

## Character Trait for April 1-7 is Loyalty

**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.

**Loyalty:** Demonstrating commitment to others.

**Derivation:** **loy•al•ty** n 1: the quality or state of being faithful to a person or institution to which fidelity is due 2: the tie binding a person to that to which fidelity is due.

The Old French word *loial* entered the English lexicon in the mid-1400s and meant "personal faithfulness to legal obligations. The related French noun, *loialté*, became *loyaltee* in Middle English, and *loyalty* eventually replaced *loyaltee*.

A loyal person faithfully fulfills direct and implicit commitments to others.

**Weekly Verse:** John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

**Bible Story:** I Samuel 20 tells us the story of the friendship of Jonathan and David.

**Quote:** "I’m more concerned with who you are behind my back than who you are in front of me. Your loyalty shouldn’t depend on my presence.”

**Application:** Similar to qualities such as patience and endurance, loyalty is often seen not in one moment, but over a period of time. As you consistently invest in the lives of others, trust can be built and relationships strengthened.

The true test of loyalty lies in what we do when life brings challenges our way. Having an awareness that one may have to overcome obstacles along the way is part of loyalty.

When those tough times come, a person with loyalty will be dependable because they are determined to carry on even with adversity staring them in the face. They will finish well because they prepared themselves and chose to fulfill the commitment they made to others.

### Discussion Questions:

When was the last time you demonstrated loyalty to a friend by sticking with them through a tough time in their life?

Can you think of a time when someone who you thought was your friend betrayed you? How did that make you feel?