

## Character Trait December 3-9 is Responsibility

**Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”**

**CHARACTER:** the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

**Responsibility:** Knowing and doing what is expected of me.

**Derivation:** The word *responsibility* comes from the Late Latin word *responsibilis*, which means “requiring an answer.” The French used this Latin word to coin their word *responsible*. Toward the end of the sixteenth century, English society adopted the Old French word and used it to mean “corresponding to or answering to.” It emphasized that an individual was answerable to someone. The primary concept behind *responsibility* is that every individual must take ownership of his or her attitudes, words, and actions.

**Weekly Verse:** Luke 12:48 “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

**Bible Story:** Matthew 25:14-30 tells the story of how God entrusts us with different talents but expects us to use them.

**Quote:** “We are always responsible for how we act, no matter how we feel.”

### Application:

- 1. Know and Do Your Duty:** Responsibility is knowing your roles in life—child, student, citizen, spouse, parent, employee, friend—and accepting the duties that accompany each role.
- 2. Be Accountable:** When a decision must be made within your jurisdiction, take responsibility to determine and implement the best course of action. Do not hide behind others or attempt to have them make decisions for you.
- 3. Make No Excuses:** Do not blame circumstances or people for your failures.
- 4. Do Your Best:** Each of us can make the most of the knowledge, skills, and abilities we have.

### Discussion Questions:

1. List your roles in life: son/daughter, sibling, employee, student, teammate, citizen, and friend. Identify several responsibilities incumbent upon you in each role.
2. What responsibilities are you most tempted to shirk? Why do you want to avoid making certain decisions?