

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:

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 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.

WISDOM vs. FOOLISHNESS Parent Preview

Definition:

WISDOM is making practical applications of truth in daily decisions.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

WISDOM is making right choices every day.

Other definitions:

- WISDOM is seeing the hand of God in every experience of life.
- "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up." 1 Cor 8:1
- "Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise...But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom." C.H. Spurgeon

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH WISDOM? Wisdom is more than making a good decision here or there. It is consistently doing the right thing day after day.

- 1. I will listen to my parents and teachers.**
- 2. I will learn from correction.**
- 3. I will choose my friends carefully.**
- 4. I will remember that there are consequences to all my actions.**
- 5. I will ask, "What is the right thing to do?"**

Scripture Memory for class:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

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

The Concept of WISDOM

WISDOM is applying truth to all of life's decisions. To make wise decisions, people should understand four points:

1. Every decision is important
2. Every decision has a consequence.
3. Every decision has a cost.
4. Every decision has a lesson.

WISDOM Keeps It In Balance

If incomplete or out of balance, good character quickly becomes bad character. For example, determination is good, but not if it is insensitive to others. Deference is good, but not if it compromises what is right. Persuasiveness is good, but not if its purpose is deception.

Wisdom applies all the character qualities, not just some of them. It is firm and kind, thorough and efficient, honest and sensitive, bold and discreet.

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

One danger of character education is settling for an awareness of character without requiring an expression of character. Praise your child for:

- Avoiding foolish activities
- Appreciating what they learn from their teachers
- Changing their behavior when corrected
- Associating with positive influences

Praise Wise Decisions:

Wise decisions take the form of many different character qualities. Look for opportunities to praise children for all the qualities learned so far.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

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

- **The Character Card of the Month – WISDOM in nature with the OWL.** The Owl had been a symbol of wisdom for centuries. One reason for this is that an owl has two large eyes and excellent hearing, enabling it to receive large amounts of information regarding its surroundings.
- **Hero's of Character with George Washington** – His parents wanted their son to be a wise man. Little did they know that they were preparing on the world's greatest leaders and the "Father of His Country."

Character Card Tips

Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, "Here are ways you can practice **WISDOM**." 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 WISE are you?

1. Do you go to sleep with thoughts of God so that your reins can instruct you in the night seasons?
2. Do you rise early in the morning to seek the wisdom of God?
3. Have you developed skills so that you can make things with excellence?
4. Do you love those who rebuke you?

5. Do you study the world of nature for insights and analogies?
6. Are you parents pleased with your character and actions?
7. Have you searched for the wisdom found in scripture and meditated upon it?
8. Is your heart filled with the truth of God's word so that you can control your tongue?
9. Are you skilled in winning others to Christ?
10. Do you seek the counsel of wise friends?
11. Do you look for ways to apply the truths you have learned from God's Word?
12. Do you value wisdom more than silver and gold?
13. Do you study the testimonies in Scripture for application to your own life?
14. Do you delight in the commandments of the Lord?
15. Do you live in the reality that God is watching and evaluating everything you say and do and think?

WISDOM in the Home Includes:

- Seeking each other's counsel and avoiding rash decisions
- Seeing the family structure as an essential element of family harmony
- Protecting the family by visualizing the consequences of foolish decisions and determining how to avoid them
- Seeking a wise and understanding group of friends
- Sons and daughters choosing friends of whom their parents approve.
- Family members learning from the examples of wise people

Rewards of WISDOM

DISCRETION – Looking at present situations with a wise perspective gives insight and discretion for making future decisions that will bring desirable consequences and rewards.

SUCCESS – A wise person will see the benefits and dangers of various courses of action and will choose the one that will result in success. The problems and pitfalls that hinder the simpleminded will be avoided.

Biblical Commentaries on WISDOM

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

Basic Commentary:

This reverential awe and admiring, submissive fear is foundational for all spiritual knowledge and wisdom¹

Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 9, Oak Brook, IL;
International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.
Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

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¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Pr 1:7). Nashville: Word Pub.