

## RESOURCEFULNESS vs. WASTEFULNESS Parent Preview

1. Please take a few seconds to scan through the different topics in this letter.
2. 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.
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 on 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:

**Resourcefulness is making wise use of what others might overlook or discard.**

Other definitions:

1. Resourcefulness is finding the assets that God has already provided.
2. "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds," - Luke 11:10
3. The waste of the slothful is the wealth of the resourceful.
4. The ultimate example of resourcefulness is the great value God sees in each person and the loving diligence he exerts to "seek and to save" that which is lost.
5. God provides food for the fowls of the air but they must exercise resourcefulness to get it!
6. When we give away assets in times of plenty, we will have what we need in times of want.
  - a. "your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness." <sup>15</sup> As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack." (2 Cor 8:14).
7. Resourcefulness is taking what others view as "nothing" and making it into something.
  - a. Resourceful people think in terms of percentages. Buying a can of food for eight cents, rather than ten cents, is not just saving two cents; it is saving 20%.
8. Idle talk is the enemy of resourcefulness, because it consumes one of our most valuable assets.
  - a. In all toil there is profit but mere talk tends only to poverty. (Pr 14:23).

## Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

Children live in a world filled with treasures that others overlook or discard. Those who learn to recognize the value in these resources and put them to best use will never lack. The five “I wills” describe resourcefulness as it applies to everyday life.

1. **I will see value in objects, ideas and people.**
2. **I will repair, reuse, and recycle.**
3. **I will make wise use of my time, talents, energy, and mind.**
4. **I will give away or sell the things I do not use.**
5. **I will not litter.**

## Scripture Memory for class:

**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ Matthew 25:21 (ESV)**

## Redeem the Time

Praise your kids for using wasted minutes between activities or jobs at home or while waiting for someone or something to complete other assignments or duties. Children who are resourceful with their time will look for ways to redeem the value of other resources as well.

## Consistency is the Key

Be consistent in your praise. By forming a “praise habit” you will motivate your kids to develop resourceful habits too. Once you establish the habit, your children will view every object, project, and idea from the perspective, “What value can we salvage from this?”

## Putting Resourcefulness to Work

A need at home can be a wonderful opportunity. Tell your children about the need and ask them for resourceful ideas to meet that need. Praise your kids for their suggestions and encourage those who seem hesitant about coming up with new ideas or presenting them. Every new idea adds new a new piece to the possible solution.

## Praising Resourcefulness!

Be resourceful with praise too. Even a pencil stub can convey personal approval by turning it into a “resourceful award” for wisely using school supplies. As your children see you value old or neglected things, they will develop the same attitude.

Character motivates achievement. Remember, it is not achievement that makes a person valuable. It is character that produces valuable achievement. Do not wait to praise a child until he or she achieves greatness. Demonstrating character is greatness! Remember that character makes the person, and good character makes a person achieve.

**Character motivates achievement, but achievement doesn’t necessarily motivate character.**

## Illustration Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I wills', and scripture, initiative will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – Punctuality in nature with the Muskellunge.** The Muskie is known as one of the most difficult fish to catch and demonstrates resourcefulness by doing anything in its power to escape. Fishermen call the Muskie “the fish of a thousand casts.” It twists, jumps, dives, and even lies motionless on the bottom in order to free itself from a fisherman’s lure. Those who try to catch this elusive fish must make full use of every resource available to them.

Muskie’s are not picky eaters. They will eat virtually anything smaller than themselves, including ducks, frogs, rats, squirrels, water snakes, and smaller fish. This large fish resourcefully feeds on that which others might consider useless or undesirable.

- **Punctuality in History with George Washington Carver** – As a boy, George Washington Carver painted pictures with his fingers on old boards and slates. He had no brushes or canvas, so he made what he needed out of what he had. He then taught others how to rebuild their wasted homelands by living resourcefully.

## 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 **resourcefulness**.” 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 RESOURCEFUL are you?

1. Do you keep accurate records of the resources God has given you?
2. Would God be pleased with the way you are using the assets He has given to you?
3. Have you searched out valuable resources that others are discarding?

## RESOURCEFULNESS in the Home Includes:

- Family members cherishing every moment together, however small, in order to build their relationships.
- Wisely investing any extra income from overtime, holidays, and bonuses.
- Finding creative ways to fix leftovers and foods the family has in abundance.
- Using free time to enhance learning and creativity.
- Finishing all the food on the plate before getting dessert.

## Rewards of RESOURCEFULNESS

- **CREATIVITY** – Requiring oneself to design new ways to use extra food, money, possessions, or time develops creativity.

- **RICH DIVIDENDS** – Making wise use of extra resources increases the value of those resources, Investing a small sum of money multiplies into a large sum over time; the same result is true of any resource wisely used.

## Scripture Commentary

### **The Parable of the Talents** (*Matthew 25:14–30*)

The parable of the talents directs our minds to the important event of the second coming of Jesus Christ. It brings before us the members of the professing church of Christ. The practical lesson of this parable is the keynote of diligence. The story of the talents calls on the church to work.

