

Introduction – How to best use the Parent Preview at home:

It takes diligence to train our children in good character and praise them each day. However, the end results are worth every sacrifice. This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the 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. No Prayer – No Power. Much prayer – Much Power.**

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 what he or she can achieve in life... **keeping in mind that life is all about the glory of God.**

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

Enjoy the Parent preview below:

DEPENDABILITY vs. INCONSISTENCY Parent Preview

Definition for Class Youth and Family:

- DEPENDABILITY is FULLFILLING WHAT I CONSENTED TO DO, EVEN IF IT MEANS UNEXPECTED SACRAFICE. (This is the definition on the back of the character card)

Definition for Tiny Tigers:

- DEPENDABILITY IS DOING WHAT I PROMISED.

Other definitions:

- **DEPENDABILITY is purposing in our hearts to do the will of God, whatever the cost.**
- Fulfilling what I consented to do, even if it means unexpected sacrifice.
- Dependability in small assignments is the prerequisite for big responsibilities.
 - o “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much” – Luke 16:10
- Our dependability is directly related to our dependence on God’s ability.
- A good test of faithfulness is a job that requires more than what was anticipated.

Other Characteristics of DEPENDABILITY:

- A dependable person has great reverence for God.
- A dependable person is faithful in little things as well as big things.
- A dependable person keeps confidential information private.
- A dependable person is truthful in all he says.
- A dependable person will not tell people how good he is.
- A dependable person encourages those whom he serves.
- A dependable person is faultless in his work.
- A dependable person deals wisely with resources and relationships.

Rewards of DEPENDABILITY:

- A dependable person will raise up a spiritual lineage of faithful descendants.
- A dependable person will be given greater responsibilities.
- A dependable person will receive special praise and honor from the Lord.

The source of Power for DEPENDABILITY:

Even though God and others expect us to be dependable, God knows that the ability to demonstrate such a quality does not reside in us – our strength must come from Him.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH DEPENDABILITY? Promises are meant to be kept, not broken. However, keeping a promise often requires more sacrifice than originally expected.

- 1. I will keep my word.**
- 2. I will be careful what I promise.**
- 3. I will correct my mistakes.**
- 4. I will pull my share of the load.**
- 5. I will not have a bad attitude.**

Scripture Memory for class:

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:18 ESV).

- **Biblical Commentaries on DEPENDABILITY at bottom of this letter**

Commit With Caution

Dependability requires caution in order to avoid rash decisions. Sometimes people agree hastily to ideas or tasks without thinking through what the promises involve, only to later wish they could relieve themselves of their responsibilities once they become overwhelming.

Dependable individuals take the time to count the costs before they promise. They consider the risks and weigh the options so that once they agree to something, they don't waiver. Even if those risks later grow into unexpected burdens, they won't go back on their word.

The Concept of DEPENDABILITY

There are three parts to DEPENDABILITY:

1. Persons: you and someone else
2. Promises: an agreement to fulfill certain duties
3. Price: sometimes keeping a promise requires sacrifice. Regardless of how costly it becomes, dependability is paying the price to keep a persons' promise

Ways to Praise DEPENDABILITY

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Turning in their homework on time.
- Doing their chores on time.
- Admitting their mistakes.
- Paying attention in class.
- Cleaning up their own messes and spills.
- Putting their things away.
- Maintaining a positive attitude.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – DEPENDABILITY in nature with the MUSK OX.** The tank-like build and the massive horns of the musk ox are an ominous warning to would be attackers. However, young musk oxen are not so imposing. They depend on members of a herd for survival.
- **Hero's of Character with CYRUS McCORMICK** – There had always been plenty of land to grow grain, but until Cyrus McCormick invented the reaping machine, harvesting wheat meant long hours of back-breaking work. His dependable product revolutionized American agriculture.

Character Card Tips

Character is useless unless it is a part of everyday life. Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, "Here are ways you can practice **DEPENDABILITY**." 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.

Personal Evaluation – How **DEPENDABLE** are you?

