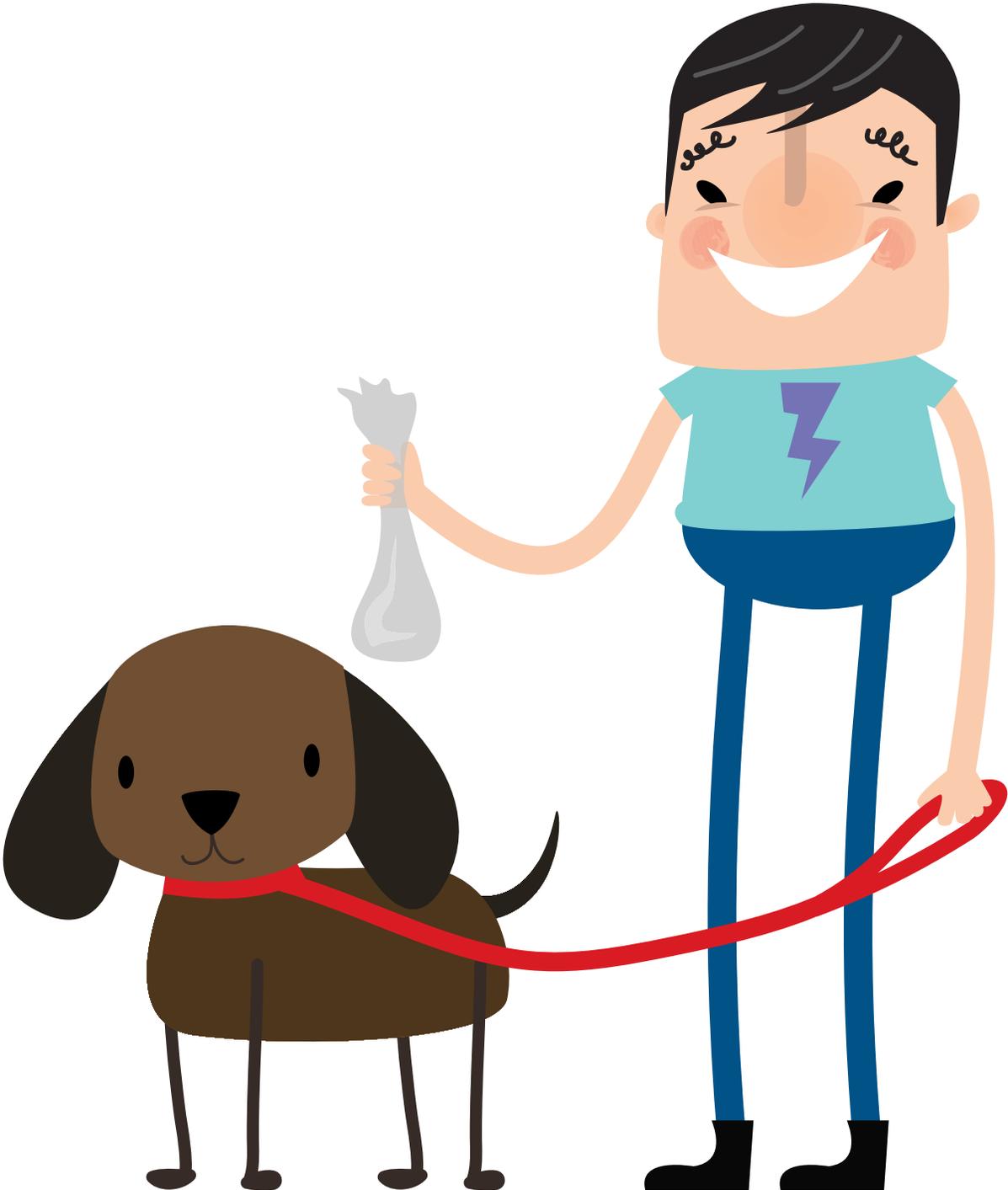


# KIDS of INTEGRITY

## Responsibility



**Meet Biblical characters who always did a great job, make up some laughable excuses for avoiding work, and fill your bathtub with pretend turtles to learn about protecting wildlife!**

Discover loads of fun ideas to help kids be diligent about:

- completing tasks and chores well
- caring for pets and belongings
- caring for God’s creation and protecting the environment.

You’ll find this lesson helpful for addressing an overly casual approach to obligations, and an unwillingness to serve others or do menial work.

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Scripture verses in this lesson are quoted from the English Standard Version.

## Parents’ prayer

Prepare for this lesson by talking to God about your own need to become more responsible.

If you prefer to personalize your prayer, read through the additional verses provided under “Scripture-guided prayer” for direction and inspiration.

### Sample prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the story of creation illustrates how familiar You are with work, yet it tells us You are also a God of rest (Genesis 2:1-3). As Lord of the harvest and the Lord of the Sabbath, You know the perfect balance between work and recovery (Luke 6:5, Luke 10:2). You promise to finish that which You have started and we are confident that You will carry out the work You began in us until its completion on the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:3-7). What an inspiration You are for us, Jesus! Your focus while You were here on earth was to do Your Father’s will and to finish His work (John 4:34).

In contrast, I confess that often my work agenda is my own agenda and my track record on focusing on doing Your will is far from perfect. What an honour it is to be considered Your servant! Thank you for giving me the responsibility of raising and disciplining our children. Every day I want to see life as an opportunity to excel in the work You have planned for me. As I go about my daily duties, even though many are often tedious, please let our children see me working diligently and with joy rather than begrudgingly. May it be this way because I am trying to please You and not men (Colossians 3:23).

When it comes to shirking my responsibilities, I struggle with \_\_\_\_\_. Please send me an extra dose of Your Spirit of power when I am tempted to be less than diligent (2 Timothy 1:7). My desire is to have a servant heart, like Jesus.

Your Word clearly states that diligence will be rewarded and that laziness will not be (Proverbs 10:4, 12:24, 12:27). Please fill my children’s hearts with a desire to be diligent so that they may be satisfied in life (Proverbs 13:4). Instead of finding excuses to avoid their responsibilities, my prayer is that

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will think of reasons why they like to work. As \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ complete assignments, please give them the desire to do their work well enough that You will be pleased with it. I ask You to inspire \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be joyful workers who focus their attention until a task is completed. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, this is possible (Mark 10:27). Thank you!

As a family we would like to represent You well, winning the respect of others because of the way we work (1Thessalonians 4:11-12). Please inspire us to serve others out of our love for You. Please send Your Holy Spirit to accomplish what You know needs to be done in our home and in our hearts in order for this to happen. We praise You, for You are an enduring and awesome God! Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. Thank you for being faithful to all Your promises and loving toward all You have made (Psalm 145:3). Amen.

### **Scripture-guided prayer for parents**

*Read and pray through one or more of the selected Scriptures under each heading. Focus on listening to God and allowing His Spirit to direct you as you pray.*

#### **Character focus**

Begin by thanking God for being a God of strength and purpose.

Genesis 2:2 | Isaiah 46:9-11 | John 4:34 |  
1 Corinthians 1:25 | Ephesians 2:10

#### **Heart search**

Acknowledge ways in which you are tempted to avoid your God-given responsibilities.

