

Character Trait for February 4-10 is Diligence

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.

Diligence: Focusing all of my energy to complete the tasks assigned to me.

di•li•gence *n* 1: steady application of effort to accomplish a task 2: exerting oneself to fulfill what is undertaken without unnecessary delay 3: acting with great care and effort

Weekly Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best (be diligent) to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Bible Story: Nehemiah 1:1 to 6:16 describes how Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days. In Nehemiah 6, the enemies who were trying to stop the rebuilding sent him many messages, asking him to stop the work and to meet with them. Nehemiah’s reply in verse 3 is a classic example of diligence. He says, “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” He refused to let himself be sidetracked away from the work God had called him to do.

Quote: “The secret to getting ahead is getting started.”

Leadership: Leaders are often visionary people who have a great vision for their organization but may find it hard to bring that vision to life because they lack diligence and are impatient. This is why so many leaders focus on self-discipline—through it they can teach themselves to be diligent. By focusing on routines or systems on a daily basis they know that eventually their vision will become reality.

Application:

- 1) Understand the job.
- 2) Get started.
- 3) Focus your energy.
- 4) Maintain high quality.
- 5) Evaluate your work.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Are “diligence” and “hard work” the same or are they different? Why?
- 2) Which one of the 5 steps listed above is typically the hardest for you to accomplish?