

Responsibility and Privilege

Preparing Your Heart to Teach Session 11:

What's an example of a time when you lost a privilege because you didn't handle the situation well? Maybe you lost the freedom of not paying interest because you didn't pay your credit card bill by the due date, or your car got damaged because you didn't do the proper maintenance.

The opposite is also true. Can you think of a time when you received a privilege because you were responsible? Maybe you received a promotion at work or an award for doing well.

Privilege and responsibility go together in life. When the landowner in Jesus' parable in Matthew 25:14-30 returned to see how the stewards had done, he rewarded two of them by saying, "Well done, good and faithful stewards, because you have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things." When we demonstrate responsibility, we receive privileges.

Pray and evaluate with the Lord the responsibilities and privileges he's given you. Let the Lord commend you for your faithfulness so far and challenge you to greater faithfulness before him.

What Children Learn in Session 11:

One important principle in life is that privilege and responsibility go together. Many times children want privileges but aren't responsible enough to handle them. Through the parable of the landowner and the stewards, children will learn how their current demonstrations of responsibility will determine whether they get privileges in the future.

A summary of the Video Session 11:

Family life changes when children become teenagers. The causes and purpose of these changes are discussed in this session. Parents are encouraged to make the Teenage Parenting Shift. A helpful discipline technique is presented from the parable of the talents (Matthew 25). When the landowner returned he rewarded the servants who were responsible by giving more privileges. That principle can be applied to teens as the primary discipline technique: Privilege and responsibility go together. Parents are encouraged to use honor to build bridges with teenagers.

Read Along in the Book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... In You and Your Kids":

Pages 137-164 talk about applying the concept of honor to the parent/teen relationship. Special consideration is given to helping teens understand how privilege and responsibility go together.

Welcoming Activity

5-10 minutes

Cut pieces of construction paper into several sized geometric shapes. Small and large rectangles, squares, ovals, circles, and triangles. Have children glue the shapes onto a piece of construction paper to form a pet. They may create a dog out of ovals and circles or a mouse out of triangles or a horse out of a combination of shapes.

For Older Children: You might have them draw a pet and be prepared to share about it.



Together Time

15-20 minutes

Use the thoughts and ideas below along with your own thoughts and the Bible to talk about the connection between privilege and responsibility.

Introduction:

Have children show their shape animals and talk about funny names you could give them. Ask children about their pets and use the opportunity to talk to kids about what responsibilities go with having a pet.

Object Lesson:

Bake a batch of cookies but leave out the sugar. You only need enough for each children to have a half or quarter of a cookie. Then add sugar and bake the rest to be used for snack later in the session. Pleasantly ask children if they'd like a piece of a cookie from a new recipe that you tried. Of course the children will be eager at first and then surprised when they take a bite. "I think I must have left out an ingredient. What do you think it was?"

"What would you think if you told me to bake cookies for your party and this is what I gave you? You'd probably be pretty disappointed wouldn't you. You probably wouldn't give me that job again. You might even say that I wasn't very responsible at making cookies."

Bible Story with Application:

Read Matthew 25:14-30. Use the ideas you learn and the thoughts that follow to teach children the importance of being responsible and how privilege and responsibility go together.

One day a man went on a trip but he needed to have someone take care of his things. Have you ever helped someone by taking care of their things while they were gone on a trip? Maybe you fed and walked the dog, or brought in the mail or the newspaper, or you watered the plants.

This man went on a longer trip than that and so he turned over part of his business to three people. He gave them each a different part of the job and different amounts. To one man he gave five talents. A talent was a sum of money. Another man got two talents and a third got one. The reason the man gave different amounts is because the servants had different abilities and could only handle what was given to them.

After a while the man came back from his long trip. He came to check on the servants to see how they had done with the money he had given them. The first servant who had received five talents had gone to work right away and now had five more talents to give to the man. He had done a good job. The second man also did well. He immediately went and worked with the money he had received and he earned two more talents. The owner was very pleased. He had given the jobs out and the servants were responsible with the jobs. He decided to reward them by giving them more privileges. He said, "Because you were faithful in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."

That very same thing happens in life a lot. Let me tell you a story about Jack. Jack's neighbor asked him to take care of his mail and newspapers while he was gone and to water his plants. When the neighbor returned, he was pleased to see that Jack had done just as he asked. He not only paid Jack for doing the work but he also told him that he could have the job of mowing his lawn. Jack was thrilled. This was another way that he could earn some money.