Proverbs 13:4 | Proverbs 14:23 | Proverbs 18:9 |  
Proverbs 19:15 | Proverbs 24:33-34

#### **Gratitude**

Thank God for ways you have seen evidence of diligence in your family.

#### **Family requests**

Ask God to help you and your children be willing and intentional in your work and in fulfilling God's purposes for your lives.

2 Corinthians 13:4 | Philippians 1:3-6 |  
Philippians 2:12-15 | Colossians 3:23 | 1 Peter 4:11

## **Kids talk with God**

*These sample prayers all begin with "Dear God," but you may use any other names of God your children are comfortable with, (i.e. Father God, Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, Abba Father, etc.)*

*If your children are ready to pray original prayers, you may wish to use the Bible verses provided under "Scripture-guided prayer for children."*

### **Sample prayers**

Dear God, please give me a joyful attitude when I work! Amen.

Dear God, thank you for giving me the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (name a task). Please give me the strength and discipline I need to do it well. Amen.

Dear God, I don't feel like working. Please give me Your Spirit of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Amen.

Dear God, this job is taking so long and I want to quit. Please help me to persevere and be a reliable worker. Amen.

Dear God, I do not like having the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (name the task). I would rather just play or relax. Please help me to do this job as though I am working for You (Colossians 3:23).

Dear God, I want to be like Jesus, faithfully completing the jobs You give me to do (John 4:34). Amen.

### **Scripture-guided prayer for children**

*Read through one of the selected Scriptures under each heading and help your children pray based on the verse you read. Encourage them to listen to God and allow His Spirit to guide them as they pray.*

#### **Character focus**

Begin by thanking God for being a God of strength and purpose.

John 4:34 | 1 Corinthians 1:25 | Ephesians 2:10

## Heart search

Acknowledge times when you're tempted to avoid doing what you're asked to do.

Proverbs 10:4 | Proverbs 13:4 | Proverbs 22:13

## Gratitude

Thank God for the times when you have been a hard worker and or have done jobs with a joyful attitude.

## Family requests

Ask God to help you, your siblings and your parents to be willing and faithful workers.

Ephesians 2:10 | Colossians 3:23 | 2 Timothy 1:7

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## Speak a blessing

*Encourage your children throughout your lesson by being quick to commend them whenever you notice them making an effort to be responsible. Simple statements like these mean a lot to your child.*

- You are a cheerful worker!
- I sure enjoy working with you, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you. I appreciate your help!
- What a joy it is to be done with that job! Thanks for helping.
- It was so awesome to have your help with that job today, \_\_\_\_\_.
- We get a lot more done when we work together.

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## Memory verses

*Memorizing Scripture with your children helps God's Spirit bring about lasting change. Choose a verse that your children can learn in a pre-determined period of time and aim to review the verse at least once every day.*

Proverbs 10:4 "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."

Proverbs 12:14 "From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him."

Proverbs 12:27 "Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth."

Proverbs 13:4 "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied."

Proverbs 14:23 "In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty."

Proverbs 18:9 "Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys."

Proverbs 19:15 "Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger."

Proverbs 20:4 "The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing."

Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."

Proverbs 24:33-34 "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man."

John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.'"

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Philippians 2:13 ". . . for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

2 Timothy 1:7 ". . . for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

## Kick-off craft

Plan to do this kick-off craft early in your lesson on responsibility. You will work together to make diamond-shaped “men at work” traffic signs.

### Men at work signs

#### Directions

You will need the following supplies:

- orange or yellow craft paper
- black silhouette pictures of kids or people working
- glue
- black electrical tape or black strips of paper
- happy face stickers or drawings.

Here’s how to make your signs:

- 1** Cut the sheets of yellow or orange paper into squares (diamonds). Cut a large number in a variety of sizes so that you have plenty of signs to post around your house.
- 2** Glue or draw a black border around each sign. It should be 1 to 2 cm in from the edge of the sign.
- 3** Add black silhouettes of people working to your signs. (Make sure they’re positioned so each sign is a diamond shape, not a square.)
- 4** Add a happy face to each sign to show that they are joyful workers.
- 5** Write “Kids at work” somewhere on each sign.
- 6** Add your memory verse to each sign too.
- 7** Post your signs all around the house as reminders of the importance of being willing and responsible workers. Here are some ideas regarding where to post them:
  - in the entryway where your kids are responsible to place their shoes neatly, hang their coats up and put away backpacks

- on the bathroom mirror where kids will see it when they brush their teeth and wash their faces
- in the kitchen as a reminder to be cheerful about daily chores
- above a child’s bed as a reminder to make their bed each day
- in the car as a reminder to “strap in” and keep the car tidy
- on the computer or TV as a reminder to follow house rules regarding digital entertainment
- near the toy bins to remind kids to pick up after themselves
- in the dining area as a reminder to tidy away dishes and wipe the table after meals
- near the bathtub as a reminder to rinse down the tub or shower after use.

- 8** Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 and pray together, asking God to give you all gladness of heart and an ability to enjoy your work.

- 9** During your study on responsibility, when your children display diligence, a willingness to work, initiative or behave responsibly, recognize their efforts by letting them add additional happy faces to your signs.

### Relevant Scripture

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 “Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil – this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.”

## Bible stories

Choose one or more Bible stories that are appropriate for your children.

### Joseph is a reliable worker

Note: Before you read the Bible verses, explain that Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and sold him as a slave. Joseph ended up working in the foreign country of Egypt for Potiphar, who was the captain of the guard for Pharaoh.

Read Genesis 39:1-6.

### Questions for discussion

1. When Joseph worked at Potiphar's house, what was his job?
2. How do we know that Joseph did a good job working for Potiphar?
3. Did Potiphar have to worry whether Joseph would do everything he was supposed to do?
4. How might things have been different if Joseph had been a lazy or unreliable worker?
5. What are some of your jobs around our house?
6. Do you need a parent watching or helping while you are doing your jobs, or can you do them on your own?
7. What kind of responsibilities would you like to have in the future?

### Key concepts

God watched over Joseph and gave him success in all he did. The Bible tells us that Joseph found favour in Potiphar's eyes and Potiphar made Joseph his attendant, putting Joseph in charge of everything in his household. Potiphar himself said that with Joseph in charge he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Potiphar relied on Joseph. To rely on someone means that you depend on them to do what you ask them to do. Evidently Joseph took his responsibilities seriously and proved to be a reliable worker. If Potiphar had found Joseph to be an unwilling or

unreliable worker, he would not have trusted him with so much responsibility.

Young children are given small jobs. As they grow older and prove to be trustworthy, their parents can give them more and more things to be responsible for.

### Trustworthy workers

Read Matthew 21:28-31.

### Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever been asked to do a job that you didn't want to do?
2. What is your favourite job?
3. Are there any jobs you prefer not to do?
4. Do you think the sons in the Bible story wanted to go and work in their father's vineyard?
5. How did each son respond to their father?
6. Which son obeyed?
7. What does the Bible say about children obeying their parents?

