

SABBATH SCHOOL

Jr. High School Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level J • Unit 4 • Week 2

RESPONSIBILITY

OBJECTIVE:

To learn the importance and meaning of being responsible.

DEFINITION:

To be responsible: Do what you are supposed to do. Persevere: Keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

INTRODUCTION:

"I hate doing homework!" (Or cleaning my room—helping with chores—working hard—being on time!)

Today let's look at the topic of "Responsibility." What is it? And does it really matter?

LESSON:

Discussion:

Let's brainstorm to think of influences around us that keep us "in the Zone"—and for influence that take us "out of the Zone." What are some factors that help us develop character or, on the other hand, keep us from developing character?

- Friends.
- Family.
- Life experiences.
- Stories you hear (including Bible).
- Books you read (including Bible).
- Words you hear (name sources—friends, TV, music, church).

- TV programs and movies you watch.
- Music you hear.

We each choose how we will behave, think, believe, react, etc. *Life is full of choices . . .*

Being responsible means taking charge of your choices, and thus, your life.

Do you ever find yourself blaming someone else when you do not take responsibility for your actions? During the day today, try to catch yourself when you start to make an excuse for your actions.

Discussion:

Do we always choose what we do, say or believe?

Responsibility requires you to recognize that what you do—and what you don't do—matters, and that you are morally responsible for the consequences of your choices.

Ezekiel 18:20: "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."

Can you choose whether you are good looking, smart or have a certain talent? Can you choose your parents or the circumstances or environment in which you grow up? No, of course not.

Discussion:

So, if someone is raised in a disadvantaged situation, does that excuse him or her from building character? Why not?

All of us choose how to deal with the challenges and opportunities of life. It is from making these choices, that our character is formed.

Ludwig van Beethoven, one of the world's major composers, was told by a music teacher that he had no talent for music. In fact, this teacher once remarked about Beethoven, "As a composer he is hopeless."

Michael Jordan, arguably the best basketball player of all time, was cut from his high school basketball team.

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the electric light, the phonograph and more than a hundred other useful items, was told by a teacher that he was too stupid to learn anything.

None of these people used their life's circumstances as an excuse.

We each have the responsibility of CHANGING into responsible people.

Ezekiel 18:21: "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die."

Verse 31: "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit."

Discussion:

Let's consider the relevance of the following **Major Concepts of Responsibility**. Why are they important for a person who wants to be responsible?

- Be accountable for your actions.
- Exercise self-control.
- Plan and set goals for achievement.
- Choose positive friends/role models.
- Do your duties.
- Be God-reliant and self-reliant (don't cause others to have to fill in for you).
- Pursue excellence ("do it with your might").
- Be persistent in doing right (persevere to the end).
- Never make excuses (lies to transfer blame—"A bad workman always blames his tools").
- Set a good example (be a light).
- Be morally autonomous from society ("come out of her my people").

1 Corinthians 3:12-13: "Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is."

You are a single individual who either has responsible character, or who does not. All of us need to consider that our future is determined by whether or not we are RESPONSIBLE.

Discussion:

How does being responsible or not being responsible affect:

- Friendship?
- Possessions?
- Dating?
- Marriage?
- Career?
- Entrance into the Kingdom of God?

[This question could be posed to break-out groups to address each area affected.]

Revelation 2:23: ". . . All the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

CONCLUSION:

Here are some points to think about concerning being responsible:

Do:

- Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices—not only what you do, but what you don't do.
- Think long-term in making your choices.
- Follow God's laws in everything you do.
- Set a good example in being responsible.

Don't:

- Accept sin and selfishness in your life.
- Look the other way when you can help.
- Make excuses.
- Blame others for your unhappiness.

ACTIVITY/ASSIGNMENT:

Look for someone who did something responsible today. What made you notice him or her?

Do something responsible today that interferes with your immediate plans. In doing so, you will be viewed as a person of character!