

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.** Please 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.

DECISIVENESS vs. PROCRASTINATION Parent Preview

Definition:

DECISIVENESS is the ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions.

Tiny Tiger Definition: DECISIVENESS is the ability to make difficult decisions.

Other definitions or quotes:

- DECISIVENESS is choosing to do what is right based on accurate facts, wise counsel, and clearly defined goals.
- Life is a continuous series of exchanges based on wise or unwise decisions.
- Difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be." - George Muller
- The little decisions we make now will determine the big decisions we will make later.
- Little choices determine character, which will dictate future responses
- Those who avoid decision making thereby decide to let circumstances and others make decisions for them
- Decisiveness is focusing on the destination rather than focusing on distractions.
- The more clearly we define our goals, the more skilled we can be in making wise decisions
- We build decisiveness when we refuse to reconsider a decision that we know is right.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH DECISIVENESS? DECISIVENESS is the essence of strong leadership.

- 1. I will not look back.**
- 2. I will do what I say.**
- 3. I will make the right decision and stick to it.**
- 4. I will look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind.**
- 5. I will not give in to peer pressure.**

Scripture Memory for class:

"But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'" Luke 9:62 (ESV)

The Four Ds of Decision Making

1. DON'T – If it is the responsibility of others, let them do it.
2. DELAY – If it should be done at a better time, wait.
3. DELEGATE – If others can do it better, let them.
4. DO IT – If none of the above apply, do it

The Concept of DECISIVENESS

5. Collect – gather accurate and useful information.

6. View – keeping clear motives in making decisions is of great importance.
7. Finalize – Wise decision making must be exercised in combination with alertness to details
8. Execute – The ideal is to make your first decision the right decision; but in reality, even the best decisions sometimes require corrections or modifications along the way

PRAISE CHILDREN:

It is important to praise promptly. However, beware of the tendency to exalt achievement over character.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **DECISIVENESS in nature with the Badger.** The badger is a tenacious creature. In a conflict, it is quick to decide whether or not to stand its ground, and then it will wholeheartedly pursue its decision. **(No Character Card this Month they did not make one)**
- **Hero's of Character with Douglas MacArthur** – Before he knew the outcome of the invasion, MacArthur was confident that he had made the right decision based on the rightness of saving lives of so many troops.

Personal Evaluation – How DECISIVE are you?

1. Have you made a commitment to do what is right, regardless of the cost?
2. Have you decided to serve God rather than money, fame or pleasure?
3. Do you seek wise counsel before making a decision?
4. Have you purposed to discern God's will in every decision and then do it?
5. Do you fast and cry out to God for wisdom in decisions?
6. Do you make decisions based on impulse or on God's word?
7. Do you reject advice that is contrary to scripture?

DECISIVENESS in the Home Includes:

- Firmly establishing the family commitment to good character by forming habits based on desired qualities
- Discussing with each other the decisions that need to be finalized to avoid making rash choices based on the impulse of the moment.
- Making decisions based on a commitment to character vs. popular opinion
- Keeping each other accountable to not procrastinate

Rewards of DECISIVENESS

SUCCESS – Obtaining wise counsel from many before finalizing a decision will ensure its success.

CONFIDENCE – Procrastination of decision making often results in confusion and wasted time; when families base decisions on previous commitments, they will have greater confidence in their decisions.

Biblical Commentaries on DECISIVENESS

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Lk 9:57-62).

The cost of following Jesus

Jesus’ encounter with three would-be followers indicates the stringency of discipleship (Luke 9:57–62).

The first man is enthusiastic and pledges to follow Jesus anywhere (v. 57). But Jesus responds by underlining the cost to following him (v. 58). Even animals have a place to sleep, but Jesus experiences homelessness and rejection as the preceding episode with the Samaritans shows.

Jesus invites the second man to follow him (v. 59). This man responds with a reasonable request. He wants to go home and bury his father first. In Judaism burial of dead relatives was a duty, and it was even considered more important than studying the law. Even priests were permitted to bury their relatives (Lev. 21:1–3); therefore, Jesus’ answer is startling. He overturns social conventions, insisting that the kingdom of God has priority over family loyalties. When Jesus says let the dead bury their own dead, he means leave the task of burying the “physically dead” to those who are “spiritually dead.”

Lastly, a man promises to follow Jesus after saying farewell to his family (v. 61). Again, this is a reasonable request; Elijah let Elisha say farewell to his family before the latter followed the former (1 Kings 19:19–21). Nevertheless, Jesus’ call is more radical. No one can plow effectively if one looks back, for the furrow will be crooked and the wooden plow tip might break. So too, no one can follow Jesus without making him the absolute and exclusive center of life.²

Luke introduced three people who wanted to join Jesus on His journey to Jerusalem.

9:57-58. A man approached and wanted to **follow** where they were going. Jesus’ response was that a person desiring to follow Him must give up what others consider necessities. Jesus had no home of His own nor did His followers. They were on their way to Jerusalem where Jesus would be put to death.

9:59-60. Jesus called the next **man** with the same words with which He had called His disciples (5:27). The man’s reply that he **first** wanted to **go and bury his father** has been variously interpreted. Some maintain that the man’s father was dead already. It would seem strange if that was the case for he would certainly have been engaged in the burial procedure already. It is more likely that the man’s father was ready to die. His request was to let him wait just a little while before following Jesus. Perhaps the man also wanted to receive the inheritance from his father’s estate. Jesus’ response, **Let the dead bury their own dead**, implies that the spiritually dead can bury the physically dead. The point was that proclaiming **the kingdom of God** was so important that it could not wait. Of course if the man had left and followed Jesus, it would have caused a scandal in the community. But that was less important than proclaiming the kingdom and following the Messiah. A disciple must make a radical commitment.

9:61-62. The third man simply wanted to **go** home and **say good-bye to his family**. Elijah had allowed Elisha to do this very thing when Elisha was plowing (1 Kings 19:19-20). Jesus’ words underscore the fact that His message of the kingdom of God was more important than anything else—even family members. The

¹ *The Holy Bible : English standard version*. 2001 (Lk 9:57-62). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² Elwell, W. A. (1996, c1989). *Vol. 3: Evangelical commentary on the Bible*. Baker reference library (Lk 9:57). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.

message and the Messiah cannot wait. Jesus' message was more important than Elijah's message and demanded total allegiance. Jesus' servants should not have divided interests, like a farmer who begins plowing **and looks back**. Since Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, the man had to make up his mind right then as to what he was going to do. Interestingly Luke did not record the outcome of any of Jesus' conversations with the three men.

Character First! Bulletin Series 2 / No. 15

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) 870-0525 www.Karate-Kids.org

³Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:232). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.