### Key concepts

Jesus told a story of two sons who were asked by their father to go and work in his vineyard. One son said, "I will not." But he later changed his mind and went to work. The other son said, "I will, sir," but he never showed up to work. The son who said "no," but later decided to obey was more pleasing in the sight of the father than the one who said he would go, but did not. The Bible instructs children to obey their parents. Being obedient can be considered a "job from God" for kids.

### Relevant Scripture

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

## God jobs

*Note: Before you begin, invite your children to listen carefully for the reasons why these people were chosen to do specific jobs for God.*

Read Exodus 18:14-23.

### Questions for discussion

1. When Moses' father-in-law advised him to appoint judges, what kind of men did he say Moses should choose?

Read 1 Chronicles 15:22.

2. Why was Chenaniah put in charge of singing?

Read Nehemiah 13:13.

3. Why were Shelemiah, Zadok, Pedaiah and Hanan the ones chosen to be put in charge of the storerooms for the temple?

Read Acts 6:1-5.

4. What sort of men were chosen to organize the food to be given out?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

5. What kinds of gifts or talents did God give to you?
6. According to Peter, what should we use our gifts to do?
7. When we serve others with our gifts, who deserves to be praised: God or us?
8. Are there any ways you can use your gifts to bring praise to God?
9. Can you think of any jobs God might have for you?

### Key concepts

God has given every person a special set of abilities. 1 Chronicles 15:22 tells us that Chenaniah was put in charge of singing because he was skillful at it. God's Word also talks about other jobs that

were given to people because they were considered trustworthy, honest and God-fearing. In Acts 6:1-5, certain men were selected to serve God because they were wise and full of the Holy Spirit. When we are chosen to do a "God job," the Bible tells us that we are to use our gifts to serve others faithfully. As we do so, our goal in serving others should be to bring praise and glory to God.

### Relevant Scripture

1 Peter 4:10-11 *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

### Righteous and reliable in reputation

*Note: Before you begin, explain to your children that Daniel was living in a foreign country where the people worshipped false gods instead of the one true God. Even though he was far away from his home country of Israel, Daniel continued to worship God faithfully.*

Read Daniel 6:1-14.

### Questions for discussion

1. Why did king Darius put Daniel in charge of his whole kingdom?
2. Who became jealous of Daniel?
3. What did the jealous men do?
4. What did Daniel do when he was forbidden to worship or pray to God?
5. Why do you think the king tried so hard to rescue Daniel from being thrown to the lions?
6. Can you tell me how the story ended? (Read Daniel 6:15-28 for the conclusion. You may want to skip verse 24.)

### Key concepts

In the story of Daniel, we read that he was one of the king's important leaders. Daniel did such a good

job of his work that the king planned to put Daniel in charge of his whole kingdom. This made the other leaders jealous and they tried to find a way to show the king that Daniel was doing something wrong.

But they couldn't find any fault with Daniel, because he was trustworthy, honest and did his work thoroughly. The jealous men noticed that Daniel also worshipped God faithfully and decided this would be a good way to get Daniel into trouble with the king. They asked the king to make a law that said it was wrong to pray to or worship any god or man, except the king himself, for 30 days.

Even though Daniel heard about the new law, he continued to be faithful to God and continued to pray three times each day. The jealous men reported Daniel to the king. The king was extremely upset about having Daniel punished and he tried to let Daniel go free, but the men insisted that anyone who broke the law was to be thrown into the den of lions. As Daniel was thrown to the lions the king called out, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" (Daniel 6:16). The king knew that Daniel served his God as faithfully as he had served him, the king. So the king hoped that Daniel's God would be able to save him.

We can see from Daniel's story that being a reliable and trustworthy worker means serving God and those in authority over you faithfully, honestly and wholeheartedly.

### Relevant Scripture

Daniel 6:4 "Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him."

Daniel 6:26-28 "I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.' So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright."

### Responsible and reliable servants

Read Matthew 24:42-51.

### Questions for discussion

1. What did Jesus say a faithful servant should do while the master is away?
2. How would a master reward a trustworthy servant?
3. What did Jesus say would happen if the servant left in charge mistreated the other servants, was lazy, and chose to eat and drink instead of working?
4. If you were the master, what would you do to the wicked servant?
5. In life, what happens to people who are not responsible or trustworthy?
6. Even if parents or other caregivers are not supervising, who else always watches us do our jobs?

### Key concepts

Jesus told His disciples a story about two servants. He said that one servant acted wisely and faithfully, doing his job properly, even when his master was away. Jesus explained that this servant would be rewarded with increased responsibility.

The other servant in the story was a wicked servant who chose to mistreat others and relax and eat and drink instead of working while the master was away. Jesus warned that there would be severe punishment for the wicked servant when the master returned.

The story Jesus told applies to our lives too. God wants us to love, obey and serve Him diligently. Children can gain their parents' trust through obeying, whether their parents are watching or not. As a parent observes a child being reliable, they begin to trust their child more and more. However, if parents find that their child only obeys when they are around and misbehaves when they are not watching,

the parents will discipline the child and gradually lose trust in him or her.

## Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

Psalms 33:13 “The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man . . .”

## A hardworking young man

*Note: Share some of this background to the story before you begin:*

*Solomon was the wisest king that Israel had ever had, but he still made some unwise choices. Solomon chose to please himself instead of God. He took foreign women to be his wives, even though God had commanded the Israelites not to marry foreigners (1 Kings 11:2). The Bible tells us that as Solomon grew old, his wives led him astray and turned his heart toward other gods (1 Kings 11:4). God decided to choose someone else to be king in Solomon’s place – and it wasn’t one of Solomon’s sons. Instead God chose Jeroboam, a man whom Solomon had already noticed as a strong leader.*

Read 1 Kings 11:27-37.

## Questions for discussion

1. If you were in charge of a large building project, what kind of worker would you look for to supervise the other workers?
2. Have you ever taken your time and done a very good job of an assignment you have been given? Tell me about it.
3. Have you ever rushed through a job and felt bad about the sloppy result?
4. How did you feel after you did the good job? How about the poor job?
5. Why did Solomon pick Jeroboam to supervise the other workers?
6. Why do you think God picked Jeroboam to be the next King of Israel?

## Key concepts

When they were building walls around the city of Jerusalem, Solomon noticed a young man named Jeroboam, who was very industrious. The Bible says that when Solomon saw how well Jeroboam did his work, Solomon put him in charge of all the workers of the house of Joseph (1 Kings 11:28).

Later, a prophet named Ahijah met Jeroboam alone in the countryside and told him that God was going to make him king over 10 of the tribes of Israel. Ahijah also told Jeroboam that if he obeyed God’s commands and did what was right in God’s eyes that God would be with him.

It was not only Solomon who noticed how well Jeroboam did his work; God noticed as well and He chose Jeroboam to be the next king of Israel.

The story of Jeroboam does not have a happy ending, however. He chose to follow foreign gods and eventually God put an end to his reign as king of Israel (2 Chronicles 11:14-15, 13:20).

The lesson we learn from this story is important: industry and diligence alone are not pleasing to God. Rather, God also looks for a person who has a humble heart and who chooses to follow His commands.

