

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. So after one week, I will have reviewed all seven and I repeat it each week of the month.

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 ask and encourage you to help me with your prayers.**

Please join us in prayer before and during **every** class your child attends 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:

AVAILABILITY vs. SELF-CENTEREDNESS Parent Preview

Definition:

- AVAILABILITY is making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

- AVAILABILITY is being ready to help.

Other definitions:

- AVAILABILITY is simplifying our daily needs so we are ready to serve those whom God brings to us.
- “I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me.” - J. Hudson Taylor

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH AVAILABILITY? Children are born with a focus on their own needs – everything seems to revolve around them. In contrast availability focuses on others’ needs.

1. I will put others ahead of myself.
2. I will find a way to help not in a way to hide.
3. I will be ready when I’m called.
4. I will be glad for the chance to serve.
5. I will check with the right person before I make commitments.

Scripture Memory for class:

“For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 2:20-21 (English Standard Version)

- **[Biblical Commentaries on AVAILABILITY at bottom of this letter](#)**

The Concept of AVAILABILITY

AVAILABILITY is similar to team sports. When individuals combine their efforts toward a common goal, they can achieve what they could not do alone. Playing on a team requires preparation. Everyone must be ready to perform whatever he or she is called upon to do. Teamwork also requires its members to look out, not for their own interests, but for the interests of others.

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Running errands
- Staying behind to clean up
- Helping others
- Responding quickly when asked to help
- Encouraging others to serve with them
- Asking permission before making major commitments

Linking words with actions:

When receiving help from your child be sure to praise his or her willingness to help and not just the action. Including character in your praise helps children link an abstract term such as “availability” with its corresponding behavior. Here are some examples:

- “I appreciate your willingness to help when you took the trash out for me. You demonstrated availability.”
- “I’m sorry our plans did not work out, but thanks for being available.”
- “I want to point out Anna’s cheerful attitude today after school. I asked her to help me, and she did so without complaining.”

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I Wills’, and scripture, **AVAILABILITY** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – AVAILABILITY in nature with the GIRAFFE.** Whether grazing on acacia trees, or drinking water from a lake, or traveling from one region to another, giraffes help each other to be successful. They even take turns babysitting young giraffes so that their mothers can leave in search of food.
- **Hero’s of Character with DAVY CROCKETT** – He left home in search of land, but discovered a people in need of his help. Never one to hide from duty, Davy Crockett spent his final days at the Alamo, fighting for Texas Independence. We will learn the story of what happened behind those historic mission walls.

Character Card Tips

Character is useless 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. Ask God every day to enable you by His Spirit that he would give you the grace to teach and to speak truth into your child’s life in an appropriate way and time.

Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the ‘I wills’ by saying, “Here are ways you can practice **AVAILABILITY**.” Then read the “I wills” on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices and that if not by God’s grace you would only make wrong choices.

Personal Evaluation – How AVAILABLE are you?

1. Do you choose to serve God rather than money?
2. Do you purpose to be a giver rather than a taker?
3. Do you work to make others successful?
4. Do you deny yourself distracting pleasures?

5. Do you set aside personal ambitions in order to advance the kingdom of God and His Righteousness?

AVAILABILITY in the Home Includes:

- Family members doing what would please the other when spending time together.
- Putting aside personal hobbies when they conflict with family time.
- Stopping in the middle of a project to hear what another family member has to say.
- Changing plans with friends in order to help the family prepare for guests.

Biblical Commentaries on AVAILABILITY

“For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:20-21 (English Standard Version)

Basic Commentary:

2:20. Paul’s young son in the faith had a deep interest and concern for the Philippians. In fact, Paul had **no one else** in Rome who was **like him**. Timothy’s interest in their **welfare** was unexcelled. He was an excellent example of one who was selfless, more concerned about others than himself

(cf. 2:3-4). The believers in the Philippian assembly needed to share Timothy’s sincere interest in the welfare of *isopsychoi*; cf. “one in spirit,” *sympsychoi*, in 2:2).

2:21. This verse appears to make a rather broad claim. Did Paul mean to include everybody he ever knew? Or did he mean that of all who were near him in Rome, none compared to Timothy? Did Paul mean all others whom he might have contacted to run the errand were more interested in their **own interests** than in those of Christ’s? The second suggestion seems correct. Timothy stood out as a rare gem in a world of self-seekers (cf. 1:15, 17).

1

Deeper Commentary:

Timothy (Phil. 2:19–24)

Paul probably met Timothy on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:6ff), at which time, perhaps, the youth was converted (1 Cor. 4:17). Apparently, Timothy’s mother and grandmother had been converted first (2 Tim. 1:3–5). He was the son of a Jewish mother and Gentile father, but Paul always considered the young man his own “dearly beloved son” in the faith (2 Tim. 1:2). When Paul returned to Derbe and Lystra while on his second journey, he enlisted young Timothy as one of his fellow laborers (Acts 16:1–4). In one sense, Timothy replaced John Mark, whom Paul had refused to take along on the journey because of Mark’s previous abandonment of the cause (Acts 13:13; 15:36–41).

In Timothy’s experience, we learn that the submissive mind is not something that suddenly, automatically appears in the life of the believer. Timothy had to develop and cultivate the “mind of Christ.” It was not natural for him to be a servant; but, as he walked with the Lord and worked with Paul, he became the kind of servant that Paul could trust and God could bless. Notice the characteristics of this young man.

cf. 2:3-4). The believers in the Philippian assembly needed to share Timothy’s sincere interest in the
cf. *confer*, compare

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:657). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

He had a servant's mind (vv. 19–21). To begin with, Timothy naturally cared for people and was concerned about their needs. He was not interested in “winning friends and influencing people”; he was genuinely interested in their physical and spiritual welfare. Paul was concerned about the church at Philippi and wanted to send someone to convey his concern and get the facts. There were certainly hundreds of Christians in Rome (Paul greets twenty-six of them by name in Rom. 16); yet not one of them was available to make the trip! “All seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s” (Phil. 2:21). In a very real sense, all of us live either in Philippians 1:21 or Philippians 2:21!

But Timothy had a natural concern for the welfare of others; he had a servant’s mind. It is too bad that the believers in Rome were so engrossed in themselves and their own internal wranglings (Phil. 1:15–16) that they had no time for the important work of the Lord. This is one of the tragedies of church problems; they divert time, energy, and concern away from the things that matter most. Timothy was not interested in promoting any party or supporting any divisive cause. He was interested only in the spiritual condition of God’s people, and this concern was *natural* to him. How did this concern develop? The answer is in the next characteristic of this remarkable young man.

2

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 5, Oak Brook, IL;
International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.
Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

Adam Schainblatt’s Karate Kids For Christ - 10940 Raven Ridge Rd., Ste 118; Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 817-8350 www.Karate-Kids.org

²Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (Php 2:19). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.