

**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:**

# SENSITIVITY vs. CALLOUSNESS Parent Preview

## Definition for Class:

**SENSITIVITY** is using my senses to perceive true attitudes and emotions of others.

Other definitions:

- SENSITIVITY is being aware of the pain in others because of the healing we have received from God for similar hurts.
- SENSITIVITY is perceiving the true feelings of others and appropriately adapting our responses to them.
- If we harden our hearts, we lose the capacity to understand the hurts of others.

## Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

**WHY TEACH SENSITIVITY?** The human body is equipped with five major senses; sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Sensitivity applies these senses to learn the true attitudes and emotions of others. However, if needs aren't met by action, a child's sensitivity is in vain. These "I will" statements help children put their senses into action.

1. I will listen to others fully.
1. I will watch facial expressions.
1. I will notice tone of voice.
1. I will put myself in others' shoes.
1. I will show that I care.

## Scripture Memory for class:

**Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15 (ESV)**

**Commentaries on SENSITIVITY at bottom of this letter**

## Praising Character vs. Achievement!

Knowing how to give specific and meaningful praise to children requires parents and teachers to use all their senses. By watching and listening you will "pick up" on individual needs and know how to best deliver encouragement.

## Ways to Praise SENSITIVITY

**PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- Asking you or others how they are doing

- Giving a pat on the back, a smile, or other expressions of encouragement
- Helping a friend whose family is experiencing hard times.
- Being considerate of those having a rough or discouraging day.
- Giving a thoughtful gift to cheer up someone.
- Listening fully to others.

## Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I Wills’, and scripture, **SENSITIVITY** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – SENSITIVITY in nature with the SNOWSHOE RABBIT.**  
The snowshoe rabbit’s life depends on its ability to sense danger before it happens. Its constant alertness and quickness to act allow the rabbit to survive.
- **Hero’s of Character with RICHARD ALLEN** – In 1793, the residents of Philadelphia faced a crises: Yellow fever had struck in full force. Richard Allen wouldn’t sit idly by and watch while others suffered in need.

## 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 **SENSITIVITY**.” 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 SENSITIVE are you?

1. Do you seek the Lord with your whole heart?
2. Do you allow bitterness or toleration of evil to cause callousness in your spirit?
3. Do you cut off communication with family members?
4. Have you chosen a Godly role model to follow?
5. Have you established a time and place to meet the Lord every day?
6. Are you sensitive to the voice of God’s spirit as he speaks to you through the Scripture?

## SENSITIVITY in the Home Includes:

- Realizing that a family member’s irritating behavior may be a sign of an unmet need for love.
- Noticing when a family member needs a word of praise instead of another problem to fix.
- A parent being alert to attitudes of hurt, guilt, and disloyalty in the children.
- Parents realizing that the seeds of a wounded spirit in a child can grow up into a crop of rebellion.
- Being aware that rude words deeply hurt one another.

## Rewards of SENSITIVITY

- **PERCEPTION** – The more a person is sensitive to the needs of others, the more perception he will gain in all areas of life.
- **PURPOSE** – Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

## Biblical Commentaries on SENSITIVITY

Love produces not only the forgiveness of enemies, but a general sympathy in the joys and sorrows of our fellowmen, and especially our fellow-Christians. The disposition commanded here is the opposite of a selfish indifference to any interests but our own. The Gospel requires that we should feel and act as if everyone is a brother or sister to us, that we have a common nature, a common Father, and a common destiny. How lovely genuine sympathy is. How much like Christ is the person who feels the sorrows and joys of others as though they were his own!

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**Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.** Here is another requirement of love that will seem difficult for many, because it focuses on the emotional life. Many of us have enough difficulty “getting in touch with” our own feelings, but Paul exhorts us to get in touch even with the feelings of others! He calls for *compassion*, which literally means “suffering with”; and for *empathy*, which is the ability to identify with and actually experience the feelings and inner dispositions of others. See 1 Cor 12:26.

To “rejoice with those who rejoice,” to “share in one another’s triumphs, joys, and successes,” is probably the harder of the two commandments, as Fitzmyer observes (655). To see others succeed (especially where we may have failed) leads easily to negative feelings of envy, jealousy, and resentment. Through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit we must fight against such tendencies and be genuinely happy and filled with good will when others have cause to rejoice. MacArthur says, “It is distinctively Christian to rejoice in the blessings, honor, and welfare of others” (2:197).

To feel compassion toward others who are suffering may seem easier, but often it too requires deliberate, Spirit-assisted effort. It is easy to be indifferent toward the troubles and sorrows of others, especially when we ourselves are caught up in troubles of our own. Even worse, more often than we like to admit, we have a tendency to be glad when misfortune overtakes certain people. This is usually the case when their sufferings are the result of their own carelessness or sinful folly. Here we must guard against the urge to say, “It serves them right!”

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<sup>1</sup>Hodge, C. (1993). *Romans*. Originally published: Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, 1835. The Crossway classic commentaries (Ro 12:15). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

<sup>2</sup>Cottrell, J. (1996-c1998). *Romans : Volume 2*. College Press NIV commentary (Ro 12:15). Joplin, Mo.: College Press Pub. Co.