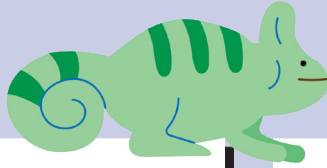


Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

DAY 1



Read Matthew 22:36-37

This month is all about responsibility, which is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. One of the first things teachers go over each year is the rules—that way their students know what's expected of them so they can have a successful year.

What if your teacher had over 600 classroom rules?

When Jesus lived on earth, that's how many rules Jews had to follow! When this religious leader asked, "What's the most important commandment?", it was intended to be a trick question. But Jesus didn't fall for his trap. Jesus simply replied: Love God. Love others.

Jesus was saying, If you want to know what your responsibility is, it's to put God first. Because when you do that, you won't need 600 other rules.

Now fill in the blanks to personalize this prayer and read it out loud to God:

"Dear God, I love You for so many reasons, especially and

I want to put You first in my life, so please help me to make choices that show my love for You, today and every day. In Jesus' Name, I pray.

Amen."

DAY 2

Read Matthew 22:39-40

When Jesus answered the religious leader's question about the most important commandment, He didn't stop with "love God." He quickly added the second, equally important part: love others.

When you think about it, loving God and loving others are like two sides of a coin. You can't really say you love God and then turn around and be unkind to your brother or the kid that bugs you at school. And you can't really love your brother or the kid at school without loving God. Why? Because God *is* love. The only reason you know HOW to love is because God loved you first.



Coin of Responsibility

Grab a coin and cover it with masking tape. Write "God" on one side and "Others" on the other. Carry that coin in your pocket this week to remind yourself of your most important responsibilities. Ask God to help you take that responsibility seriously—that you would love others each day.



DAY 3

Read Colossians 3:23

Have you ever received a standing ovation at a performance, or heard the roar of the crowd after scoring a goal? Or have you ever received a thank you note from someone?

It's awesome to be recognized for the things you do, but most of the time, the things you do day in and day out won't receive applause or special recognition. That's the nature of responsibility. Sometimes, you just have to do what you have to do.

However, there IS someone who sees and knows all. Every time you choose to be responsible, God sees it. When you're tempted to throw in the towel thinking no one cares about the things you do, remember the ONE that you should ultimately be doing it for loves you more than anyone. When you work with all your heart, it NEVER goes unnoticed.

Were any of the things you've taken responsibility for this week noticed by anyone else? If not, stop and thank God for being there to see it.

DAY 4

Read James 4:7

We show God our love and trust with our obedience. And how do we know what God wants us to do? By reading God's Word.

Part of what you're doing right now as you read this is showing how special God is to you. By completing this devotional today, you are spending time reading God's Word and listening to what God has to say. When you apply what you've read, when you live it out, you're showing you trust God to know what's best for you.

There is someone who wants to distract you from obeying God. As you read in the James verse, sometimes you have to stand up to the devil who doesn't want you to take responsibility for loving God and loving others well. How do you do that? The good news is, when you choose to obey God, that enemy doesn't stand a chance!

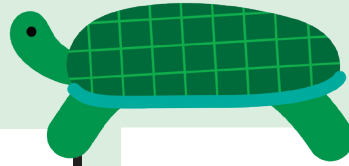
Coin Check

Have you been carrying your coin around this week to remind you to love God and love others? Hold your coin as you pray and thank God for helping you show responsibility each day.



Love God and
love others.

Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 1

Read Luke 12:14

Take a look around your room. Do you have a lot of stuff? For most of us, the answer is YES! Most of us have way more than we really need. One way we show we're responsible and trustworthy is to take a look at all we have and see what we could share.

Share What You Have A-Z

Sit down with your grownup and together, come up with a list of things you have individually and as a family that you could share. It could be anything from old clothes you outgrew but are in good condition to extra dog food that might be helpful for your neighbor's pet. To make it even more of a challenge, try to come up with something for every letter of the alphabet!

Once you've completed your list, pick two or three things from the list that you could do to share what you have this week. Save the list somewhere you'll remember so you can come back to it and possibly help meet someone else's need!

DAY 2

Read Luke 12:18

Have you been around any two-year-olds lately? If so, you may have noticed that they don't really love to share. In their little minds, if they share something, they might not ever get it back.

