

## Character Trait for February 18-24 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.

**Derivation:** 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:** Proverbs 12:24 "Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor."

**Bible Story:** Genesis 6:9-22 describes Noah building the Ark, a process that may have taken decades. Noah was able to focus and avoid distractions in order to accomplish this task.

**Quote:** "Time is what we want the most, but what we use the worst."

### Application:

Diligence is the decision to use our energy and time in the best way possible. To practice diligence, I will:

- Finish my projects.
- Do the job right the first time.
- Follow instructions.
- Concentrate on my work.
- Avoid laziness.

Matthew 25:14-30 reminds us that being diligent in small areas will lead to God increasing our responsibilities and blessings. Many of us want to start at the top and be given great things immediately instead of proving our diligence first.

### Discussion Questions:

Look at the list of 5 topics above. Which one is the hardest for you to achieve?

Can you tell the story of a famous person who showed diligence?