

## DISCRETION vs. SIMPLEMINDEDNESS Parent Preview

1. If you just invest a few minutes a day and implement some of these ideas at home you will be reinforcing the character lessons we will be teaching your child this month. Doing this will truly 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 an interest or time to read this entire newsletter. However, please take a few seconds to 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. It will only take a minute of your time but will make a BIG IMPACT in your child's life.

## The Power of a Partnership and Consistency

**If you desire** to help your child develop a high level of confidence, a polite and respectful attitude and good manners, and a desire to do what is right in the sight of God when faced with tough choices, **then we desire** to partner with you, and Lord willing, with the Grace of God, **make a BIG DIFFERENCE in what your child can achieve in life, school, sports, and relationships with others, all for the Glory of God!**

***Our program is designed to encourage children to apply God's Word to their lives, develop and learn Christ-like character and sports fitness.***

## Definition for Class:

**DISCRETION is recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes which would bring undesirable consequences.**

Other definitions:

1. **Discretion**—*action based upon caution*
  - a. Joseph chosen for Gen. 41:33, 39
  - b. The value of Prov. 2:11
  - c. A woman without Prov. 11:22
  - d. Women to have Titus 2:5
  - e. God teaches Is. 28:26
  - f. Trait of a good man Ps. 112:5<sup>1</sup>
2. Discretion is knowing when it is best to say nothing at all. When you figure out an answer wait for someone to request it. A simple man opens his mouth and confirms his foolishness, but a discreet man keeps silent and is considered wise. See Proverbs 17:28
3. Discretion is knowing how to describe unpleasant things in a pleasant way. See Proverbs 25:11

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index*. Nelson's Quick reference (180). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

## Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

Just as a policeman controls the safe and orderly flow of traffic, discretion controls the safe and orderly flow of words, attitudes and actions. Drivers who ignore a policeman's directions suffer the consequences. Children who ignore the cautions of discretion also find themselves in trouble. The five "I wills" teach children to avoid harmful conduct and replace it with constructive behavior.

1. **I will choose my words carefully.**
2. **I will practice good manners.**
3. **I will listen to criticism.**
4. **I will give not make fun of others.**
5. **I will turn down any invitation to do wrong.**

## Scripture Memory for class:

Do not enter the path of the wicked,  
and do not walk in the way of the evil.  
Avoid it; do not go on it;  
turn away from it and pass on.

**Proverbs 4:14-15 (ESV)**

**4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked.** Sin is best dealt with at its beginning by the application of necessary wisdom to suit the initial temptation (cf. Ps. 1:1).

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

**4:15** Four verbs identify aspects necessary in urgently dealing with sin at its start (v. 14): 1) avoid the sinful situation; 2) travel as far from it as possible; 3) turn away from the sin; and 4) pass beyond or escape the sin. The plan here fits exactly with the pattern of sin's enticement outlined in James 1:13–15.<sup>2</sup>

**“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>3</sup>”**

## Balancing Discretion

Discretion is “separating out” words, actions and attitudes that lead to undesirable consequences. It should not cause people to rule out every choice, or worry so much about making a wrong choice that they make no action at all.

Successful discretion requires the application of three other character qualities.

- First, self-control stops impulsive words, actions and attitudes.
- Secondly, creativity considers all the alternatives that are available.
- And thirdly, responsibility chooses the course of action that will produce the best results for everyone involved.

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<sup>2</sup>MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Pr 4:14). Nashville: Word Pub.

<sup>3</sup>*The Holy Bible : English standard version*. 2001 (Jas 1:13). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

## Discretion is Preserving a Priceless Possession

Discretion strengthens punctuality by determining how we use each moment of our time. Because lost seconds can quickly accumulate into hours, days and weeks, those who accomplish the most are those who use their discretionary time to the best advantage.

### Praising Discretion!

When praising children, learn to guard against comparisons and absolutes.

DO NOT SAY:

- “You are the most patient person that I have ever met.”
- “You are always so attentive.”
- “Everyone should try to be more obedient, like Mary.”
- “You are the most diligent person I have ever met.”

CONSIDER SAYING:

- “You have been an amazing example of patience today.”
- “I appreciate your consistent attentiveness.”
- “I admire how you demonstrated obedience when you went the extra mile at lunch today.”

### Praise the Unseen

Discretion can be difficult to observe in a child because it does not call attention to itself. Since discretion involves avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that might result in undesirable consequences, it’s what a parent doesn’t see which often reveals a child’s discretion.

### Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I wills’, and scripture, discretion will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – DISCRETION in nature with the Red Fox.** The cleverness for which the red fox is known is largely due to its discretion. When pursued, the fox constantly evaluates its direction and makes strategic changes to avoid giving itself away by its trail, its noise, or being sighted.
  - **Foxes choose their steps just as a person of discretion chooses words.**
  - **Foxes use their feet to flee from danger just as a person of discretion walks away from invitations to do wrong.**
  - **Foxes keep their fur clean and sleek just as a person of discretion practices manners**
  - **Foxes have keen ears to listen to warnings just as a person of discretion listens to criticism.**
- **Punctuality in History with Abigail Adams** – Role models play a critical part in influencing children. Therefore it is important to learn about and respect people from our past and present whose lives are worthy of imitation. Abigail Adams is one of those people. Even as a little girl, Abigail learned the value of discretion. She guarded her tongue and avoided spreading rumors.

## 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 **discretion**.” 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 DISCREET are you?

1. Do you know how to wisely evaluate an activity?
2. Do you say what is on your mind without first evaluating its effects on others?
3. Do you welcome reproof from those who see you do or say wrong things?
4. Do you learn from others’ mistakes so that you do not repeat them?
5. Do you stand alone for doing what is right and avoid all appearance of evil?
6. Do you choose your friends on the basis of their wisdom rather than their popularity?
7. Do you refrain from spreading gossip, slander, and damaging reports?

## DISCRETION in the Home Includes:

- Being careful to not say things that could spark a fight or argument.
- Keeping the wrong influences from certain movies and books and music out of the home.
- Refraining from the use of words that could discourage one another.
- Helping one another remember to think before speaking.
- Avoiding negative body language and words that criticize and dishonor.
- Foreseeing the hidden extra costs of spending more than the family income.

## Rewards of DISCRETION

- **FREINDSHIP** – Gossip can cause strife between even the best of friends. Refusing to speak negatively of another person behind his or her back gives opportunity for deep, unbroken friendships.
- **SAFETY** – Having the prudence to know when a pathway may be dangerous and choosing to avoid it ensures safety from ugly scars and hurt.

## Manners

We will be teaching your child this month:

1. How to answer the phone
2. How to take a message
3. What not to say
4. How to make an emergency call

*Character First! Education Series 2, Booklet 3, Oak Brook, IL  
Achieving True Success  
The Power of True Success*

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