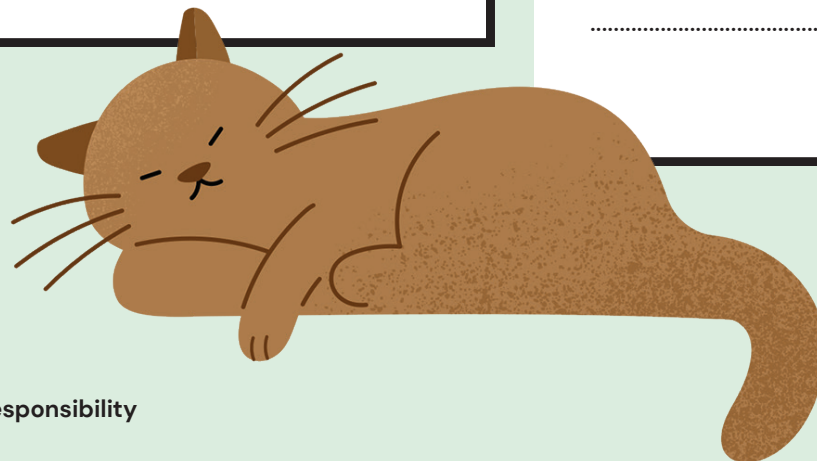
Good thing you're older and wiser and more mature. Sharing is NO big deal for you, right? Not so fast. Jesus once told a story about an *adult* who had a sharing problem. Instead of choosing to give his extra grain away to help others, he decided to build bigger barns in order to keep the extra for himself.

Maybe you're thinking, "Yeah, but what about saving for a rainy day? Wasn't the farmer being wise to think ahead so he'd have food in the future?"

There's a difference between saving and being greedy. The farmer had WAY more than he needed. He could have helped lots of people by choosing to share.

What is one thing you could share this week that could help someone else? Write it here:

.....



Read 1 Timothy 6:18

Want to know how to be rich? The first step is to understand God's definition of richness. Rich isn't about getting. It's about being responsible with what you have. Being rich is about understanding that EVERYTHING you have comes from God. God wants you to be responsible to take care of what you've been given and to share it with others.

Sometimes being rich means being willing to give things away. A truly rich person understands that what's "mine" is really NOT mine. Everything ultimately belongs to God. God is hoping that we'll choose to be responsible and generous with what God has shared with us.

Hop To It

Your challenge today is to memorize 1 Timothy 6:18. Write each word of the verse on index cards. Make a path out of the index cards in the hallway and practice hopping from one card to the next, repeating the verse until you have it memorized.

Read Hebrews 13:16

When you think about responsibility, you might think about chores, or things to check off a to do list. Another big way to show responsibility is to share. You can share your stuff with friends in need, or your time by offering to help. You can even share your talents and gifts to make someone's day a little brighter.

It's good to remember that you can trust God no matter what. God's Word reminds us that God is so pleased when we choose to share. So even in the moments when you might not feel like sharing, it's still the responsible thing to do.

Missing Endings

Fill in the blanks with the missing endings from the list below, read the verse aloud and then ask God to help you be responsible to share what you have this week! Check out Hebrews 13:16 for the answer.

ED RE DS NGS SE
GET N'T OD ERS

"Don't for..... to do go..... Do..... forget to sha..... with oth..... God is pleas..... with tho..... kin..... of offeri....."

Share what you have.



Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

DAY 1

Read Proverbs 6:6

Did you know that ants can carry anywhere from ten to 50 times their weight?

- That would be like you picking up a car.
- Or an adult lifting eleven pianos.
- Or a chihuahua lifting a toilet.
- Or a gorilla lifting a boat.

If you've ever observed a line of ants across the sidewalk, you'll see them furiously moving at a steady pace. They don't stop for breaks. They just keep going; keeping at it until the job is done.

We could learn a thing or two from the ant. When it comes to responsibility, you prove you can be trusted when you choose to work hard. By sticking with a job until that job is done, you prove to others around you that you are a person they can rely on. No one is expecting you to lift a car! But you might be called on to clean your room or help your little brother or finish your homework.

This week, notice the ants at your feet. Ask God to help you work hard at the things you're responsible for so others can trust you.

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 6:7-8

When school lets out for the summer, do you take it easy? The summer is the ants' busy season storing up food to prepare for the winter. They don't have a commander or boss telling them what to do. They just get busy working hard.

Those hard working ants are a good reminder to us that part of responsibility is taking it seriously! When we choose to work hard, we WILL see the benefit later on.

