

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:

DETERMINATION vs. FAINTHEARTEDNESS Parent Preview

Definition:

- DETERMINATION is purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

- DETERMINATION is not giving up.

Other definitions:

- DETERMINATION is looking at insurmountable obstacles as opportunities to cry out for God's supernatural intervention.
- "At first the task looks difficult, then it is impossible; then it is done." – J. Hudson Taylor
- " 'I cannot' on the tongue means mostly 'I will not' in the heart." – Iran Panin
- "To have failed once is not so much a pity as to not try again." – John Wanamaker
- "When God is about to do something great, He starts with a difficulty. When He is about to do something truly magnificent, He starts with an impossibility." – Armin Gesswein

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH DETERMINATION? There are two parts to determination: setting goals and reaching goals. Determination helps you to plan what you want to accomplish and develop the resolve to do it.

1. I will set goals.
2. I will make sure my goals are right.
3. I will ignore distractions.
4. I will not be discouraged by others.
5. I will face problems head-on.

Scripture Memory for class:

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. (1 Corinthians 9:24 ESV).

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

Determination or Disobedience?

Letting nothing get in your way, including the directions of authorities is not determination but disobedience.

Determination Takes Three

Determination ought to have the strength to finish a task, the sensitivity to avoid running over others, and the flexibility to change direction when necessary.

What Are We To Be Determined About?

1. Keeping vows
 - a. ⁴When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. ⁵It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. ⁶Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? (Ec 5:4-6).
2. Seeking the Lord with the whole heart
 - a. Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, (Ps 119:2)
3. Maintaining a clear conscience
 - a. So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (Acts 24:16).

The Concept of DETERMINATION

DETERMINATION is a choice, the choice to press on despite what obstacles appear. Obstacles will come. Their appearance along life's path should come as no surprise. The very laws of nature warn that for "every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." Determination is merely the power to overcome any obstacle of resistance.

DETERMINATION to Praise.

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Finishing all their assignments
- Learning new skills
- Studying subjects they don't enjoy
- Not being distracted by other students
- Resisting pressure to do wrong

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – DETERMINATION in nature with the KING SALMON.** After one to four years at sea, the king salmon determines to find the place of its birth. Swimming against fierce river currents and leaping up waterfalls, the mighty salmon actually increases its daily speed as it covers the hundreds of miles back home. We will follow the remarkable journey of a fish that would not give up.
- **Hero's of Character with SEQUOYAH** – Despite failure, opposition, and discouragement, Sequoyah determined to do what no man had been able to achieve – create a written language for the Cherokee people. We will learn how Sequoyah's "talking leaves" made him a national hero.

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 **DETERMINATION**." 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 DETERMINED are you?

1. Do you determine to follow Christ, no matter what the cost?
2. Do you have Biblical commitments that will direct your decisions in life?
3. Do you commit to reach a goal and overcome any obstacles you encounter along the way?
4. Do you have a motivating purpose in life?
5. Do you persevere during tasks that are more difficult than what you expected?

6. Do you allow problems or failures to keep you from trying again?

DETERMINATION in the Home Includes:

- Parents telling their children stories from their own lives of how sticking with a task led to success.
- Pursuing excellence in the appearance and harmony of the home, while avoiding the trap of perfectionism.
- Refusing to let the latest trends dictate how the family functions.
- Young people focusing on their parents' vision for the family without allowing the opinions of others to disillusion them.

Rewards of DETERMINATION:

- **COURAGE** – Facing fierce winds and storms with an undaunted attitude builds a strong, protective layer called courage.
- **SATISFACTION** – Few things are more rewarding than the exhilaration of achievement after wholehearted effort. The harder the fight, the sweeter the victory.

Biblical Commentaries on DETERMINATION

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” (1 Co 9:24-25).

9:24-25. Paul's commitment to this course of ministry did not come easily. It required personal discipline (**strict training**) like that of an athlete who strove for supremacy in his field (cf. 15:10). To that end Paul willingly gave up certain privileges which might otherwise be his to enjoy so that he could win **the prize**. The prize for Paul was not the temporary **crown** (*stephanon*) bestowed by men (in the biennial games near Corinth the “crown” was a pine wreath) but the eternal **crown** bestowed by Christ (3:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10). Paul's crown would be the consummation of the reward (1 Cor. 9:18) he partially enjoyed, the opportunity to glory before Christ in those he had been able to win (2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thes. 2:19).¹

Determination—*resolute persistence*

Against popular opposition Num. 13:26–31; Num. 14:1–9

Against great numbers 1 Sam. 14:1–5

Beyond human advice 2 Kin. 2:1–6

In perilous situation Esth. 4:10–16

In spite of persecution Acts 6:8–7:60²

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 3, Oak Brook, IL;
International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.
Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

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cf. *confer*, compare

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:525). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

²Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index*. Nelson's Quick reference (175). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers.