

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. 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.**

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:](#)

ENTHUSIASM vs. APATHY Parent Preview

Definition for Class:

ENTHUSIASM is expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort.

Other definitions:

- **ENTHUSIASM is God’s energy in my spirit expressing itself through my mind, will and emotion.**
- **Maintaining enthusiasm requires continuous fellowship with the Word of God and the Spirit of God.**
- **Enthusiasm is the by-product of a life purpose worth dying for.** “It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose” Galations 4:18
- **Enthusiasm is expressing to those around me the power of God working in me.**
- **“Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God”
- Jim Elliot**

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH ENTHUSIASM? Everyone naturally loves an enthusiastic, smiling, energy-giving person. Not only do enthusiastic people enjoy life, but they help others enjoy it too.

1. I will be an energy-giver.
2. I will smile.
3. I will treat every job as important.
4. I will put my whole heart into what I do.
5. I will not be discouraged by failure.

Scripture Memory for class:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

- **Commentaries on ENTHUSIASM at bottom of this letter**

What Are We To Be Enthusiastic About?

1. Be enthusiastic about God
2. Be enthusiastic about loving others
3. Be enthusiastic about prayer
4. Be enthusiastic about good works
5. Be enthusiastic about repentance
6. Be enthusiastic about trials and reproaches

The Concept of Enthusiasm

In a project great or small, enthusiasm recognizes potential and applies abundant energy toward its successful completion. Enthusiasm causes people to want the best, seek the best, and give their best.

At the same time, enthusiasm doesn't allow unpleasant circumstances to control one's attitude, but dwells on the good in each situation. Though a job or task may be complicated, tedious, time-consuming, or strenuous, enthusiastic people maintain a positive attitude by looking beyond the difficulties to see the ultimate outcome.

Are You a Giver, Waster or Taker?

- Energy-givers are people whose words, actions and attitudes make them an encouragement to be with. People are motivated and uplifted by their enthusiasm.
- Energy-wasters are people like the proverbial "bump on a log". They just sit there – a healthy mind and body getting through life with minimal effort.
- Energy-takers are people who seem to sap energy from others. They tend to be self-centered, overly-critical, and resistant to instruction. People feel drained after being with this kind of person.
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Praising Character vs. Achievement!

Parents who express joy and get excited over good character encourage children to give their best effort.

Ways to Praise ENTHUSIASM

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Making friends outside of their "clique"
- Showing excitement in new studies.
- Seeing and offering to meet needs.
- Praising others.
- Smiling.
- Putting their whole heart into assignments.
- Not quitting or pouting over failure.
- Encouraging others who fail.
- Show genuine interest – "How did you make the water look so real in this picture? It is so detailed!"
- Recognize hard work – "That was a hard project and I know you felt like giving up. Thanks for sticking it out to the end."
- Display the product – "Let's put this on our wall to encourage others in their work"
- Put things to use – "This is so creative. I will use it today."
- Show that you learn – "I never would have thought of that. Next time I'm going to follow your example."

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

- Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I Wills’, and scripture, **ENTHUSIASM** will be illustrated using:
- **The Character Card of the Month – ENTHUSIASM in nature with the HUMPBACK WHALE.** At 50 feet long and weighing 50 tons the humpback whale can’t help but do things in a big way. The songster of the ocean sings tunes that often last 20 minutes and resonates through the water for hundreds of miles.
- **Hero’s of Character with THEODORE ROOSEVELT** – People seemed to notice when Theodore Roosevelt walked into the room. His big smile and enthusiasm won everyone’s attention. But that was not always the case. Mr. Roosevelt had a sickly childhood, fought in a dangerous battlefield, and became president of the United States.

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 **ENTHUSIASM.**” 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 ENTHUSIASTIC are you?

1. Do you give energy to all those around you by being enthusiastic?
2. Have you experienced the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through salvation in Christ?
3. As a believer, have you asked your Heavenly Father to fill your life with the Holy Spirit?
4. Do you fill the “lamp” of your spirit with daily fellowship with God through His Spirit and His Word?
5. Do you give everyone a warm, enthusiastic smile, or only those who are your close friends?
6. Do you get more excited about sports than the challenge of the Christian life?
7. Do you read novels more fervently than you study the scriptures?