Fill in the result or benefit of hard work after each example below:

HARD WORK	BENEFIT
When you study hard for a test,	
When you exercise regularly,	
When you clean your room,	

This week, when you're tempted to be lazy, remember the ant that keeps working all summer long and into harvest time. Ask God to help you take your responsibilities seriously so you can enjoy the benefits of your hard work!



DAY 3

Read Galatians 6:5

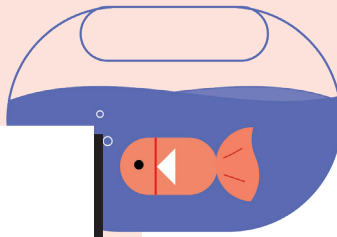
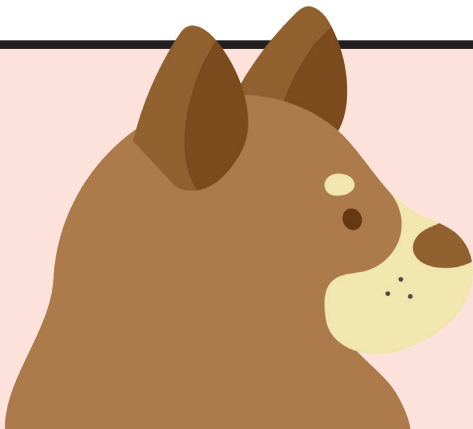
Do you feel like you have way too many responsibilities? Guess what? Your life will never ever be full of LESS responsibility than it is right now.

Don't believe me? Who pays the bills in your house? Who buys the groceries and prepares healthy meals for you? Who makes sure you have everything you need from the clothes on your back to the lunch in your backpack to the poster board for your project? The adults in charge of you. Grownups have a LOT of responsibility.

Guess what? Your parents don't expect you to pay the bills or cook all the meals. Enjoy being a kid and carry the load you've been given RIGHT NOW. Don't worry about speeding ahead so you can be a grownup. Take time to follow and learn. All those other big responsibilities will come soon enough.

Responsibility List

Sit down with your adult. Set a timer for 60 seconds and race to write down as many things as you can think of that you're responsible for. Then compare your lists. What did you learn from this exercise?



DAY 4

Read Luke 16:10a

Think about one responsibility you have. Write or draw a picture of it in the box:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to draw or write about a responsibility.

That responsibility—like making your bed, or putting your bike away, or setting the table—might seem like a small thing. But all those small responsibilities that you take seriously now lead to bigger and more important responsibilities later on. Taking care of your room might lead to owning your own home someday. Taking care of your bike might lead to driving a car when you're old enough. Every responsibility that you take seriously right now—no matter how small—builds trust.

Take a look at the responsibility in your box. How are you doing with that? Are you slacking off or taking it seriously? If not, what can you do right now to act more responsibly? Ask God to help you work hard RIGHT NOW with this smaller thing to prove you can be trusted with bigger things later on.

Work hard.

Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 4:29

Sometimes, in spite of what we *want* to do, we really should stop and think before we speak. And most of the time, especially when we're angry or frustrated, we should say **LESS** than we want to say in the moment. It's better to calm down, take a deep breath, and think before we say something hurtful or unkind.

Words matter. The words you say have the power to hurt or heal. That's why Paul reminds us to use words that "build others up" instead of words that tear others down. You do have control over the words you say. With God's help, you can take responsibility for things you say and use your words wisely.

Say Less

Have you heard the phrase, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all?" This week, when you find yourself about to say something unkind, remember in the moment to pause and **SAY LESS** so that you don't say something out of anger. Write "SL" on your palm with a pen as a reminder today to say less in order to use your words wisely.

DAY 2

Read Matthew 12:35

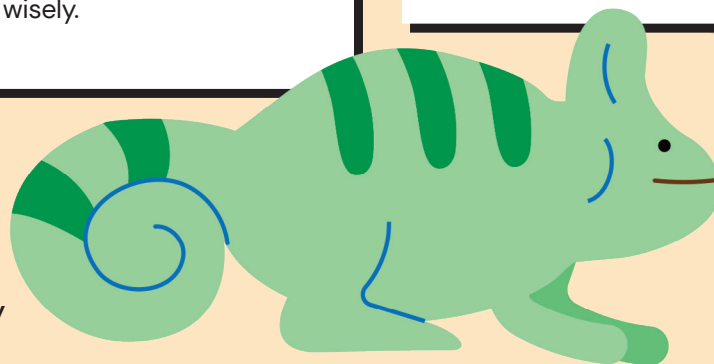
If you put a melty marshmallow and piece of chocolate between two graham crackers and push them together, what comes out?