## Relevant Scripture

Psalms 147:10-11 “His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.”

Isaiah 66:2 “All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.”

John 14:21 “Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

## Wife hunting

*Note: Before you read the Bible verses, explain that the Bible talks about a special wife. This wife is a*

*hardworking woman. She doesn't just sit around and wait for her husband to do everything – she does a lot of work herself. As you read, ask your children to raise their hand every time they hear ways the wife works hard.*

Read Proverbs 31:10-31.

### Questions for discussion

1. What pleased God about the special wife? Was it her charm and beauty?
2. What do you think it means when the Bible says that the special wife “does not eat the bread of idleness”?
3. How does the Bible describe the way this wife did her work?
4. In the future, when you are looking for a wife or husband, will you look for someone who is lazy, or someone who is hardworking?

### Key concepts

In Proverbs 31 we read about an industrious and godly wife. It tells of many ways that she worked hard to serve her husband and her family. Proverbs 31 says, “She does not eat the bread of idleness.” To be idle means to be lazy – to sit around and not do much of anything. But this woman worked energetically and purposefully. The Bible also says she gave wise advice and that she “feared” or respected God.

Even though you may be young, it's not too early to begin thinking about what kind of person you want to be when you grow up, and what character traits you will look for in a husband or wife.

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### Moses does a “God job”

*Note: This is a long story. To help children pay attention, assemble some props beforehand. As you read, have your children set up a tabernacle scene using the props. For example, use a piece of fabric or a napkin for a curtain, candles and candlesticks for lamps and lampstands, a jewelry box for the ark, a bowl for a basin, a small box covered with gold paper for the altar of incense, another small box for the altar of burnt offering, a larger box for the tabernacle and a larger piece of fabric for the tent, a*

*small bottle of water for anointing oil, crackers for bread, and dolls or stuffed animals to represent people.*

*Find a picture of the tabernacle online, if you wish, so your children can see how extensive the tabernacle was. If your children enjoy building with Lego® or blocks, building a model of the tabernacle could also be an effective teaching tool. (In addition to the reading below, Exodus 26-27 contains further details describing the building of the tabernacle.)*

Read Exodus 40:1-35.

### Questions for discussion

1. Did Moses complain about all the work that God gave him?
2. What did Moses do?
3. What happened after Moses finished all his work?
4. How do we know that God was pleased with Moses' obedience?
5. How do you think God wants you to act when Mom or Dad gives you a job?

### Key concepts

God asked Moses to build a beautiful tabernacle for the Israelites to use in their worship of Him. It took a lot of work to make the tabernacle (Exodus 26-27), and it was a lot of work to set it up for use. When we set up our tabernacle model, it showed us what a big job God gave Moses.

Moses did not complain about all the detailed jobs that he had to do. Instead, he got started on the job right away and worked until it was done. We know that God was pleased with Moses, because when Moses was finished all the work, God blessed the Israelites with His presence. He filled the tabernacle so full of His glory that Moses couldn't even go in.

In John 14:23 we read that Jesus told His disciples that God would make His home with them, too, if they loved Him and obeyed His commands. This promise is true for us as well. One of the things God asks children to do is obey their parents. When

children do what their parents ask them, God is pleased.

**Relevant Scripture**

John 14:23 “Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to Him and make Our home with him.’”

Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

**Creative discipline**  
**For problems with not following through on assigned tasks and responsibilities**

*Here are some ideas you can use when your children are not following through on assigned tasks and responsibilities.*

**Biblical basis**

Luke 16:10a “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

**Suggested disciplinary action**

Use a “logical consequences” approach to disciplining a child who does not carry through with age-appropriate responsibilities. For each responsibility your child has, there is a corresponding privilege. Begin

by taking away the privilege that your child has, based on the responsibility your child has failed to fulfil.

For example, it is a privilege to own toys. The responsibility that goes along with owning toys is keeping them tidy. The suggested discipline would be to take away any toys that are not being cared for properly.

See the table below for some examples of logical consequences.

**Affirmation**

When your child is willing to take on their responsibilities again, return the items you have removed. Assure your child that you are giving them another opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities. Be very specific in defining your expectations. For example, say “When you undress or take off any clothing, I expect that it will be put in the hamper / hung up / folded / placed in your drawers.”

Explain to your child that you *do* want to give them privileges to enjoy, and feel badly when you need to remove them. Pray together, asking that God would help your child be responsible so that you can trust them with more responsibilities and privileges as they grow older.

<i>Privilege</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Logical consequences discipline</i>
Owning many sets of clothes	Keeping clothing tidy by putting in laundry hampers, hanging clothes  Folding laundry, putting laundry away	Confiscation of misplaced clothing  Extra laundry duty for leaving clothing on the floor
Snacking between meals	Choose healthy snacks  Eat them in an acceptable location	Lose the privilege of eating between meals
Owning and wearing shoes	Shoes worn with laces tied up  Shoes and boots placed neatly in the storage area	Shoes are taken away so the child must wear a less favoured pair of shoes or boots
Watching TV or DVDs and playing digital games	Turn the media off when the time allowed is complete	Lose the privilege of using the media for a specified duration

## For problems with laziness

Some kids are motivated by money, others by food or fun. Select an appropriate course of action for your child based on the suggestions accompanying the following verses.

### Biblical basis

Proverbs 19:15 “Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.”

**Associated discipline idea:** Miss dessert or another treat.

Proverbs 10:4 “A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”

**Associated discipline idea:** Ensure the child becomes “poor,” without access to the toys, games and entertainment they enjoy.

Proverbs 26:14 “As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.”

**Associated discipline idea:** Let the lazy child lie on the couch while others work. But choose a fun celebration once the work is done, excluding the “lazy” child. Start with small rewards, but keep upping the privileges missed if the laziness continues.

### Affirmation

In Ezra 5:8-11, the Israelites who were working industriously reported that they were “servants of the God of heaven and earth.” Pray with your child and ask God to give him or her the desire to work diligently and to make rapid progress when he or she works. Ask God to inspire your child to work hard to honour Him because he / she takes pride in being God’s servant.

Ezra 5:8-11 “Be it known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands. Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus: ‘Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?’ We also asked them their names, for your information, that we might write down the names of their leaders. And this was their reply to us: ‘We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.’”

*Note: The book Pig Will, Pig Won’t by Richard Scarry has a wonderful story that parallels this kind of discipline.*

## Hands-on options

*These fun ideas require very little preparation, making it easy for you to share some simple but memorable lessons with your kids. Choose just one or two ideas that will appeal to your children.*

### Responsible animal owners

*drama / role play or serving others*

In this exercise, you’ll pretend you are farmers, or use your family pets to explore the command from Proverbs 12:10 to care for animals well.

If you have a pet, review the importance of feeding and caring for your pet. Give your children some responsibility for caring for them: young children can check daily to make sure your pet’s water bowl is full and ask for help to fill it; kids can also help fill pet dishes with dry food using a measuring cup.

