

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 make that easier for 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. You may not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. However, please 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.
4. **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 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.**

DILIGENCE vs. SLOTHFULNESS Parent Preview

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!

Definition for Class:

DILIGENCE is investing all my energy to complete the tasks assigned to me.

Other definitions:

- Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it.
- “Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned” - General George C. Marshall
- Diligence is doing a task with the motivation of love and an attitude of joy.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH TOLERANCE? Life requires children to grow up and become productive adults. The key to their productivity, however, depends on the strength of their character and willingness to apply their energy toward worthy causes.

1. I will finish my projects.
2. I will do a job right.
3. I will follow instructions.
4. I will concentrate on my work.
5. I will not be lazy.

Scripture Memory for class:

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

Bible Commentaries:

- **11:6 impossible to please.** Enoch pleased God because he had faith. Without such faith it is not possible for anyone to “walk with God” or “please Him” (cf. 10:38). **He is.** The emphasis here is on “He,” the true God. Genuine faith does not simply believe that *a* divine being exists, but that the God of Scripture is the *only* real and true God who exists. Not believing that God exists is equivalent to calling Him a liar (cf. 1 John 5:10). **rewarder.** A person must believe not only that the true God exists, but also that He will reward men’s faith in Him with forgiveness and righteousness, because He has promised to do so ¹
- This indicates continual coming and continual seeking. God does not respond to the occasional seeker. One must keep coming as a lifestyle. One must keep seeking as a regular, habitual predominant way of life. A single cry never indicates the real nature of our heart. A perpetual cry does.²

Examples of Diligence:

William Carey, when asked about his great accomplishments in his work of translating the Bible into Indian languages and dialects, said: “I am not a genius, just a plodder.” But what a plodder! In forty years of labor, he translated all or portions of the Bible into thirty-four of the languages and dialects of India.³

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Heb 11:6). Nashville: Word Pub.

²Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). *Hebrews*. The College Press NIV commentary (Heb 11:6). Joplin, Mo.: College Press.

A teenager had decided to quit high school, saying he was just fed up with it all. His father was trying to convince him to stay with it. “Son,” he said, “you just can’t quit. All the people who are remembered in history didn’t quit. Abe Lincoln, he didn’t quit. Thomas Edison, he didn’t quit. Douglas MacArthur, he didn’t quit. Elmo McCringle . . .”

“Who?” the son burst in. “Who’s Elmo McCringle?”

“See,” the father replied, “you don’t remember him. He quit.”⁴

Here is the biography of a failure. . . .

A man who had less than three years of formal education failed in business in ’31, was defeated for the legislature in ’32, again failed in business in ’33, was elected to the legislature in ’34, defeated for speaker in ’38, defeated for elector in ’40, defeated for Congress in ’43, elected to Congress in ’46 and defeated in ’48, defeated for Senate in ’55, defeated for the Vice Presidential nomination in ’56, defeated for the Senate in ’58. His name? Abraham Lincoln.⁴

Diligence—*faithful applications to one’s work*

A. *Manifested in:*

A child’s education Deut. 6:6, 7

Dedicated service Rom. 12:11

A minister’s task 2 Tim. 4:1–5

B. *Special objects of:*

The soul Deut. 4:9

God’s commandments Deut. 6:17

The heart Prov. 4:23

Christian qualities 2 Pet. 1:5–9

One’s calling 2 Pet. 1:10

C. *Rewards of:*

Prosperity Prov. 10:4

Ruling hand Prov. 12:24

Perseverance 2 Pet. 1:10⁵

Goals vs. Desires

To avoid unnecessary frustration and disappointment, parents must distinguish between achievable goals and false hope. For example, to present a task as clearly as possible to your child is a legitimate goal of any parent. This is within your control and is certainly attainable with diligent work.

On the other hand, to expect your child to understand, remember and apply what you have asked is not a goal, but a desire. Desires depend on factors beyond a parent’s control and cannot be achieved solely by a parent’s diligence.

