

## Introduction – How to best use this Parent Preview at home:

It takes diligence to train our children ‘in’ and ‘of’ the gospel and in good character each day. However, this is your ministry as a parent: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. And by God’s Grace your child will have true “repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the biblical character training that your child is learning in our karate classes.**

1. If you invest a few minutes a day and implement some of the ideas in this monthly letter at home you will help your child get SO MUCH MORE out of the time you spend at our school as well as establish patterns for successful behavior as adults.
2. If you do not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. We encourage you to take a few seconds and just scan through the different topics.
3. Try it for a month! Print out this newsletter, and then each day pick something to discuss and practice with your children. We do it over dinner.

**Here is an idea:** We have five ‘I wills’, one scripture, and one definition. That is seven things total. What I try to do is take one of those seven things and discuss it, explain it, and catch my child doing it and applying it that day. Or, if they missed an opportunity to apply it I try to show them how they could have used it.

**I take very seriously the opportunity you give me by allowing me to partner with you to teach your child the things of God.**

So, **I appeal you by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the spirit to strive together with me in your prayers to God on behalf of your child that he or she would bear fruit for God in their lives.** Pray before and during every class your child attends. Pray for God to open his or her eyes, ears, and heart to understand and apply His truth that we will be sharing that day. **Also, please pray for us** that we would be good stewards of the time you have given us with your child and we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord and His word. **Every class, every time, please join with us in prayer.**

### **The Power of a Partnership and Consistency**

**I hope for the chance** to expose your child to sound Biblical Character Training **over a long period of time.** And Lord willing, the longer the term of exposure to this curriculum the **BIGGER** the impact will be on your child and his or her growing in Christ-likeness and being a means by which God displays His Glory.

**And your child will be exposed to this character building curriculum everyday you visit our school!**

## Enjoy the Parent preview below:

Character training has no impact unless it is a part of everyday life. Biblical character training is only a short term band-aid with no long lasting effects and so powerless and ‘NOT BIBLICAL’ without God’s enabling by His Holy Spirit.

I encourage you to ask God every day for His Spirit to inwardly restrain, enlighten, correct, purify and guide your child and give you the grace to teach and to speak truth into your child's life in an appropriate way and time.

## **ALERTNESS vs. CARELESSNESS Parent Preview**

### **Definition:**

**ALERTNESS is being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses.**

### **Other definitions or quotes:**

- ALERTNESS is exercising my physical and spiritual senses to recognize the dangers that could diminish the resources entrusted to me.
- "A thief can steal in a moment, but the watchman must watch all night. Sin can undo in an unguarded second the character which required years to form." C.H. Spurgeon

### **Application for Home and Life Skills Development:**

**WHY TEACH ALERTNESS?** ALERTNESS can give you an edge in approaching dangers and emerging opportunities. Those who are careless are frequently caught off guard and thus overwhelmed by problems that could have been easily resolved, if they had only been noticed earlier.

- 1. I will keep my eyes and ears open.**
- 2. I will recognize and heed warning signals.**
- 3. I will choose to do right before I am tempted.**
- 4. I will tell others of danger.**
- 5. I will stay away from unsafe places.**

### **Scripture Memory for class:**

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."  
Matthew 26:41 (ESV)

### **The Concept of ALERTNESS**

1. Anticipate – It is never too late, but it is always easier to form right decisions before facing difficulties.
2. Observe – Alertness requires the need for connecting signals in order to determine their meaning.
3. Notify – teach your children to report pertinent information to the person responsible. This means that if a brother or sister breaks a family rule, the first step is to lovingly remind the offender of the rule. If he or she continues to resist, the information should then be brought to the attention of parents. Skipping the first step is the mark of a "tattletale." Of course emergency situations or serious offenses should be brought to parental attention right away.
4. Act – Teach the importance of acting immediately on warning signals. Point out street signs and the proper responses to them.

### **PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Encourage character by praising those who exhibit it. However, avoid cookie-cutter statements or terminology that lacks meaning. Be alert to opportunities for spontaneous praise.

## Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I Wills', and scripture, **ALERTNESS** will be illustrated using:

- **ALERTNESS in nature with the Pheasant.** The pheasants are known for their alert and ready response to signs of danger. **(No Character Card this Month they did not make one)**
- **Hero's of Character with Kate Shelly** – A monument was erected at the grave of Kate Shelly in 1956. The monument records her story of alertness when as a 15 year old girl she saved hundreds of lives.

