

**Small Group Leader's Guide
Theme: Responsibility**

Date: 7/8 March 2015

Character Focus: Responsibility

Lesson 2 of 4 – I will not make excuses, I will make things right when I've made a mistake

Series Overview

We are starting on our new series on the character value of "Responsibility". Responsibility is knowing and doing what is expected of me. All of us have responsibilities. Students are responsible for paying attention and obeying their teacher; children are responsible to obey their parents; parents are responsible to train, protect and provide for their children.

The children will learn to demonstrate responsibility through the 5 "I will"s namely:-

1. I will keep my promises
2. I will not make excuses
3. I will make things right when I've made a mistake
4. I will do all my work to the best of my ability
5. I will know my duty and carry out my duty

Memory Verse: Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. But suppose you are not honest with something very little. Then you will also not be honest with something very large. Luke 16:10 (NIV)

Bible Passage: Exodus 3 and 4

Introduction

We are going to teach the children on the performance values on character – Responsibility. There will be 4 lessons on **Responsibility**.

Lesson	Character Action Point
1	I will keep my promises
2	I will not make excuses I will make things right when I've made a mistake
3	I will do all my work to the best of my ability
4	I will know my duty and carry out my duty

CONNECT / ICEBREAKER – MOST RIDICULOUS EXCUSE (15 mins)

Paint the following scenario for the children – You were late for GKidz this morning.

Make a game about excuses. Ask the children to come up with excuses for being late. See who can make up the most outrageous excuse, the most believable excuse, the silliest excuse, the shortest excuse, and the longest excuse. For example, my alarm clock did not ring, the taxi took a wrong turn and went to Timbuktu before coming here etc. List the excuses down.

Transition to Bible Story

Leader says: We can come up with the most ridiculous excuses to explain why we are late for GKidz. Last week, we learnt that “Responsibility” is knowing and doing what is expected of me. Today we will learn another two ways to demonstrate “Responsibility”:

- 1. I will not make excuses**
- 2. I will make things right when I’ve made a mistake**

We’re going to put on a short drama to act out a story in the Bible where someone made excuses when God gave him an assignment to do.

BIBLE STORY (20 mins)

Logistics: Excuse speech bubble props

- Excuse #1: I’m just a little shepherd...
- Excuse #2: I don’t even know who is sending me!!
- Excuse #3: No one would believe me.
- Excuse #4: I can’t speak well...
- Excuse #5: Someone else is probably better.

Moses’ walking stick/snake (one side looks like a stick, another looks like a snake)

Volunteers needed: 1x boy to be God
1x boy to be Moses
5x boys or girls to be Excuse #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 (give a prop to each Excuse volunteer)

The 7 volunteers are to act out the Bible story, which will be read out by the small group leader. Smaller groups can combine with another group for this segment. Get the volunteers to stand in front, facing the remaining children. The volunteers can sit down until their turn comes

Thank you volunteers for agreeing to help us in acting. Do be **responsible** by listening out for all the instructions and following them quickly. Can we give them a round of applause to encourage them?

Moses was busy looking after his sheep. He counted them one by one. **(Moses to pretend to count all the sheep)** Okay, yes, they are all there. He led the sheep to the mountain of God. **(Moses to walk as if leading a group of sheep)**

Suddenly, Moses spotted a bush that was on fire but didn't seem to burn up! **(Moses to look shocked)**

God was there with Moses at the bush. **(God to stand up)** God called out to Moses. "Moses! Moses!" **(God to be standing somewhere pretending to call to Moses, waving)**

Moses stood at attention **(Moses to stand up straight at attention)** and said, "Here I am!"

God pointed to Egypt **(God to point somewhere)**, and said, "Moses, I want you to go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Okay freeze! **(God and Moses to stand still in their positions)**

Ask the children – can anyone guess how Moses responded? How many of you think he was responsible and went to Egypt immediately? How many of you think that he made excuses? Let's continue watching to find out!

Moses scratched his head. He began to feel very afraid.

Excuse #1 popped up **(Excuse #1 to stand up holding the excuse #1 speech bubble prop)**. Moses stretched out his hands and asked, "Who am I to bring the Israelites out of Egypt? Me just a shepherd. A very very small shepherd."

God patted Moses on the back gently. He said, "Don't worry I will be with you."

Moses shook his head. Excuse #2 appeared in his mind **(Excuse #2 to jump up and hold the speech bubble prop above Moses' head)** Moses said, "How if I go to the Israelites and they asked who is the one who sent me?"

God said in a loud voice, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that I AM sent you. I will rescue them. The elders of Israel will listen to you. I will do miracles before the Egyptians. I will make the Egyptians treat you well."

Moses frowned and thought for a while. Ah! One more excuse, Excuse #3, came to mind. **(Excuse #3 to peek out and lift up his excuse bubble prop)** Moses said to God, “What if the elders of Israel don’t believe and say, “No, God didn’t appear to you.”?”

God said, “Throw your walking stick on the ground.”

Moses threw his stick down and when it fell to the ground, it became a snake! **(Moses to throw the stick prop up such that it lands snake-side up)**

God said, “Pick up the snake by the tail.”

Moses picked the snake up and it became a stick again. **(Moses to pick up the prop and hold it such that the stick-side faces the audience)**

God said, “When the Israelites see this sign, they will believe.”