Privileges come to people who are responsible. When you can be honest and do the right thing at home then Dad or Mom feel comfortable allowing you to go over to a friend's house. If you can do the right thing when parents aren't watching, then Mom or Dad might let you stay home by yourself when they go next door or to the store for a few minutes. Privilege and responsibility go together. That's why it's so important to do the right thing, treat people kindly, be honest, and finish jobs you start. The things you do now will determine what privileges you get in the future.

The story about the man who went on a trip has one sad part to it. The third servant wasn't responsible. In fact, he was lazy and so he didn't do anything with the talent he was given. In fact, all he could do was give excuses instead of being responsible. So, he lost privileges and his privileges were given to someone else. That's what happens in life too. If you aren't responsible with what you have now, you will lose privileges.

Our Bible verse today talks about the importance of being faithful with the responsibilities we now have. As members of the Honor Club we want to be responsible children and adults.

Bible Verse:

Matthew 25:23 "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

Prayer:

Lord, teach us how to be faithful with the responsibilities we have already. Help us to see the privileges we enjoy instead of taking them for granted. Give us the ability to be responsible with the things you've given to us. Amen.



Session 11

Craft and Activity Time

15-20 minutes

Privilege and Responsibility Craft Worksheet

Photocopy the activity sheet and let children decorate the picture with crayons or markers. Encourage the older children to write privileges and responsibilities that they have. Brainstorm as a group as kids are writing to give them a lot of ideas.

For younger children, talk about what a responsibility and a privilege are. Give examples that they can understand and help them see that the two are tied together.

Activity

For Younger Children: Use the leftover shapes from the craft earlier. You may want to make more shapes for the children. First, sort by shape, putting all the circles together, the triangles in the next pile or use baskets and so on. Then redistribute the shapes and have children

sort them by color. Then, if you have time, have the children sort them by size. Talk about sorting mail. "Sorting the mail is not an easy job. The mail carrier has to take the mail and put it all in order before he goes out in his truck to deliver it to all the homes. We're going to pretend that we are mail carriers and put the mail in these five baskets. We will use these colored shapes as the mail."

For Older Children: Gather together several common objects for this activity. Include things like a basketball, a coat, a book, a tennis ball, a plate with a cookie on it, and other miscellaneous things you have around. Give children many objects to make the task very difficult but not impossible. "You've been given a special job to do. Here are your instructions. Carry the objects from here to the other side of the room in one trip." If it seems too easy then you might say, "Bill did a great job. We need someone else who can do it but we are going to add something new this time." Continue adding objects and see who can carry them all across the line in one trip without dropping anything.

In both activities, talk about being responsible to do the job right.



Game

15-20 minutes

The "Doing it Right" Game

Place index cards all over the floor between a starting point and an ending point in the room. These cards must be far enough apart to allow people to navigate through them but close enough to make it difficult. One child is blindfolded on one side of the room. The second child

stands at the finish line giving instructions about moving a little to the left or right or straight ahead. After you get this working well, you can have a second team working at the same time, further complicating the communication process. Young children can try to maneuver through with their eyes open but hopping on one foot or holding hands with a partner.

Review the Bible verse and talk about what it means to be faithful or a good friend.

Snack

5-10 minutes

Eat the good cookies that contain sugar. Talk about how these cookies are a little different than the previous ones. You might say, "Now, do you think you'd let me bake the cookies for your party?"

Review and Close

5-10 minutes

List some of the privileges children have as they were mentioned over this session. You might want to write a list on a whiteboard so children

can see them. One of the signs of responsibility is that we are grateful for the privileges we have. Some children become demanding and view privileges as rights. These children eventually lose those privileges.

Gratefulness is being thankful for what I do have instead of complaining about what I don't have. Encourage children to be thankful. A sincere thank you can brighten a person's day. It can bring cheer into relationships.

What are some ways we can say thank you without words? Explore the ways kids can show gratefulness to their parents and others who have done something kind for them.



Responsibility and Privilege Go Together Craft

Instructions: Photocopy this page for older children. It will add to their craft. Have them list responsibilities and privileges. Then they can cut out these two rectangles and glue them onto the bridge page, one rectangle on each of the lower corners. Younger children can color the bridge page only.

RESPONSIBILITIES
I Have at Home

PRIVILEGES
I Have at Home

Responsibility and Privilege Go Together

RESPONSIBILITY

PRIVILEGE