.....

If something makes you **REALLY** mad, what comes out? When you're angry or hurt or frustrated, the words that come out of your mouth in that moment let you know what's going on in your heart and mind. Because under pressure, when life gets hard, what's on the inside will come right out.

One way to make sure our words are wise and helpful, is to fill our hearts and minds with **GOOD** things. If you surround yourself with friends who love and follow Jesus, you'll follow Him more closely too. The opposite is also true. If you spend your time with people who say unkind, hurtful, and disrespectful things, you might find yourself repeating what you've heard.

Ask God to help you fill your heart and mind with good things so you can be the kind of friend who helps others use their words wisely too.



DAY 3

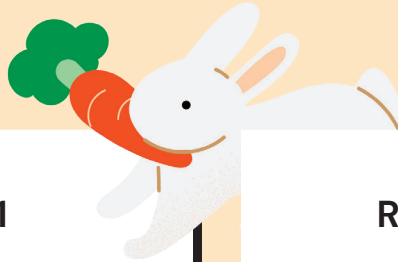
Read Proverbs 15:1

Have you studied tornadoes in school? A tornado, also known as a twister, is a violently rotating column of air that reaches from a storm cloud to the earth's surface.

Your words have power. Gentle words can bring calm to a situation, but like a swirling storm, mean or thoughtless words stir up anger, leaving a big mess behind. When it comes to the words we say, we should be careful to give gentle answers that bring calm instead of unkind, hurtful words that stir up anger.

Wise Words Art

Grab a piece of paper and draw a line down the center. On the left side of the page, draw a calm, peaceful scene. It could be a quiet stream or flower-filled meadow. On the right side, draw a big storm or tornado. Write the first half of today's verse over your peaceful scene, and the second half over your swirling storm. Hang up your artwork where your family can see it. If someone ask about it, explain that part of responsibility is choosing to use your words wisely.



DAY 4

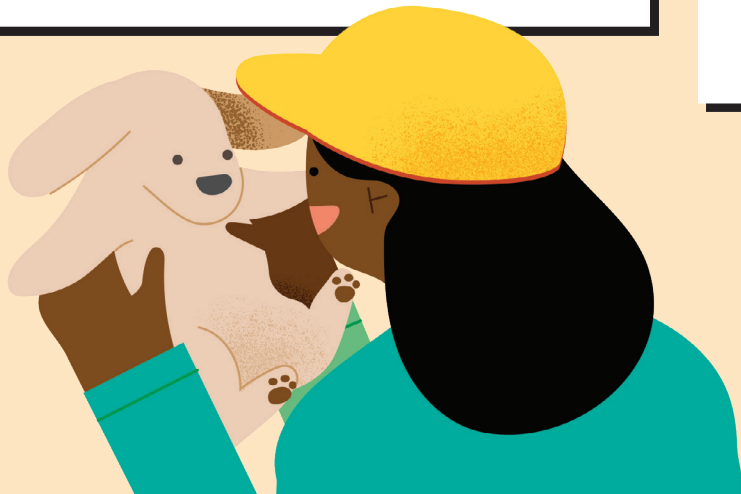
Read Matthew 21:28–30

“What’s more important? Saying you’ll do something or actually doing it? Easy question, right? Everyone knows that actions speak louder than words. That’s why it is so important to show you can be trusted by what you do—not just by what you SAY you’ll do.

Responsibility means you do what’s expected. You don’t just talk about it. You don’t even nod your head “yes” unless you can follow it up with the doing part. The person who always makes empty promises isn’t the person you want to be friends with. So don’t be that person. Be the one who takes responsibility to choose your words wisely so you can be trusted to do what you say you’ll do.

“Yes” Card

Find an index card and write the word “yes” on it. Today, whenever anyone asks you to do something, only pull out your “yes” card if you intend to do it. If you’re reading this before bedtime, take the card with you tomorrow. Once you’ve shown your “yes” card, you are committing to follow through with that responsibility. So *only* pull out your “yes” card if you’re planning for your actions to match your words.



Use your words wisely.