Moses still had another excuse. Excuse #4! **(Excuse #4 to stand and lift up his excuse bubble prop)** Maybe God will listen to this excuse. Moses spoke in a scared voice, “I don’t speak well. I’ve never spoken well.”

God said, “I’m the One who made human beings able to talk. I will help you to speak.”

Moses still had one final excuse. Excuse #5 was his last option. **(Excuse #5 stand and lift up his excuse bubble prop)** Moses stamped his feet and said in a whining voice, “Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

The Lord looked at all the excuses that Moses gave, Excuse #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 and He became very angry. He said, “I will send your brother Aaron to help you. Now go!”

Okay freeze! **(All to freeze in their positions)** Thank you everybody, please take a bow!

Get children volunteers to return to their seats.

Ask the children:

- Do you think that the volunteers did a good job?
- Were they responsible in doing their roles by listening to the instructions and doing them promptly?
- In the story, can you remember what were some of the excuses that Moses used?
- Do you think that those excuses were good reasons for Moses not to save the Israelites from Egypt?
- Do you think that Moses was being responsible?

CHARACTER REVIEW (20 mins)

Today we will learn and apply the second and third “I will” of Responsibility.

- 2. I will not make excuses**
- 3. I will make things right when I’ve made a mistake**

A responsible person is someone who does not make excuses. When he makes a mistake, he doesn’t blame someone else, but makes things right.

When you make a mistake and are asked to explain what happened, what is the first thing that pops out of your mouth? For example, if you forgot to bring your homework to school, and you are supposed to pass it up today, and your teacher asks you why you didn’t give her your homework, what are some things that you would say? **[Allow children to respond]**

I heard a lot of answers from everyone. Do you know that there is a difference between an excuse and a reason?

A REASON IS...	AN EXCUSE IS...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factual and true Example: I didn’t bring my homework because I forgot to pack it in my bag. I will try my best to remember next time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lie or a half-truth Example: I didn’t bring my homework because my dog ate it (and you don’t have a dog)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavoidable Example: I was late because the MRT broke down for 30 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidable Example: I was late because I took a long time to wake up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time only Example: I didn't practice piano today as my grandma had to go to the doctor and I had to follow her. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same story every time Example: I didn't practice piano today because I didn't have any time because I got carried away watching TV

Even if you have a good reason, it doesn't mean that you won't be punished or have to correct your mistake. When we make a mistake, a responsible person tries to make it right!

If you forgot to bring your homework today, what is one thing that you can do to make it right? **[Allow children to respond. Suggestion: write a reminder for yourself to**

bring it the next day]

If you were late today, what is one thing that you can do to make it right? ***[Allow children to respond. Suggestion: set your alarm 15 minutes earlier the next time so that you won't be late]***

Bean Show and Tell

Now I want everyone to take out your beans and show us how well they grew!

For children who brought their beans and watered them daily

- Ask one or two children to show everyone their beans, and to share with everyone about their experience
- Affirm the children for being responsible to take care of the beans

For children who didn't bring their beans, or didn't water them daily

- Ask them why. Encourage them to give reasons, rather than excuses.
- Affirm the children for taking responsibility for their mistake and giving reasons, not excuses

3x3 Follow Up - HISCRAFT

- Check if everyone has three names listed in their 3x3 card.
- Ask – are those friends attending another church? If so, then encourage them to invite other friends who have yet to hear about God, or those who have accepted Christ but do not come back regularly to church.
- Ask the children if they have been responsible in praying for their 3x3 friends daily
- Affirm those who have and encourage them to continue praying for their friends

Give out three flyers and three craft sheets per child.

Their responsibility this week is to:

- Complete the craft with their parents' help
- Invite their friends to HISCRAFT using the flyer and the cube.

REVIEW MEMORY VERSE (10 mins)

Memory Verse: Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. But suppose you are not honest with something very little. Then you will also not be honest with something very large.

Luke 16:10 (NIRV)

- This week we will help the children to understand the verse first.
- Select a volunteer.
- Say, “This is [name of child]. He/she is my helper. [Name of child], I am going to give you a small responsibility. I want you to help me to hold this for 1 minute while I speak. **[Provide them with an item]** Can you do that?”
- While the child holds the item up, talk to the other children for 1 minute. You can ask them which bean grew the best, etc.
- After 1 minute, say, “Well done! You have done this small responsibility well. I think I’m ready to put you in charge of something bigger next time! You have been a good helper!”
- Ask the volunteer to take a seat.
- Explain that if the volunteer had not done that small responsibility well, and had been irresponsible, you wouldn’t be able to trust them with bigger responsibilities. In the same way, God sees how we complete small tasks, before He trusts us with bigger tasks.

PARENT’S TOOLKIT (5 mins)

Hold up the Character Development Toolkit (sample copy provided by GKidz) and show the children.

Leader says: Some of your parents have attended the Intentional Parenting Workshop organized by GKidz. Please ask your parents to go through the following with you at home.

1. Go through pages 11 & 12 of Booklet A – Performance, Character Development Parents’ Toolkit.
2. Go through Week 1 of the “Star Action Chart” and earn as many stars as you can.

Children, I want you to earn as many stars as you can when your parents go through the Star Action Chart with you. At the last lesson on “Responsibility”, I want you to bring back the Star Action Chart. We shall count the number of stars you have earned and you will get a special reward from GKidz.

References

1. Character First Education Series 2, Booklet 1