1. When you give your word to do something, can others always count on you to do it, even if it is more difficult than you expected?
2. If you experience unexpected difficulties, do you use them as excuses for not finishing a task?
3. Do you picture the things you do for others as actually serving Christ?
4. Can your service providers depend on you to pay your bills promptly?
5. Can members of your family count on you to turn down other opportunities in order to be with them for special events?
6. Can the Lord depend on you to make the wisest use of the resources he has entrusted you?
7. Do you graciously but firmly decline invitations that will distract you from fulfilling your responsibilities?

DEPENDABILITY in the Home Includes:

- Committing to stay together even through financial difficulties and personal conflicts.
- Parents being faithful to go to work and provide for the family.
- Sons and daughters completing their homework every day.
- Helping family members to avoid making commitments they cannot keep.
- Family members fulfilling promises they make to each other.

Biblical Commentaries on DEPENDABILITY

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:18 ESV).

12:18 If it is possible. Although we should do everything possible to be at peace with others, it will not always come, because it also depends on others' attitudes and responses.¹

12:17-18. The exhortations in verses 17-21 relate primarily to believers' relationships with unbelievers, speaking as they do of those who do evil toward believers (v. 17) and are the "enemy" of believers (v. 20). The Old Testament principle of justice was "eye for eye" (Ex. 21:24), but Paul commanded, **Do not repay anyone evil for evil** (cf. 1 Peter 3:9). On the positive side Christians are **to do what is right** (*kala*, "beautiful," used here in the ethical sense of good, noble, and honorable). Paul then commanded believers, **Live at peace with everyone** (cf. "live in harmony with one another," Rom. 12:16). But recognizing that limits exist, Paul included the words, **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you.** Harmony with others may not always be achievable, but believers should not be responsible for that lack of peace (cf. Matt. 5:9).²

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ro 12:18). Nashville: Word Pub.

v. verse

cf. *confer*, compare

²Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:489). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

If it depended *only* on us, we could, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, be at peace with all men. But it does not depend just on us. Unfortunately, even after we have done everything in our power to live peaceably with others, sometimes they themselves simply will not allow it. Despite our best efforts they continue to perpetuate a spirit of hostility from their side.

In fact, if we live consistent, faithful lives, and if we take a firm stand for the truth of God's Word and for the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only Savior, we can expect to arouse enmity and be openly opposed and hated by those who hate Jesus (Matt 10:22, 34–36; John 16:33). The only way to avoid all such enmity is to compromise our commitment to Jesus, and this we cannot do.

3

In imitation of Jesus' teaching (12:14–21). This passage images the Lord's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount and his work of redemption on the cross and gives evidence of Paul's continuity with the ministry of Jesus. Paul's counsel that his readers are to bless and not curse (v. 14) and are not to "take revenge" (v. 19) echoes Matthew 5:43–48 and the intent of the Sermon expressed in Matthew 5:20 that the believer's righteousness must surpass that of religious hypocrites. Preaching and living out the gospel do however bring God's justice along with his grace, as is indicated in Romans 1:17–18, but it is not proper for Christians to be judgmental because they are called primarily to be servants of others (including non-Christians), to rejoice with the happy and mourn with the sad, to be humble and harmonious and not to be above serving those of "low position" (vv. 15–16), and so reflect the gracious ministry of the Lord Jesus; and because they lack the proper perspective in this present age for making final judgmental pronouncements and executing divine wrath (v. 19), which only God can do. Paul does not mean that Christians are to wink at evil or not discern another's need for repentance and renewal; indeed, the apostle has been making moral judgments all along in exhorting his readers to the very kind of Christian living expressed in this chapter, and he encourages them to do the same in their relationships with others by returning good for bad and thereby searing the conscience of the offender and leading him to repentance (the likely meaning of the image of burning coals, a quotation from Prov. 25:21–22 [LXX], where the action receives a reward from the Lord; cf. 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 3:9). Since the context of Paul's exhortation (12:17–21) indicates an absolutely upright intention in not returning evil for evil, but in doing "what is right," and living at peace with everyone as far as it is possible, it is out of the question to interpret the metaphor of burning coals as a sly way of really getting even with an enemy, for that would be to allow evil to overcome the Christian, when in fact the believer is to manifest Christ-like hospitality toward an enemy in hope that divine grace working through the believer will win him over as a friend and thereby overcome evil with good (v. 21). It must be pointed out, however, that as was the case with Jesus in his ministry, one cannot take Christian hospitality for granted, for if willfully refused it will bring the wrath of God, who "will repay" (v. 19; Deut. 32:35; cf. Lev. 19:18), for the gracious disposability of Christ and his followers does not cancel out the righteous wrath of God but offers a way by which one may escape it. Yet in keeping with Jesus' emphasis and that of Romans 1:16–17 Paul consistently urges his Christian readers to concentrate on being servants of Christ and the gospel for the salvation and welfare of others, not on standing in judgment of them. God alone has the proper perspective to do the perfectly right thing in such cases.

