

Character Traits for November are Discernment and Discretion

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

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

We have two character traits this month, and will be focusing on one of them each week. This week the focus is on discretion.

Discretion: Recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences.

Derivation: **Discretion** comes from the Latin word, *discretionem*, which means "the power to distinguish, to separate".

Weekly Verse: Proverbs 2:11 "Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you."

Bible Story: I Samuel 24 tells the story of David refusing to kill Saul, even when they were in the same cave.

Quote: "Discretion is being able to raise your eyebrow instead of your voice."

Application:

To practice Discretion I will:

- Consider My Reactions
- Choose My Words Carefully
- Check My Attitude
- Mind My Manners
- Learn From My Critics

Philosophers view discretion as the hole in the middle of the doughnut. The doughnut itself is a ring that represents the black and white rules for any given situation. The doughnut hole represents the gaps not specifically covered by these rules. Discretion is where we exercise judgment within the ring of the rules and choose the best words or actions.

Discussion Questions:

What does the saying "throw discretion to the wind" mean? Is that a good idea?

Can you give an example from your own life where you showed discretion? Where you considered your reactions and words before you said or did something?