

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

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. 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 ask and encourage you to help me with your prayers.** Please join us in prayer before and during 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:

THOROUGHNESS vs. INCOMPLETENESS Parent Preview

Definition on back of Character Card:

- THOROUGHNESS is knowing what factors if neglected will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

- THOROUGHNESS is taking care of details.

Other definitions:

- Thoroughness is carrying out each task in preparation for God's personal inspection and approval.
- Attention to detail is the difference between mediocrity and excellence in the work we do.
 - o God's commitment to thoroughness is illustrated in His insistence on the fulfillment of every "jot and tittle" of His Word.
 - o "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."(Matthew 5:18)
- A job is never really done until it is done right.
- Do a job as if you will never have another chance to do it right.
- Working harder when the boss is watching is convicting evidence that you are a manpleaser rather than a pleaser of God.
 - o "not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Eph 6:6)

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH THOROUGHNESS? In any profession or task, details make a big difference. One wrong action can ruin an entire project.

1. I will plan my work.
2. I will pay attention to details.
3. I will make a list so I don't forget.
4. I will finish what I start.
5. I will clean up along the way.

Scripture Memory for class:

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (Luke 14:28 ESV).

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

Perfect or Completion?

Which is more important, the perfection of a task, no matter how long it takes, or the completion of a task, even with flaws? Both sides have been argued for years, but the concept of thoroughness offers a solution.

Thoroughness requires both perfection and completion. It completes a job perfectly.

Good Enough?

What is 'good enough'? Is 80-90% good enough? Is 99% good enough? What would happen if 99.9% (one mistake in a thousand) were good enough for one week in America?

- 165 planes would arrive at the wrong destination
- 1,537 words would be misspelled in a daily newspaper
- 3,960 checks would be deducted from the wrong accounts
- 82 babies would be given to the wrong parents
- 4,109,750 pieces of mail would be misdirected
- 544 surgical procedures would be misperformed

The Concept of THOROUGHNESS

Thoroughness ensures the quality, effectiveness, and completion of a task.

1. Quality work is lasting work.
2. Effective work is practical work.
3. Complete work is fulfilling work.

Ways to Praise THOROUGHNESS

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Using neat handwriting
- Aligning number columns correctly
- Organizing their homework areas
- Straightening their rooms before leaving
- Speaking clearly with correct grammar

Praise different qualities:

When you praise, be careful to point out different traits. Instead of using the same words over and over again, consider some of the following examples as commendations of not-so-common qualities:

- Thank you for showing forgiveness instead of fighting back with that boy
- Not only are you in your pajamas, but you have already washed your face and brushed your teeth and you are ready for bed. That's being punctual!
- I appreciate your respect for our guest when she visited our home. I think your enthusiastic smile and warm greeting made her feel very welcomed.
- You showed flexibility today when I needed to change our plans.
- You showed self-control today before we left for school. Instead of playing or watching TV, and then running out of time, you did everything you needed to get ready first, and then had time to do the other things without making us late. That's the way I like to see it done!

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – THOROUGHNESS in nature with the ALLIGATOR.** When building nests, female alligators follow painstaking steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their young. Every detail is important to their survival.
- **Hero’s of Character with BENJAMIN BANNEKER** – Astronomer, surveyor, architect, craftsman – there wasn’t much Benjamin Banneker couldn’t do. One of his earliest accomplishments was building the first clock entirely made in America, and it kept perfect time for more than 40 years because of his thoroughness in building it.

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 **THOROUGHNESS**.” 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 THOROUGH are you?

1. Are you committed to thoroughness in all you do?
2. Would God be impressed with your thoroughness?
3. Do you picture God inspecting the jobs you do?
4. Do you clean around items as well as under them?
5. Do you complete all the necessary details of a job, or do you leave things for others to do, such as cleanup?
6. Do you thoroughly examine your heart before taking communion?

THOROUGHNESS in the Home Includes:

- Avoiding leaving appliances partially fixed or tools broken.
- Parents requiring the children to clean under furniture and behind shelves.
- Sons and daughters calling home when they are out too late.
- Children completing homework using legible handwriting.
- Family members having a system of receiving phone messages and passing them on accurately.

Rewards of THOROUGHNESS:

- **FULLFILMENT** – A special sense of fulfillment is experienced when a job has been done completely.
- **CREATIVITY** – The need to be thorough within time limits stimulates creativity and inventiveness.

Biblical Commentaries on THOROUGHNESS

²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ **For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (Luke 14:26-28 ESV).**

14:26 hate. A similar statement in Matt. 10:37 is the key to understanding this difficult command. The “hatred” called for here is actually a lesser love. Jesus was calling His disciples to cultivate such a devotion to Him that their attachment to everything else—including their own lives—would seem like hatred by comparison.¹

14:28 count the cost. The multitudes were positive but uncommitted. Far from making it easy for them to respond positively, He set the cost of discipleship as high as possible (vv. 26, 27, 33)—and encouraged them to do a careful inventory before declaring their willingness to follow.²

14:28-33. Using two illustrations, Jesus then taught that discipleship must include planning and sacrifice. The first illustration concerned **a tower** (vv. 28-30). Before a person begins **to build**, he should be sure he will be able to pay the full **cost** of the project. Jesus’ followers must also be sure they are willing to pay the full price of discipleship.³

The cost of being a disciple

(14:25–35)

The scene changes. Jesus is no longer in the Pharisee’s house, but now a large crowd is following him (v. 25). Jesus challenges the crowd to think carefully about the radical commitment that he demands (**14:25–35**). Jesus invites all to follow him (cf. vv. 15–24). Yet, following him is not easy but requires ruthless self-denial. The call to hate one’s family members is startling (v. 26). Obviously, Jesus is not speaking of “psychological hatred” (cf. 6:27–28). The use of hyperbolic language indicates that no one can take precedence over Jesus. One must renounce “even his own life” and be willing to follow Jesus in the way of death (vv. 26–27). Those who are not willing to follow Jesus in such a radical way cannot be his disciples. Two illustrations are given to show the need for counting the cost before embarking on the road to discipleship. Someone building a tower (vv. 28–30) would surely calculate the cost of the project before starting. A half-finished building would be the object of ridicule. So too, no king would plan to wage war against an enemy without considering beforehand the possibilities of victory (vv. 31–32). The application from the two illustrations is drawn in verse 33. Before one embarks on the road to discipleship one needs to recognize from the beginning that Jesus demands total and complete commitment. Only those who have such a radical commitment can be Jesus’ disciples. The illustration

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Lk 14:26). Nashville: Word Pub.

²MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Lk 14:28). Nashville: Word Pub.

vv. 28-30). Before a person begins vv. verses

³Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:243). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

of the salt makes a similar point (vv. 34–35). A disciple who is not salty is one who ceases to be radically committed. Such disciples are “good for nothing.”⁴

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 2, 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

⁴Elwell, W. A. (1996, c1989). *Vol. 3: Evangelical commentary on the Bible*. Baker reference library (Lk 14:15). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.