

# 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, but will be focusing on one of them each week. This week will be discernment.**

**Discernment:** Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen. Also, the ability to judge a situation well.

**Derivation: Discernment** from Latin discernere "to separate" This root description draws a visual of untying a knot, separating the various pieces until the knot is loosened, the problem solved.

**Weekly Verse:** Hosea 14:9 "Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them."

**Bible Story:** Genesis 41:1-39 is the story of Joseph using discernment in interpreting Pharaoh's dreams.

**Quote:** "Discernment is the ability to see things for what they really are, and not for what you want them to be."

## **Application:**

**To practice Discernment I will:**

- ask questions
- not judge hastily
- learn from experience and the past
- not repeat mistakes
- trace problems to their causes

## **Discussion Questions:**

How have you sought sound advice? What have you learned from your critics?

Can you give an example of someone you know who you think is discerning? What have you learned from them?