The Concept of Diligence

Diligence invests time, thought and energy into a project with the hope that it will produce a healthy return. Diligence also finishes what it starts. Diligence also applies to both small and large projects, significant and menial, easy or difficult.

³Green, M. P. (1989). *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching : Over 1500 sermon illustrations arranged by topic and indexed exhaustively* (Revised edition of: The expositor’s illustration file.). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

⁴Green, M. P. (1989). *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching : Over 1500 sermon illustrations arranged by topic and indexed exhaustively* (Revised edition of: The expositor’s illustration file.). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

⁵Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index*. Nelson’s Quick reference (178). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Praising Character vs. Achievement!

There are those who suggest that the end justify the means and those who suggest that the means justify the end. However, true success requires that both ends and means result from right character.

When praising children, look for the right character behind both the ends and the means of success.

Praise the diligence to finish a project or chore, and praise the diligence to pursue excellence.

Praising only achievement encourages shortcuts which often compromises a person's character. Research shows that children who receive praise for achievement shy away from difficult tasks and hard assignments. They prefer quick and easy projects which bring praise without much effort.

Children who receive praise for character, on the other hand, willingly tackle major projects requiring significant effort. They understand that both the ends and the means count when it comes to character.

Ways to Praise

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Putting their whole heart into a project
- Talking care of both large and small tasks
- Asking questions to better understand their assignments
- Resisting the urge to be distracted
- Seeing and fulfilling needs immediately
- Working cheerfully in subjects that may not be their favorites

GIVE PRAISE THESE WAYS:

- Allow your child to carry out a special responsibility as a result of the trust earned by being diligent
- Reinforce the five 'I Wills' while you praise. For example, "You just demonstrated the third 'I Will'. Can you tell me which one it is?"
- Encourage positive behavior by praising past events. If one morning a child works enthusiastically, but later slackens, remind him or her of the diligence shown earlier. The reminder of past success will be an inspiration to do well in the present.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – DILIGENCE in nature with the BEAVER.** For centuries, people have admired the beaver. Undaunted by crisis or long hours of work, it maintains its dam and cares for its family with both purpose and passion. The phrase "busy as a beaver" is a tribute to the diligence that makes beavers successful. Rarely is a beaver inactive. It is constantly building,

maintaining, working ahead, and caring for its family. Even after their own dam and lodge are established, parent beavers will keep busy by building additional dams and lodges for future generations.

- **Hero's of Character with Thomas Edison** – More than 1,000 patents were issued to a man who worked relentlessly on one invention after another. His mind never stopped thinking of ways to improve life, and his tireless energy changed the course of history.

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 **DILIGENCE**.” 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 – Test your Child: How DILIGENT are you?

1. Do you complete an assigned task quickly and enthusiastically, or do you reluctantly fit it into your schedule?
2. Do you plan ahead in order to do a job in the quickest and most efficient way?
3. Do you redeem valuable minutes by moving quickly when you are late or trying to be on time, or do you move slowly?
4. Do you look forward to going on to a new job or to resting after a job?
5. Do you do a job to first please the Lord and then your parents?
6. Do you go the extra mile, working wholeheartedly to complete each job?

DILIGENCE in the Home Includes:

- Parents investing time and energy to establish vision and goals for the family
- Helping to plan and set priorities for weekly tasks for the family to accomplish
- Making a daily schedule to use time most wisely
- Putting just as much effort into helping family members with their responsibilities as is put into one's own responsibility

Rewards of DILIGENCE

- **DIRECTION** – Diligent people have vision for their lives; they use every available moment and opportunity to accomplish goals. Unlike a lazy person who is constantly ‘wading through molasses,’ a diligent person sees his or her way clearly without confusion.
- **PROMOTION** – A person who is diligent with his or her skills and talents will not lack opportunities and sought-after positions.

Character First! Education Series 3, Booklet 1, Oak Brook, IL; Achieving True Success; The Power of True Success

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