If you don’t have a family pet, have your kids set up a farm with their toys. Use the discussion questions to talk about the responsibilities animal farmers have. These might include:

- ensuring the animals have clean water each day
- growing or purchasing food for their animals
- feeding their animals once or twice daily
- keeping a clean sleeping area for the animals covered with straw or other bedding material
- making sure the animals have proper shelter
- providing immunizations
- caring for weak or sick animals
- overseeing the birth of baby animals
- for dairy farmers, milking cows and goats once or twice daily.

Read Proverbs 12:10. In closing, pray together and ask God to help you care kindly for all animals.

## Questions for discussion

- What do your parents do to take care of you?
- What kinds of things would a farmer need to do to care for his animals?
- What do your parents do when you are sick?
- How does a farmer get medical help for his sick animals?

## Key concepts

Parents provide a home, healthy meals, snacks and drinks, and clothing for their children. Likewise, a farmer needs to make sure his animals are warm, well fed and have fresh water. Parents earn money so they can go to the store and buy groceries, while farmers need to either grow grain or hay or purchase food for their animals.

Kids trust their parents to care for them, just as animals trust their owners to take care of them. Trustworthy owners ensure that their animals have everything they need to remain healthy and comfortable.

## Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 12:10 “Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”

*Note: To extend this activity further, organize a farm visit. Depending on how well you know the farmer, you can offer to help him or her do the farm chores.*

## Library lessons

*drive time / anytime*

Use your regular visits to your library to teach your children how to be responsible with their library books.

Before your next library visit, select containers to transport your books. Book bags, backpacks, plastic bins with re-sealable lids or baskets with handles all work well. To make it easier for your children to be personally responsible for their books, plan to *transport* and *store* the library books in the same container. Each child should have their own special container.

Use humour to review the book care rules listed below. After reading the basic list of rules, have your kids make up their own rhyming or comical version of

each rule. Review your rules on the way to and from the library. You might also want to show your kids the online video *Don't Let the Pigeon Touch the Books*.

## Basic book care rules:

- Wash your hands before reading your books.
- Don't consume food or drink while reading your books.
- Keep your books away from pets and small children.
- Be careful with your books as you come and go from the library.
- Store your books in a safe place.
- Water ruins books! Keep your books away from the bathtub, water bottles and sneezes.
- Books have all the stories and pictures they need already, so don't add any more words or drawings.

## Humorous book care rules:

- Books think you're mean if you read with hands that aren't clean.
- Mixing books and food is really quite rude.
- Babies slobber, dogs chew. That's why books would rather have you.
- Only crooks wet books. / Books will fret if you get them wet.
- Books have words and stories galore. No need for you to add any more!
- If you're going to cough or sneeze, don't use your book as a tissue, please!
- Dropping, throwing or using books as weapons is strictly prohibited.

On your next visit to the library, let your children place their books in the book-return slot themselves.

Show them how to put the books in the return slot spine first, to avoid bending the pages or the cover.

You might also ask a librarian to review basic book handling and care with your children.

At home, affirm your children for being responsible about caring for their books. As a reward, apply Luke 16:10 by allowing them to borrow additional books from the library next time.

### **Relevant Scripture**

Luke 16:10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

### **Caring for orphans and widows**

*servicing others*

Do your part to care for a widower in a practical way, or to help provision an orphanage.

If you know someone who is a widower, pray and ask God what kind of care you can offer him or her. It may mean offering an invitation to dinner, baking a batch of muffins, or stopping in for a visit or to play a game.

Alternatively – or in addition – search online for orphanages you could help, such as God’s Littlest Angels or Olive Tree Projects, both in Haiti. Find out what they need and collect items locally. You have the option to mail the supplies directly to the orphanage, but it may be easier to connect with local churches when they are organizing a container drive (i.e. inviting community members to help fill a large shipping crate).

Whichever option you chose, explain to your children that God makes it clear in the Bible that He cares for the orphans and widows and He wants us to do the same. It’s our God-given responsibility or “trust.”

### **Relevant Scripture**

1 Timothy 5:3-4 “Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.”

1 Timothy 5:16 “If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.”

James 1:27 “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

### **Foolish Freddie, lazy Eddie game**

*drive time / any time*

Sometimes people work so hard to avoid working that they put more time and effort into avoiding the work than it would have taken to complete the job itself! Lazy people lived in Biblical times too and some of their excuses are recorded in the book of Proverbs. “There is a lion out there and it will kill me!” is the best one!

Tell your kids about these ancient excuses, then ask your children what kinds of excuses they have made up, or heard from others.

Have fun taking turns coming up with outlandish excuses a person could make in order to avoid the work they have been asked to do. Begin each excuse with, “Lazy Eddie says . . .” or “Foolish Freddie says . . .” Here are some ideas:

- *I’m allergic to sunshine* (or cobwebs, dust, dirt, work in general).
- *I’m scared of bugs* (or weeds, spiders, worms).
- *There are hungry rats roaming the neighbourhood, looking for kids to chew on.*
- *There are giant, invisible elastic bands around my legs and arms so I can’t move.*
- *I can’t do the dishes; the soap will eat my skin.*
- *Work is like swimming: you’re not supposed to work with a full stomach, and I just had a snack.*

After you have laughed over the silly excuses, use the discussion questions to talk about speaking the

truth versus creating exaggerated excuses that are really lies.

### Questions for discussion

- What does the word “sluggard” mean?
- What is the opposite of “lazy”?
- Why do people make up excuses to avoid work?
- What’s the silliest excuse you’ve ever heard?
- If you were a boss, would you hire lazy people or industrious people?
- What does God think about lying?
- If you were married, would you want a husband or wife who willingly helps with the work around the house, or would you want to do all the work yourself while your husband or wife sits around and does nothing?

### Key concepts

It would have been rare for lions to roam the streets of towns in Bible times, just as it would be extremely rare for us to see a rat on a residential street in Canada. The verses in Proverbs show us how silly it sounds when people make excuses as to why they cannot work.

Making up reasons that are false is a form of lying and God hates it when people lie! Work does not disappear just because we don’t want to do it. Attempting to avoid work is foolish, as eventually the person will be required to do the job anyway.

The opposite of lazy is industrious. God is pleased when we work with a diligent and willing attitude instead of making up lies to try to get out of work.

### Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 12:22 “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight.”

Proverbs 22:13 “The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!’ ”

Proverbs 26:13 “The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!’ ”

### Due diligence party

*other*

For this activity, you’ll spend a week charting your progress in doing chores and practicing skills, then celebrate with a “due diligence party.”

Explain that each family member needs to earn a certain number of points or stickers by doing chores and practicing skills before the family can celebrate together. (Having a celebration instead of rewarding with money helps your children experience the joy of a job well done rather than being focused on material things.)

Begin by helping each child make their personal due diligence chart. It should have two columns: one for chores and another for skills practice.

Divide the chore column into the number of work sessions you want your child to complete in the week to earn your due diligence party.

Divide the skills practice column into the number of practice sessions that are realistic for your child to complete in a week. Skills to practice can include schoolwork, homework, practicing a musical instrument, playing a sport, learning letter sounds or reading, reviewing math flash cards or writing to improve printing or handwriting.

Give each child stickers or have them colour in a square on their chart to track their progress.

