

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

It takes diligence to train our children ‘in’ and ‘of’ the gospel and in good character each day. However, this is your ministry as a parent: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. And by God’s Grace your child will have true “repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the biblical 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.

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 appeal you by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the spirit to strive together with me in your prayers to God on behalf of your child that he or she would bear fruit for God in their lives.** Please pray before and during every class your child attends. Pray 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.**

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 his or her growing in Christ-likeness and being a means by which God displays His Glory.

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

Enjoy the Parent preview below:

Character training has no impact unless it is a part of everyday life. Biblical character training is only a short term band-aid with no long lasting effects and so powerless and ‘NOT BIBLICAL’ without God’s enabling by His Holy Spirit.

I encourage you to ask God every day for His Spirit to inwardly restrain, enlighten, correct, purify and guide your child and give you the grace to teach and to speak truth into your child’s life in an appropriate way and time.

FAITH vs. UNBELIEF Parent Preview

Definition:

FAITH is recognizing God's will in a given matter and acting upon it.

Tiny Tiger Definition: FAITH is trusting God's promises.

Other definitions or quotes:

- FAITH never means gullibility. The man who believes everything is as far from God as the man who refuses to believe anything. – A.W. Tozer
- Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle; he that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. – C.H. Spurgeon
- Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ^(Heb 11.1)
- FAITH is a belief in or confident attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one's life.¹
- It is one thing to boldly proclaim what God *can* do. It is quite another to actually trust that God *will* do what He has promised.²

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH FAITH? Although a “step of faith” may lead into uncharted territory, faith is not a “leap in the dark.” To act without a trustworthy basis is presumption, not faith. Faith is stepping out with confidence in God's promises.

- 1. I will trust that God will yield the best outcome, even when I cannot see how. Tiny Tiger = I will trust God even when I don't understand.**
- 2. I will make right choices based on biblical principles rather than whims of circumstance. Tiny Tiger = I will make right choices.**
- 3. I will believe the truth of God's word and reject a lie.**
- 4. I will not take things for granted.**
- 5. I will trust those who have proven character.**

Scripture Memory for class:

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 John 5:4 (ESV) Tiny Tiger: “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.”

PRAISE CHILDREN:

Character is a walk, not just talk. If you talk about character but praise on the basis of achievement, you are doing more damage than good to the character message. Character motivates achievement. Good achievements are the results of diligent effort. Not the other way around. Good achievements do not cause diligent effort. It

¹Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*. Rev. ed. of: Nelson's illustrated Bible dictionary.; Includes index. Nashville: T. Nelson.

²Thomas Nelson Publishers. (2001). *What does the Bible say about-- : The ultimate A to Z resource fully illustrated*. Nelson's A to Z series (141). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson.

is true good achievements may motivate diligent effort but it is motivating actions rooted in good character that remains the core of achievement.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **FAITH in nature with the Flying Squirrel.** Squirrels cannot fly, but that does not stop these little rodents from taking a 'leap of faith'. Equipped with folds of skin that extend between their outstretched legs like wings, flying squirrels gracefully glide between lofty branches. **(No Character Card this Month they did not make one)**
- **Hero's of Character with Samuel F.B. Morse** – He was a “starving artist” seated among experts and professionals. Yet seeing something they failed to grasp, he transformed communication.

Personal Evaluation – How strong is your FAITH?

1. Do you apply God's word to your life in trusting in His promises?
2. Do you meditate and memorize God's Word?
3. Do you pray God's word trusting that He hears those who pray according to his will?
4. Do you wait for God's provision, or do you borrow money for the things you think you should have?

FAITH in the Home Includes:

- Avoiding expenses that would exceed the family income, even when the family cannot see how their needs will be met but trusting God to take care of them
- Helping each family member seek God's will for their lives
- Trusting God's word even though it may not make sense to you in the moment
- Believing that God works all things together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose
- Being willing to give up friends and activities that violate God's Word, even when no other friends are available

Rewards of FAITH

DECISIVENESS – Faith gives a person the confidence to take the first step knowing that God is in control, and that He will then reveal to you the next step.

GOOD THINGS – Faith enables a person to give up what seems good on the surface and patiently wait for the Lord who always does what is best. “The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” Lamentations 3:25

Biblical Commentaries on FAITH

Overcoming the World

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ **For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.** ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. This is the victory. John had said that **everyone born of God has overcome the world.** Now he sets out the way of overcoming it, for it might still be asked where this victory comes from. John makes the victory over the world dependent on **faith.**

This passage is remarkable, for though Satan continually repeats his dreadful and horrible onsets, the Spirit of God declares that we are beyond the reach of danger; he removes our fear and animates us to fight with courage. And the past is more emphatic than the present or the future, for John says, **This is the victory that has overcome,** so that we might feel certain, as though the enemy had already been put to flight. Indeed, it is true that our warfare continues throughout life, that we are in conflicts every day, and that various new battles are stirred up against us on every side at every moment by the enemy; but God does not arm us just for one day, and faith is not that of just one day, but is the perpetual work of the Holy Spirit. We already share in victory, as though we had already conquered.

This confidence does not, however, make us indifferent but makes us always anxiously intent on fighting. For the Lord tells people to be certain, though he does not want them to be complacent; on the contrary, he says that they have already overcome in order that they may fight more courageously and more strenuously.

The world. This has a wide meaning here, for it includes whatever is against God's Spirit; thus, the corruption of our nature is a part of the world—all lusts, all Satan's crafts—in short, whatever leads us away from God. Having such a force to contend with, we have an immense war to carry on, and we would already have been conquered before coming to the contest, and would be conquered a hundred times a day, if God had not promised us the victory. But by promising us the victory God encourages us to fight. This promise secures for us God's invincible power for all time, and it annihilates all human strength. The apostle does not teach us here that God only brings *some* help to us, so that with his aid we may be able to resist; he makes victory dependent on faith alone, and faith receives from elsewhere what enables it to overcome. People who sing triumph to their own power take away from God what is his own.

5. Who is it that overcomes the world? This is a reason for the previous sentence; that is, we conquer by faith because we derive strength from Christ. Paul too says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). So then, if we are to conquer Satan and the world and not succumb to our flesh, we must be unsure about ourselves and rely only on Christ's power.

Only he who believes. John means a real apprehension of Christ or an effectual laying hold on him, by which we apply his power to ourselves.

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International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.

Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

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³ *The Holy Bible : English standard version.* 2001 (1 Jn 5:1-5). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

⁴ Calvin, J., & Henry, M. (1998). *1, 2 & 3 John.* The Crossway Classic Commentaries (90). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.