## Personal Evaluation – How ALERT are you?

1. Do you daily remind yourself that you are in a spiritual battle?
2. Do you diligently guard your time from detractors?
3. Do you confirm with Scripture everything you are taught?
4. Do you guard your daily time with the Lord and His Word?
5. Do you reject all whisperers and talebearers?
6. Do you protect your good name by doing only what is right?
7. Do you ask God for daily guidance and find His will?

## ALERTNESS in the Home Includes:

- Look for and praising ways that family members have displayed good character
- Sensing that seemingly harmless activities could lead to bad influences and wrong friends
- Being aware that participation in certain activities and wearing certain clothing could attract the wrong friends and weaken the trust of authorities
- Practicing preventive maintenance with household appliances and personal health

## Rewards of ALERTNESS

**SAFETY** – An alert family is able to see and avoid dangers.

**PREPAREDNESS** – An alert family is forewarned about situations and circumstances and is therefore able to prepare for them.

## Biblical Commentaries on ALERTNESS

### Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." (Mt 26:36-46 ESV).

## The Agony in the Garden (26:36–46)

The verses we have now read describe what is commonly called Christ's agony at Gethsemane. It is a passage which undoubtedly contains deep and mysterious things. We ought to read it with reverence and wonder, for there is much in it which we cannot fully comprehend.

Why do we find our Lord so "sorrowful and troubled," as he is here described (verse 37)? What are we to make of his words, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (verse 38)? Why do we see him going apart from his disciples, and falling on his face, and crying to his Father with strong cries, and his prayer repeated three times? Why is the almighty Son of God, who had worked so many miracles, so heavy and disquieted? Why is Jesus, who came into the world to die, so ready to faint at the approach of death? Why is all this?

There is but one reasonable answer to these questions: the weight that pressed down our Lord's soul was not the fear of death and its pains. Thousands have endured the most agonizing sufferings of body, and died without a groan, and so, no doubt, might our Lord. But the real weight that bowed down the heart of Jesus was the weight of the sin of the world, which seems to have now pressed down upon him with unique force: it was the burden of our guilt imputed to him, which was now laid on him, as on the head of the scapegoat. How great that burden must have been no human heart can conceive! It is known only to God.<sup>1</sup>

**26:36 Gethsemane.** Lit. "oil press." This was a frequent meeting place for Christ and His disciples (John 18:2), just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem (John 18:1). A garden of ancient olive trees is there to this day. Judas' familiarity with Jesus' patterns enabled him to find Jesus there—even though Christ had not previously announced His intentions.

**26:38 sorrowful, even to death.** His anguish had nothing to do with fear of men or the physical torments of the cross. He was sorrowful because within hours the full cup of divine fury against sin would be His to drink (*see note on v. 39*).

**26:39 this cup.** Cf. v. 42. A cup is often the symbol of divine wrath against sin in the OT (Is. 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15–17, 27–29; Lam. 4:21, 22; Ezek. 23:31–34; Hab. 2:16). The next day Christ would "bear the sins of many" (Heb. 9:28)—and the fullness of divine wrath would fall on Him (Is. 53:10, 11; 2 Cor. 5:21). This was the price of the sin He bore, and He paid it in full. His cry of anguish in 27:46 reflects the extreme bitterness of the cup of wrath He was given. **not as I will, but as You will.** This implies no conflict between the Persons of the Godhead. Rather, it graphically reveals how Christ in His humanity voluntarily surrendered His will to the will of the Father in all things—precisely so that there would be no conflict between the divine will and His desires. See John 4:34; 6:38; 8:29; Phil. 2:8. *See note on John 5:30.*

**26:41 the flesh is weak.** The tenderness of this plea is touching. Christ Himself was well acquainted with the feeling of human infirmities (Heb. 4:15)—yet without sin. At that very moment He was locked in a struggle against human passions which, while not sinful in themselves, must be subjugated to the divine will if sin was to be avoided. *See note on v. 39.*

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<sup>1</sup>Ryle, J. C. (1993). *Matthew*. Originally published: New York : R. Carter, 1860. The Crossway classic commentaries (259). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

<sup>2</sup>MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Mt 26:36). Nashville: Word Pub.