

Character Trait for February 28-March 4 is Dependability

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.

Dependability: Fulfilling commitments even in the face of difficulty and unexpected sacrifice.

Derivation: De•pen•da•bil•i•ty *n* 1: quality of that which can be counted upon; able to be leaned upon 2: reliability 3: trustworthiness

Weekly Verse: Phil 1:27 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”

Bible Story: 2 Samuel 9. David fulfills his commitment to the family of Jonathan through Mephibosheth.

Quote: "Ability isn't worth much without dependability."

Application:

1. Be Careful What You Promise: The value you place on your commitments will determine your dependability. Recognize the seriousness of giving your word. Promising more than you can deliver only prevents others from believing you in the future.

2. Clarify Expectations: Ask questions in order to clarify each party's expectations before you make an agreement. Know your everyday responsibilities at work, and identify the responsibilities that come with your roles as a citizen, spouse, parent, student, neighbor, or friend. Get the details you need to do the right thing.

3. Get It Done: Good intentions will not make you dependable. Think through the process; gather the information, supplies, and expertise needed; and get started. Take initiative to work through the difficulties you encounter along the way.

Discussion Questions:

When was the last time you over-promised and couldn't fulfill what you said you were going to do? How did that make you feel?

Think of a friend who is dependable. How do you feel about them compared to others who aren't?