#### ***1. All Christians Have Received Something from God***

First, we learn from this parable that all Christians have received something from God. We are all God’s “servants”: we all have “talents” entrusted to our charge.

The word “talents” is an expression that has been curiously turned aside from its original meaning. It is generally applied only to people of remarkable ability or gifts: they are called “talented” people. Such a use of the expression is a mere modern invention. In the sense in which our Lord used the word in this parable, it applies to all baptized persons without distinction. We have all “talents” in God’s sight: we are all talented people.

Anything whereby we may glorify God is a “talent.” Our gifts, our influence, our money, our knowledge, our health, our strength, our time, our senses, our reason, our intellect, our memory, our affections, our privileges as members of Christ’s church, our advantages as possessors of the Bible—all, all are talents. Where did these things come from? Whose hand bestowed them? Why are we what we are? Why are we not the worms that crawl on the earth? There is only one answer to these questions: all that we have is a loan from God: we are God’s stewards; we are God’s debtors. Let this thought sink deeply into our hearts.

#### ***2. Many Make Bad Use of Their Talents***

Second, we learn that many make a bad use of the privileges and mercies they receive from God. We are told in the parable of one who “dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money” (verse 18). That man represents a large class of mankind.

To hide our talent is to neglect opportunities of glorifying God, when we have them. The baptized Bible-despiser, the prayer-neglecter; the unbelieving, the sensual and the earthly-minded; the trifler, the thoughtless and the pleasure-seeker; the money-lover, the covetous and the self-indulgent—all, all are alike burying their Lord’s money in the ground. They all have light that they do not use: they might all be better than they are. But they are all daily robbing God: he has lent them much, and they bring him no return. The words of Daniel to Belshazzar are strictly applicable to every unconverted person: “You did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways” (Daniel 5:23).

#### ***3. All Christians Must Face a Reckoning with God***

Third, we learn that all professing Christians must one day have a reckoning with God. The parable tells us that “after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them” (verse 19).

There is a judgment before us all. If there is not, words have no meaning in the Bible: it is mere trifling with Scripture to deny it. There is a judgment before us according to our works—certain, strict and unavoidable. High or low, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, we will all have to stand at the bar of God and receive our eternal sentence. There will be no escape: concealment will be impossible. We and God must at last meet face

to face. We shall have to render an account of every privilege that was granted to us, and of every ray of light that we enjoyed; we will find that we are dealt with as accountable and responsible creatures, and whoever is given much, of them much will be demanded. Let us remember this every day we live: let us judge ourselves so that we do not come under judgment (1 Corinthians 11:31).

#### ***4. True Christians Will Receive a Reward***

Fourth, we learn that true Christians will receive an abundant reward on the great day of reckoning. The parable tells us that the servants who had used their Lord's money well were commended as "good and faithful," and told to "share your master's happiness!" (verse 23).

These words are full of comfort to all believers, and may well fill us with wonder and surprise. The best of Christians is a poor frail creature, and needs the blood of atonement every day that he lives; but the least and lowest of believers will find that he is counted among Christ's servants, and that his labor has not been in vain in the Lord. He will discover to his amazement that his Master's eye saw more beauty in his efforts to please him, than he ever saw himself; he will find that every hour spent in Christ's service, and every word spoken on Christ's behalf, has been written in a book of remembrance. Let believers remember these things and take courage. The cross may be heavy now, but the glorious reward will make up for everything. As Leighton so well says, "Here some drops of joy enter into us, but there we shall enter into joy."

#### ***5. Unfruitful Christians Will Be Condemned***

Fifth, we learn that all unfruitful members of Christ's church will be condemned and thrown out on the day of judgment. The parable tells us that the servant who buried his master's money was reminded that he "knew" his master's character and requirements, and was therefore without excuse (verse 26). It tells us that he was condemned as "wicked," "lazy" and "worthless" (verses 26, 30), and thrown "outside, into the darkness." Our Lord adds the solemn words, "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

There will be no excuse for an unconverted Christian on the last day. The reasons with which he now pretends to satisfy himself will prove useless and vain: the judge of all the earth will be found to have done right; the ruin of the lost soul will be found to be his own fault. Those words of our Lord, "you knew," are words that ought to ring loudly in many people's ears, and prick them to the heart. Thousands today are living "without Christ" and without conversion, and yet pretending that they cannot help it! And all this time they "know," in their own conscience, that they are guilty. They are burying their talent: they are not doing what they can. Happy are those who find this out quickly! It will all come out at the last day.

Let us leave this parable with a solemn determination, by God's grace, never to be content with a profession of Christianity without practice. Let us not only talk about religion, but act; let us not only feel the importance of religion, but do something too. We are not told that the unprofitable servant was a murderer, or a thief, or even a waster of his Lord's money: but he did nothing—and this was his ruin! Let us beware of a do-nothing Christianity: such Christianity does not come from the Spirit of God. "To do no harm," says Baxter, "is the praise of a stone, not of a man."

<sup>1</sup>Ryle, J. C. (1993). *Matthew*. Originally published: New York : R. Carter, 1860. The Crossway classic commentaries (242). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

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