

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. 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 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.** 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:

PERSUASIVENESS vs. CONTENTIOUSNESS Parent Preview

Definition:

PERSUASIVENESS is guiding vital truths around another’s mental roadblocks.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

PERSUASIVENESS is convincing others to do what is right.

Other definitions:

- PERSUASIVENESS is convincing others to follow God's ways because of how His ways are working in our lives and ultimately because they give glory to Him through Christ and joy to His people.
- "We are missionaries wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ." - Eric Liddell

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH PERSUASIVENESS? Children often try to resolve their differences through arguing or fighting. However, conflict usually serves only to polarize relationships and make issues more difficult to resolve.

1. I will point others in the right direction.
2. I will not stretch the truth to make it more attractive.
3. I will appeal to a person's conscience in terms of character.
4. I will wait for the best time.
5. I will not argue.

Scripture Memory for class:

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

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

The Concept of PERSUASIVENESS

PERSUASIVENESS is sharing truth in a way others can understand. Unfortunately, people don't always see the truth because of mental "roadblocks" that obstruct their view. Persuasiveness overcomes those roadblocks by flowing three important steps.

First, persuasiveness identifies what mental roadblocks or sin misapplication or disregard of scripture stand in the way. Second, once an obstacle is known, persuasiveness strives by the power of the Holy Spirit to guide the missing information so the truth can be seen. The last and perhaps the most important part of persuasiveness is silence and prayer. It isn't arguing or badgering until the other side concedes. It is peacefully and quietly recognizing that God is sovereign and yet every person is responsible for his or her own decisions. Persuasiveness explains the truth, but it cannot force others to embrace it. But instead let us pray that by God's grace they would embrace it.

PERSUASIVENESS is not...

PERSUASIVENESS is not guiding people but guiding information. Persuasiveness never manipulates people into submitting to some else's will. But it recognizes that God in His sovereignty has ordained the means and the ends to what happens to each of us. Persuasiveness does not force others into a corner or threaten them into compliance. It simply obediently exposes people to truth, prays for them and leaves God's work to God.

- Persuasiveness is peaceful, not pushy
- Persuasiveness works with people, not against them
- Persuasiveness controls information, not people

Points to ponder with PERSUASIVENESS

- When mental roadblocks keep someone from understanding what is right, a persuasive friend tries to present the truth differently until the person sees it. It may require many attempts, but persuasiveness is slow to give up.
- When persuasive individuals identify the roadblocks that hinder a person's thinking, they counter each roadblock with the truth needed to overcome it.

For example, a friend who wants to cheat on a test might think, "Everyone else is doing it," and "My teacher won't care." However, persuasive people would counter those roadblocks with:

1. "Not everyone is doing it. I'm not doing it."
2. "The teacher does care when someone cheats on a test. The teacher knows that cheating hurts the cheater most."
3. "Worst of all, cheating is actually lying, because it pretends you know the answers when you really don't. Lying is breaking one of God's commandments. Do you want to be known as a liar and a cheat, or as someone who is truthful and trustworthy?" Do you want your life to honor and please God or to please yourself and sin against God?"

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Resolving differences without getting upset
- Talking about character with other friends
- Encouraging friends to behave properly
- Leading others by a good example
- Waiting for a convenient time to share ideas with a teacher or parent
- Taking time to write down their thoughts before presenting them

Recognizing positive influences:

One of the strongest influences on children is other children. To promote positive influences in your child's life, recognize your child and his or her friends and siblings who provide a good influence on others. Here are some examples:

- "I am delighted in your leadership, Kevin. When I asked you and your friends to clean up, I saw you encourage the others to do so quickly and in the right way."
- "Thank you, Allison, for obeying my instructions so cheerfully. Your good example influences others to obey as well."
- "That was very bold of you to talk Sam out of fighting yesterday on the playground. I'm glad you had the courage to take a stand before anyone got hurt."
- "I'm amazed at how the younger children look up to you. They look at your example and behave properly when you do."
- "I overheard your conversation with some of the children at the playground today. You were being persuasive when you reminded them to take turns."

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – PERSUASIVENESS in nature with the PEACOCK.** Peacocks are often mistaken as cocky and proud. While their iridescent feathers, noisy call, and awkward strut appear self-promoting, peacocks are actually quite gentle and persuasive.
- **Hero's of Character with PATRICK HENRY** – He was not the oldest member of Virginia's government, but he possessed great wisdom. His challenge was to convey ideas in a manner that others would understand and accept. His timeless words, "Give me liberty or give me death" are from his famous speech that we will study this month.

Character Card Tips

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. Ask God every day to enable you by His Spirit that he would give you the grace to teach and to speak truth into your child's life in an appropriate way and time.

Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, "Here are ways you can practice **PERSUASIVENESS**." 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 and that if not by God's grace you would only make wrong choices.

Personal Evaluation – How PERSUASIVE are you?

1. Do you persuade Christian friends to join you in doing good works for others who are in need?
2. Do you persuade others to repent and believe on Jesus Christ?
3. Do you persuade rebellious friends to clear their consciences and get back under the authority of God and their parents?
4. Do you convince friends who are considering something that dishonors God not to go through with it?
5. Do you persuade others to reject wrong decisions?
6. Do you persuade others to surrender their lives to God?
7. Do you persuade those who use scripture to justify wrong activities that they are misusing God's word?

PERSUASIVENESS in the Home Includes:

- A parent revealing how commitments to good character will strengthen the family and benefit each individual member.
- Family members explaining how their cautions are not based on their own fears or selfish motives but on the families best interest.
- A parent showing children how wise decisions that abide with God's word will protect them.
- Older siblings motivating younger siblings by being good role models.

Rewards of PERSUASIVENESS

- FELLOWSHIP – When family members are able to persuade each other to do what is wise and right, abiding with God’s Word, they enjoy a fellowship that comes by being on the same side of a struggle.
- PROSPERITY - The success of negotiation is based on one’s ability to persuade all parties that they will mutually benefit and then see that they do. That your concern was to lay down your life for them that you might display the gospel to them by your actions, that they might grow in holiness and most importantly, glorify God by your good works.

Biblical Commentaries on PERSUASIVENESS

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

¹ **Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)**

Basic Commentary:

4:6 with grace. To speak what is spiritual, wholesome, fitting, kind, sensitive, purposeful, complimentary, gentle, truthful, loving, and thoughtful (*see notes on Eph. 4:29–31*). **seasoned with salt.** Just as salt not only flavors, but prevents corruption, the Christian’s speech should act not only as a blessing to others, but as a purifying influence within the decaying society of the world.²

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 8, Oak Brook, IL;
International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.
Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

Adam Schainblatt’s Karate Kids For Christ - 10940 Raven Ridge Rd., Ste 118; Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 870-0525 www.Karate-Kids.org

¹ *The Holy Bible : English standard version.* 2001 (Col 4:2-6). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Col 4:6). Nashville: Word Pub.