



Raising Up SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

HARDWORKING: *Strive for the Best*

Also in this newsletter:

- Connect Your Kids to God • Family Fun • Easy Bonus Activity

TIP:
Display this newsletter at home, and use the activities as desired throughout the week.



Questions to Go at bedtime, mealtime or car time

- What are some benefits to working hard?
- How can you know when work has been well done?
- How do you feel when you've done your best on something?

Verse to Chew on

"Well-done work has its own reward" (Proverbs 12:14, *The Message*).

- Post this verse on a piece of paper. This week add notes when those in the family do their best, e.g., "Great job with the performance!" "Nice work on your spelling test!"
- Share with your kids what kinds of rewards you've received from doing your best in some kind of work.

Character Builder: Hardworking

Being a hard worker comes more naturally for some than others. Kids who have difficulty in this area can often feel frustrated and overwhelmed with schoolwork and chores at home. Let your kids share honestly about the struggles they have. Periodically ask them if things seem to be getting easier. Listening sends them a message that they are not alone. Encourage them with these points:

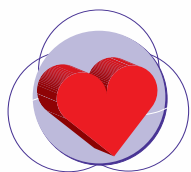
- **Give it your best**, and as you grow you'll see yourself changing. Things that seem very hard now will seem easy as you get older. Think about how hard some things were to do a couple of years ago. Those would be easy things now because you're growing and changing.
- **Striving** for the best has benefits. The best thing you can do in all areas of your life is to know God. That's something anyone can do well. God "rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6, *NIV*).
- **God gives strength** for the work you need to do (see 1 Peter 4:11). Ask Him for help.

Individualize

Kids develop at different rates. Sometimes being fair means adjusting tasks to help them succeed. Plan to gradually increase tasks and responsibilities. But for any task, let the child know you expect his or her best.

Preschool Focus

Know what your child is capable of doing. Signs that a task is overwhelming could include misbehavior, crying or whining, or just not doing the job. Look for ways to help your child succeed and give lots of praise and encouragement.



Connect Your Kids to God

What does God want me to do when I grow up?

No matter what your job is, He wants you to do two things for sure:

1. Love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and body.
2. Expand His kingdom by letting others know about Him.

In life, you will have many roles: son or daughter, student, friend, maybe spouse and parent, and others. In all of these, you can love God and serve Him. Continue to follow His ways and learn more about Him. You can pray David's prayer, too: "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths . . . my hope is in you" (Psalm 25:4-5, *NIV*).

You Can Do It!

- Look for areas your kids are naturally strong in and tell them about it.
- Recognize things like being a good friend, smiling a lot, giving good hugs, helping a little sister, keeping belongings organized, sharing with others.
- Let them know that God has good plans for them and their future (see Jeremiah 29:11). He made them special for good purposes.

Family Fun

Give your kids a sense of family history with these activities.

- Draw a simple family tree. Start with your kids at the bottom and work up and out as far as you can.
- If your family has lived somewhere else, point out the locations on a map or globe.
- Tell stories about your extended family. Call, write, or e-mail family members and ask them to share favorite family stories. Write them down and put them in a 3-ring binder. Read these together to give your kids a sense of generations and history.
- Share what games you liked to play when you were a kid and play some with your kids.

Visit www.raisingupspiritualchampions.com for more Family Fun.

Did You Know?

If you "keep looking straight ahead, without turning aside" and you "know where you are headed" then "you will stay on solid ground. Don't make a mistake by turning to the right or the left."

—Proverbs 4:25-27, *CEV*

Easy Bonus Activity

Take an inventory to get to know each one's work styles.

- Do you prefer to work alone, with another person?
- Is it easier to know what to do by reading or hearing instructions?
- Do you like to check off parts of a task or plow through and get the job done?

Preschool Focus

Give your child a job helping you make a recipe, and tell him the reward for his best work is to get to make cloud pictures with it. Mix together the same amount of liquid white glue and shaving cream. Plop it onto construction paper and create an image you might see in the clouds. Don't spread it out too much or it will flatten. Let it dry overnight.