ENTHUSIASM in the Home Includes:

- Showing excitement about lessons learned through life struggles
- Completing chores in good time with a positive attitude motivated by a love for making things clean and shiny.
- Tackling work with a vision of how it will benefit others
- Showing genuine interest in the games and activities that other family members enjoy.

Rewards of ENTHUSIASM

- **RENEWAL** – Showing genuine interests in every task provides a person with a renewed excitement about life.
- **STRONG BONES** – Not only does enthusiasm brighten the face and give light to the eyes, but it also acts as a natural medicine that builds strong and thick bones.

Biblical Commentaries on ENTHUSIASM

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

Slaves were attached to households in Paul's day, but we can apply these same truths to Christian employers and employees today. Paul reminds servants that they have masters according to the flesh as well as a heavenly Master, Christ. The Christian employee is to work to honor and please Christ. "Eyeservice" (v. 22) means working when the employer is watching. But the heavenly Master is always watching! We are not to be men-pleasers, but Christ-pleasers.

"Singleness of heart" implies a heart fixed on one goal—to honor Christ. What a blessing it is to know that Christian employees are actually ministers of Christ as they operate their machines, use their tools, drive their trucks, or work at whatever vocation they might have.

Work must come from the heart: "Do it heartily as unto the Lord!" Half-hearted work is a poor testimony. The half-hearted, unfaithful worker will be judged when Christ returns, so it behooves all of us to do our best for Jesus' sake.

Employers too must manage their affairs as Christians. It is not right for the Christian employer to shortchange his Christian workers because they are all in Christ. He should give them that which is just and equal. In these days of union contracts, government regulations, and competitive economic conditions, it is a challenge for the Christian employer to put Christ first in business, but God promises to honor the believer who will do so. If the employer works to put Christ first and gives Him preeminence, then he will be able to face his Master with a clean heart.¹

"How should I witness to my coworkers?"

When we interact with people on a daily basis, we have many opportunities for sharing our faith.

First, be sure you are respectful to your employer and set a good example in your work ethic by working "as to the Lord" (Colossians 3:23). When others around you grumble and complain, if you have a calm, forgiving, steadfast spirit, it will make an impression. As you respond in a Christlike way to angry coworkers and stressful circumstances, people will see a difference in your life.

Always be friendly and courteous, and show genuine interest in your coworkers' lives. Invite them out to lunch to get better acquainted. Share their joys and sorrows by congratulating them in their good times and offering to pray for them in their bad times. Be sure you do pray for them, then follow up by asking them about the situation you prayed for. They will be moved by your concern.

If coworkers are discussing what they did during the previous weekend, you can share your excitement about attending church services or a special church event. Ask others if they have any plans for celebrating Easter or Christmas; be nonjudgmental of their answer, but be ready (if asked) to explain why you celebrate as you do. Displaying a favorite Scripture or a devotional calendar, or reading your Bible during lunchtime, may prompt others to inquire about your faith.

Bringing home-baked goods or leaving a small gift with a note on a coworker's desk can sometimes have a greater impact than a thousand eloquent sermons. We can show our faith by our works. Others may not like a

¹Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (583). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

tree of righteousness, but they cannot help but like its fruit. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel, being careful not to infringe on your employer's time.²

Another way to rob God is to fail to give him the best of our time and our talents. All our abilities and opportunities come from God, and they are all to be used for his glory. The Bible says, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Col. 3:23). When we waste our time or fail to develop our gifts to their highest potential, we are robbing God.³

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

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²Cameron, K., & Comfort, R. (2004). *The school of biblical evangelism : 101 lessons : How to share your faith simply, effectively, biblically-- the way Jesus did* (620). Gainesville, Fla.: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

³Ryken, P. G. (2003). *Written in stone : The Ten commandments and today's moral crisis* (181). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.