4

PRAYER O my Lord, life in the gospel follows the way of the cross. It entails conflict. Inevitably it must, not because I want it so but because the world I live in has surrendered to your enemy and embraced his demonic values. I am often opposed, Lord, not in the fire or on the rack but in assaults and tortures almost invisible to everyone but the one targeted. But you understand my anguish, for you yourself endured suffering at the hands of evil men. And you did not retaliate. Their shrieking hatred was met by your gracious dignity. You did not even open your mouth. Lord, you lost.

³Cottrell, J. (1996-c1998). *Romans : Volume 2.* College Press NIV commentary (Ro 12:18). Joplin, Mo.: College Press Pub. Co.

⁴Elwell, W. A. (1996, c1989). *Vol. 3: Evangelical commentary on the Bible.* Baker reference library (Ro 12:14). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.

And yet you won, for you stuck to what was right and kept entrusting your case to God. And will not the Judge of all the earth do right? I would rather lose with you, dear Lord, than win with the world. Let them have their nasty little victories. But, my Lord, in your mercy enable me to keep trusting you enough to walk strictly in your ways, even when it costs my earthly possessions, privileges and comforts. I want a conquest this world can neither give to me nor steal from me. Let me overcome evil with good. Let me never lash out, as if I had no heavenly Defender standing up for me. Let me lose now, if I have to, so that I may hear your “Well done” then. In your holy name. Amen.

5

The believer who seeks to obey God is going to have his enemies. When our Lord was ministering on earth, He had enemies. No matter where Paul and the other apostles traveled, there were enemies who opposed their work. Jesus warned His disciples that their worst enemies might be those of their own household (Matt. 10:36). Unfortunately, some believers have enemies because they lack love and patience, and not because they are faithful in their witness. There is a difference between sharing in “the offense of the cross” (Gal. 5:11; 6:12–15) and being an offensive Christian!

The Christian must not play God and try to avenge himself. Returning evil for evil, or good for good, is the way most people live. But the Christian must live on a higher level and return good for evil. Of course, this requires *love*, because our first inclination is to fight back. It also requires *faith*, believing that God can work and accomplish His will in our lives and in the lives of those who hurt us. We must give place to “the wrath”—the wrath of God (Deut. 32:35).

A friend of mine once heard a preacher criticize him over the radio and tell things that were not only unkind, but also untrue. My friend became very angry and was planning to fight back, when a godly preacher said, “Don’t do it. If you defend yourself, then the Lord can’t defend you. Leave it in His hands.” My friend followed that wise counsel, and the Lord vindicated him.

The admonition in Romans 12:20 reminds us of Christ’s words in Matthew 5:44–48. These words are easy to read but difficult to practice. Surely we need to pray and ask God for love as we try to show kindness to our enemies. Will they take advantage of us? Will they hate us more? Only the Lord knows. Our task is not to protect ourselves but to obey the Lord and leave the results with Him. Paul referred to Proverbs 25:21–22 as he urged us to return good for evil in the name of the Lord. The “coals of fire” refer perhaps to the feeling of shame our enemies will experience when we return good for evil.

As children of God, we must live on the highest level—returning good for evil. Anyone can return good for good and evil for evil. The only way to overcome evil is with good. If we return evil for evil, we only add fuel to the fire. And even if our enemy is not converted, we have still experienced the love of God in our own hearts and have grown in grace.

6

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 1, 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) 870-0525 www.Karate-Kids.org

⁵Ortlund, R. C., Jr. (2002). *A passion for God : Prayers and meditations on the book of Romans* (1st trade pbk. ed.) (170). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

⁶Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (Ro 12:17). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.