As you encourage your child to work on their tasks each day, talk about the party you will have at the end of the week to celebrate their hard work. (The party can be a fun meal with simple decorations followed by a family game.)

During your celebratory meal, use the discussion question to talk about diligence. Share the verses below and ask your children how they think the verses relate to their week of work. Talk about *your* work and some of your favourite hobbies too, as they can be great examples of a parent’s concerted and enduring efforts.

## Questions for discussion

- How do you feel when you look at your chore chart and your practice chart and see how much you have done?
- What would happen if a farmer didn't plant seeds in his / her field or if a person didn't plant a garden?
- Would a child learn to read if they never learned their letter sounds?
- Can a person get good at playing a musical instrument or a sport if they don't practice?
- What are some ways you've seen Mom or Dad work hard to benefit our family?

## Key concepts

For every focused effort we put in, we experience a payoff. When someone practices a skill, they get better at the task. Completing chores means a household is comfortable and healthy to live in, because the living spaces are clean, food is prepared and laundry is done.

Just as there is no harvest in the fall if seeds are not planted in the spring, a family cannot expect a house to clean itself. We must be diligent workers if we expect results. In reality, being lazy makes us miserable. Life is much more fulfilling when we are diligent. We can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing we have done our jobs well and have contributed to the family. Work is much more enjoyable if we work hard at it and do it to the best of our abilities, than if we slop through it and grumble the whole time.

## Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 10:4 “A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”

Proverbs 13:4 “The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.”

Proverbs 14:23 “In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.”

Proverbs 20:4 “The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.”

Ecclesiastes 2:24 “There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God . . .”

## Jobsevation

*drive time / any time*

Visit a construction site or another job site where you can observe the workers from a distance. As you watch the people working, ask your kids the discussion questions to help them evaluate the quality of the work being completed.

After observing the workers, pray with your children, asking that they become diligent workers who aim to do quality work with a willing and cheerful attitude.

## Questions for discussion

- Can you tell who are the hard workers and who are lazy?
- If you were a boss, which kind of worker would you hire?
- Do lazy workers get good at their jobs or become skilled workers?
- What kind of worker would you want building a house for you?
- Who watches you when you are working?

## Key concepts

Lazy workers try to avoid work, or they will do a job as quickly as possible without being concerned about whether or not they are doing it well. They just want to get it done so they can sit or stand around. When work is done shoddily, walls end up being built crooked, paint is slopped on instead of spread smoothly and evenly, and areas that are supposed to be cleaned are given a “once over” instead of a thorough cleaning.

Diligent workers work efficiently and aim to do their jobs well. They make sure walls are built straight, that painting is done neatly and that areas are cleaned

well. Because sloppy workers don't try to do a job well, they don't improve in their abilities nearly as much as someone who focuses on doing his or her best. Sometimes other people will watch you work, but even if you are working alone, God is there with you. The Bible tells us that we should work willingly and heartily, as though we are working for God.

### Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 22:29 "Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men."

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men . . ."

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### The reality of responsibility

*other*

Make a point of teaching your children that they need to be responsible in taking care of the things they own.

As parents we often make the mistake of assuming our kids know how to care for things. Then we end up dealing with a disappointed child who bent a badminton racquet using it as a hammer, or who left an electronic device outdoors in the rain.

Ideally, each time your children are given something, spend some time educating them on how to care for it. The message your children need to get is, *We take care of the things we own so they remain in good condition and last longer.*

Use these sample questions or similar ones to review proper care of possessions with your children.

### Questions for discussion

- Is this a toy or a tool?
- How was this designed to be used?
- How could this \_\_\_\_\_ get ruined or damaged?
- Where will you store this \_\_\_\_\_ to keep it safe?

- What are the instructions for care that came with this \_\_\_\_\_?
- Is this meant to be used / worn outdoors or indoors?
- What kind of fabric is this \_\_\_\_\_ (article of clothing) made from?
- Is this \_\_\_\_\_ (article of clothing) for play or for dress-up?
- How do you want this \_\_\_\_\_ to look in five years?

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### Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 12:27 "Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth."

Ecclesiastes 10:18 "Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks."

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### Wise waste management

*science with a twist*

*Note: This hands-on option includes a total of five related mini-lessons on the theme of environmental awareness. You can choose just one as a stand-alone activity, or do all five in succession, if you wish.*

As you complete the activities, talk with your children about our God-given responsibility to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26). Explain that when we are wasteful with resources or when we create excess garbage, we are not caring for the world God made.

To expand the spiritual component, read Psalm 8:1-9 and thank God for the honour of being named rulers of the things God made on the earth. Ask Him to help you live wisely, caring for all He has given you. Thank Him for your clean water supply and for a reliable source of electricity. Thank Him, too, for allowing you to live in a land of plenty and ask Him to teach you not to be wasteful or thoughtless in the way you use your resources and treat the environment.

### Relevant Scripture

Psalm 8:1-9 "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above

the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

### • Paper vs. plastic

Run this simple, week-long experiment to teach your kids what the word “biodegradable” means. (A simple definition they can learn is “to break down and become part of the soil.”)

To set up your experiment, simply take a portion of a paper bag, and a portion of a plastic grocery bag, and lay them in warm water on a cookie sheet or plastic tray.

Check on your experiment over the course of a week to see what is happening. (The paper will be disintegrate, but the plastic will remain unchanged.)

### Key concepts

When we dispose of our garbage, it is taken to a landfill. Any paper bags in the garbage break down quickly and become part of the soil, but plastic bags don’t.

Plastics never “biodegrade” or go away entirely. The plastic we put in the garbage will eventually break down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic, but it is never gone. Sadly, an increasing amount of plastic is ending up in the world’s oceans. In the water, as the plastic breaks into smaller and smaller particles, animals begin eating these plastic particles instead of plankton. Over time, the animals are harmed by eating plastics instead of nourishing food.

The good news is that every person can make a difference by using biodegradable or re-useable

containers instead of plastic. Here are some helpful things people can do. Which ones do you think we should do as a family?

- Bring reusable bins or bags to the grocery store for our groceries.
- Ask for paper bags or boxes for our groceries instead of plastic bags, if we forget to bring our own bags.
- Use wax or parchment paper instead of plastic wrap in the microwave.
- Use re-useable containers and bags for lunches and snacks.
- Store food in containers with re-sealable lids instead of plastic wrap.
- Stop buying polystyrene or plastic plates and cutlery for parties and picnics.
- Buy products that are not wrapped in plastic whenever possible.

### • Pollution and seepage

When garbage is buried in a landfill, some of the garbage leaks pollutants into the environment. This simple experiment helps kids understand the idea of underground seepage of pollutants.

You will need sand, water, a large glass jar, tongs, five paper napkins and food colouring in yellow, blue, red and green.

1. To begin, soak each napkin in food colouring to make one yellow, one red, one blue and one green napkin. Create a brown napkin too by mixing drops from all four food colourings together.
2. Fill the jar 1/6 full with sand. Add just enough water to saturate the sand.
3. Next, use the tongs to place one of the coloured napkins in the jar. Cover it with wet sand, then add another napkin.

