I don't forget**
- **finish what I start**
- **clean up along the way**

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Thoroughness

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. "

Deuteronomy 6:5

"Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luke 24:44

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

" But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

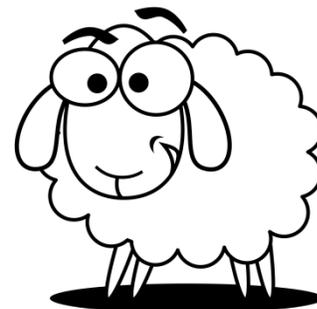
John 14:26

Jesus said : " But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "

Matthew 6:33

The Parable of the Lost Sheep Teaches Us About Thoroughness

In Luke, Chapter 15 Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep. He explains that if a shepherd has lost even just one sheep that he will go and find that one lost sheep and return it to the others. He will rejoice that the lost sheep has been found. He uses this story to help us understand that God wants all people to be saved. God truly will look out for us no matter what happens. We in turn must also help find the lost sheep and bring them back to God.



Hiring a Maid

Start this activity by telling the family to pretend that they are going to hire a maid to do their chores for them. Each maid will be paid for how thorough of a job they do. Have them come up with specifics of what constitutes a very good, average, and poor job of doing typical chores at home. (Typically, when critiquing someone else's behavior their expectations are much higher!) Discuss the consequences of leaving out parts of a chore out such as not putting in a new can liner when you take out the trash and why that makes it a poor job. Ask them to think about the type of job they do on their household chores. If they were being paid or evaluated on this same scale, where would they be? Would they keep their job or be fired? Why should their parents expect less than they expect of the imaginary maid they have hired? Discuss what factors make doing the job less thorough? Did you put it off until you didn't have enough time to do it thoroughly? Were you too tired? Were you distracted by the TV? Since the exercise started out by pretending they were hiring someone, relate this to job performance. Most teen jobs are a step up from household chores. The same evaluation guide that the family comes up with for judging the performance of their maid are the same types of things that bosses use to evaluate employees for raises, promotions or even keeping the job. Pose this question: If you are a slacker in doing homework and household chores and then get a job, how easy will it be for you do a good job if you haven't been practicing being thorough and conscientious?



POSTER IDEA:

Thoroughness

Taking care of necessary details



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Colossians 3:23

Is your heart
in your work?

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Thoroughness in your life. We remember how you always stayed true to the Father's plan. Remind us to plan our work and make our to-do lists according to your will. Help us finish what we start and to pay attention to details. Guide us to clean up along the way. 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=thoroughness