4. Continue layering the sand and napkins until all the napkins are covered in sand.
5. Observe the sand over a few hours, watching where the coloured water goes.

### Key concepts

Much of the garbage we make is hauled away and buried in a landfill. But that doesn't mean it's gone. Even buried garbage can harm the environment and animals. Just as we saw the coloured water seep into the sand, the same thing happens in landfills. The pollutants in the buried garbage seep out of the landfill and into the water under the surface of the soil. These pollutants eventually end up in our lakes, rivers and oceans where they can harm the animals living there.

Fortunately, there are some things we can do to help. Which of these "seepage stopper" ideas do you think we could do as a family?

- Buy soaps and detergents that are environmentally friendly and phosphate free.
- Dispose of paints, solvents and aerosol cans by taking them to special toxic waste disposal sites. Contact friends and neighbours and offer to take theirs too.
- Take prescription medicine back to a pharmacy where it will be properly disposed of.
- Do the "double check" before throwing an item in the garbage. The double check is to ask two questions: *Where will this end up?* and *Can this be reused or recycled?* The many items that can be recycled include cardboard, paper, plastic, glass and sometimes polystyrene too.
- Ask our municipality to start curbside pickup for recyclables and compostable material.

*Note: You can expand this activity by setting up your own family recycling bins. Run a one-week trial to see how much your household garbage is reduced when all paper, cardboard, plastics, cans and organic matter are removed for recycling.*

*You may also want to visit a landfill and a recycling depot as a part of this learning experience. The sight and smell of tons of garbage will make a lasting impression on your children. On the other hand, visiting a recycling station illustrates the positive side of waste management. Excellent video footage is also available online.*

### • Littering

Once, in the Florida waterways, an environmentalist named Stephen Nordlinger rescued a turtle that had eaten so much polystyrene it was too buoyant to submerge underwater. In this object lesson you'll simulate the experience of the rescued turtle, to illustrate for kids the danger litter poses to wildlife.

You will need a re-sealable plastic sandwich bag for each child, permanent markers and chunks of polystyrene.

It's easiest to do this activity at bath time, but you can also do it at the kitchen sink or in a tub of water.

1. First, draw the outline of a turtle on each plastic bag, with the turtle's mouth at the opening of the bag.
2. Seal each bag tightly, and let your kids make their turtles "swim" underwater in the bathtub.
3. Next, sprinkle small chunks of polystyrene on the water.
4. Have your kids make their turtles "eat" the polystyrene chunks, taking them into the bag. (They may need your help to "feed" the turtles, to ensure as little water as possible gets into the bags.) Help your kids realize that, eventually, their "turtles" can no longer stay submerged under the water.

### Key concepts

The litter that people throw on the ground is often dangerous for wildlife. Animals can cut their paws on broken glass, for example. And the litter doesn't always stay where it's thrown. It often gets washed into streams and rivers, and then out to sea.

It's common for water birds and aquatic animals to get tangled in plastic garbage, particularly discarded

fishing line and plastic six-pack beverage rings. Once entangled, animals are easy prey for predators, or can starve to death.

Sometimes animals mistake litter for food. Sea turtles, for instance, often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, and polystyrene pellets for the eggs of sea life, stuffing themselves with this “junk food” until they are weak and starving. And sometimes, like we saw with our plastic-bag turtles, it can prevent them from swimming underwater to catch their real food.

Here are some ways people can make sure wildlife doesn't suffer this way. Which of these do you think should we start doing as a family?

- Pick up litter when we see it. (People are more likely to litter if they see litter on the ground already.)
- Take part in a community clean-up day.
- Always take a bag when you're out for a walk, to collect trash along the way.
- Keep a garbage bag in your vehicle so you won't be tempted to throw garbage out the window.
- When picnicking or hiking, use reusable water bottles, dishes and cutlery. For the rare times you *must* use disposable dishes, choose plates made from paper.
- Recycle all plastics and polystyrene. Research the options for recycling these in your community.

### • **Natural resource conservation**

Begin by talking with your kids about where tap water comes from and how electricity is generated. To help, look for videos online, or check out your library.

Next, try to go for an hour at home without using any water or electricity! Use this time to talk about how much harder life is for the many people in the world who do not have access to electricity and clean water.

Explain that there is an environmental cost to using electricity and water, then do a room-by-room tour

of your house and ask your kids to suggest ways that water and electricity can be conserved in each room.

### **Key concepts**

Becoming aware of our wasteful habits is a key step in reducing the thoughtless use of water, electricity and other natural resources. In our house we can conserve water and electricity by:

- Running the dishwasher only when it is full.
- Putting the plug in the sink while washing dishes, instead of continually running the tap.
- Running water only when you really need it when brushing your teeth or washing your face.
- Recycling water that's still useful by watering plants with it.
- Turning off lights when you leave a room.
- Having short showers and installing low-flow shower heads.
- Having “party baths” (i.e. sharing the bathtub).
- Installing a low-flow toilet.
- Watering plants and grass in the early morning or late evening so less water evaporates, or xeriscaping our yard so less watering is needed.

### • **Bugging everyone**

Reinforce what you're learning about caring for the environment by designating family members to watch for ways you can be more responsible.

To help, craft special bug badges. Much like sheriff badges, they give the wearer authority to politely “bug” other family members about being responsible.

Here are some ideas for crafting an electricity bug, water bug, anti-litter bug, recycle bug and a buy-less bug. Attach each bug to clothing with a safety pin to remind family members of their role for the day.

You will need craft foam or construction paper in an assortment of colours, safety pins, felt-tip markers, a glue gun and a few pennies.

- For the electricity bug, cut bright yellow lightning stripes for its back.
- For the water bug, colour it blue with spots shaped like water drops.
- Craft the recycle bug from old toy parts, jewelry, paper clips etc.
- Craft the anti-litter bug from common litter items such as a disposable drink lid, drinking straws and candy wrappers.
- Cut the compost bug's body in the shape of a leaf and decorate it with raisins or dried cranberries for spots, or cut thin strips of dried mango.
- For the buy-less bug, craft a red ladybug with coins for spots, since ladies often do like shopping!

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## Be a star

### creative crafts

Do some star gazing, then make star-shaped photo frames for portraits of each family member and talk about how you can “shine like stars.”

On a clear night, take some time to star gaze with your children while you read Philippians 2:14-15 and Daniel 12:3. Using the questions for discussion, talk about how people can be like stars.

To follow up, craft star-shaped cardboard photo frames to frame an individual portrait of each family member. Decorate your photo frames with glitter glue, sequins and / or aluminum foil.

## Questions for discussion

- When you first look up into the night sky, what do you notice?
- Can you see the stars if it is cloudy outside?

- What part of a person can shine?
- How does the Bible say we can shine like stars in the universe?
- What jobs do you dislike the most?
- How can we keep a positive attitude toward work?
- What kind of an attitude honours God?

## Key concepts

The Bible says that when we do things without complaining or arguing, our actions are very noticeable – like stars shining in the universe. When we say someone's face is “shining,” it's usually because they are smiling. On the other hand, if we say someone's face is cloudy, it's usually because they are not happy. When we feel like having a bad attitude about something, we can remember the instructions found in Colossians 3:23-24 and remember that we are serving God, not man. It is easier to work with a willing attitude when we work to honour God.

## Relevant Scripture

Daniel 12:3 “And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world . . .”

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Colossians 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

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## The Servant's secret

### servicing others

Choose a “dirty job” and do it joyfully together. It could be yard clean up, picking up garbage, cleaning washrooms or washing dishes. Or recruit some friends to help you pick up litter in your community (a park, a boulevard or the grounds around your church).

To add fun, listen to energetic praise music and sing along, and wear silly hats or glasses. Intentionally get even dirtier than necessary and take photos.

Add more fun by telling knock-knock jokes like this one:

*First person :* Knock knock.

*Second person :* Who's there?

*First person :* Phil.

*Second person :* Phil who?

*First person :* Phil Thee. Filthy jobs are my favourite.

Use the discussion questions below to talk about a “secret” that Jesus told, and yet, two thousand years later, many people still don't understand it.

### Questions for discussion

- Do you know what a secret is?
- One day Jesus' disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. Do you know what Jesus told them?
- Which “dirty job” did Jesus choose to do?
- What did Jesus show the disciples by washing their feet?
- What are the dirtiest jobs in our home?
- Which jobs are the ones nobody wants to do?

- What kind of attitude do you have when you're asked to do the dirty job?

### Key concepts

A secret is something that only a few people know. Jesus told His disciples that the secret to greatness is to be willing to serve others – even if it means doing the dirty jobs. Oddly enough, most people today still think they are great when others cater to them, rather than the other way around.

Jesus didn't expect others to serve Him or treat Him like a King, even though He could have expected or demanded royal treatment! Instead, Jesus took on the job of washing everyone else's feet. This was the job that *nobody* wanted: the disciples likely wore sandals or bare feet all day, and their feet would have been very dirty. In washing all the dirty feet, Jesus was showing His disciples how to share His love with others by being willing to do the jobs no one else wanted to do.

We did a “Jesus joy job” together because we took joy in doing a job no one else wanted to do, just like Jesus did. A “joy job” brings joy to God, to you, and to the person you have helped. When we are diligent in serving others cheerfully and willingly we bring honour to God.

### Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 11:25 “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:26-27 “But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

1 John 4:10-12 “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever

seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.”

## **Caring for creation**

*creative crafts*

Work with your children to craft animals out of recycled materials, or use old socks to make sock puppets.

As you build your creations, talk about the importance of reusing and recycling, and use the discussion questions to talk about God’s role as Creator.

Display your memory verse alongside your creations – or perhaps make a sign or flag with your verse on it for one of the animals to hold. Tell your kids that is their responsibility to review the memory verse at least once each day, and reward each child with a small treat when they remember to review the verse without prompting.

### **Questions for discussion**

- Which animal do you think God had the most fun thinking up?
- Why do you think God made so many different kinds of animals?
- Why is one of God’s names “Creator”?
- What are some ways you can care for wild animals? How about plants?
- In what ways do people sometimes show they are lazy about caring for the earth?
- Who made this recycled animal?
- Is it alive?
- How would you feel if someone ruined your creation?
- How do you think God feels when people do not take good care of His creations?
- What are some things people can do to take better care of the earth and the animals in it?

- Do you have a pet? How do you care for it?

### **Key concepts**

As the Creator of the universe, God is the ultimate “boss” or Lord of the earth. He has given us the job of taking care of the earth and all that is in it. In Genesis we read that God made everything: people, the land and sea, the stars and sky, the animals, fish, birds, plants, lakes and rivers.

The Bible tells us that man is the only creature that was made in God’s image. (To be made in God’s image, or to be created to be similar to Him, is a big honour. It means we have been made to live forever and made with the ability to know, to love and to serve God. We have also been given the ability to make choices.)

God has given us the honour of caring for the things He made. God cares for us in a loving and merciful way. Using Him as our role model, we too should care for all He has made with love! When we care diligently for the things God has made, such as people, and all the plants and animals, it pleases God.

### **Relevant Scripture**

Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Proverbs 12:10 “Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”

### **Edible garbage**

*fun with food*

Teach your kids to generate less food waste by making Landfill Layers or Recycled Soup – two recipes that are handy for using up leftovers.

As your children help prepare your meal, explain that part of being responsible with the resources God has given you means creating less waste. Discuss how

people create a lot of food waste by throwing out leftovers that could easily be used for another meal.

### **Landfill Layers**

**Layer 1** : Fill the bottom of a 9 x13” baking pan with a layer of leftover pasta, dry bread cubes, rice or diced baked potatoes.

**Layer 2** : Beat together four eggs, ¼ cup of milk, ½ tsp salt and pepper to taste. Pour the mix on top of the first layer.

**Layer 3** : Spread on a layer of pre-cooked beef, chicken or turkey.

**Layer 4** : Firmly press cauliflower or broccoli florets down into the first three layers.

**Layer 5** : Sprinkle a layer of grated cheddar or mozzarella cheese on the top.

Bake at 350° F for approximately 45 minutes. Your meal is done when a knife inserted into the middle of the casserole comes out clean.

### **Recycled Soup**

In a large pot, stir together:

- 1 carton of chicken or beef broth, depending on what meat leftovers you have
- 1 cup of diced or browned meat (pre-cooked)
- 2 cups of pre-cooked veggies
- 2 cups of rice, pasta or quartered potatoes (pre-cooked)
- 1 Tbsp onion flakes or ¼ fresh onion, browned
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ tsp salt
- pepper

Simmer for 10 minutes, or until all ingredients are heated through.

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## **Outdoor responsibility test**

### **physical activity**

Gather up some sand toys and visit a park or the beach. Or take some sleds and shovels to a tobogganing hill.

As you travel to your destination, use the discussion questions to talk with your kids about what it means to be “responsible citizens” while at public recreation areas.

When it’s time to leave, *don’t* remind your kids to pick up their toys. If they remember their toys on their own, reward your children with verbal affirmation, stressing that they have gained your trust, and the in the future you will be able to trust them with more responsibility.

If your children didn’t remember to gather their toys before leaving, get into your vehicle before asking if they remembered to bring their toys with them. Return to the park to retrieve the forgotten toys and assure your children that you will give them another “responsibility test” in the future. Be sure to follow up by creating another opportunity for them to keep track of their possessions.

### **Questions for discussion**

- If we are not careful, how could we get hurt on the toboggan hill / at the park?
- Are there ways we could we end up hurting someone else on the hill / at the park?
- We have some toys with us. How can we be responsible with our sleds / buckets?
- Has anyone ever bothered you at a sledding hill / park?
- How can we make sure we don’t become a nuisance to others?
- What are the basic toboggan hill / park rules?
- Can you think of some rules everyone should follow while playing on the hill / at the park?

## Relevant Scripture

Luke 16:10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

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## Recommended resources

For a list of children’s stories that reinforce the theme of this lesson, consult the home page for the **responsibility** lesson at [KidsOfIntegrity.com](http://KidsOfIntegrity.com).