

B. Godly Character – Following a Moral Compass.

(Suggested teaching time: 15 minutes)

1. Definition of Character.

The word *character* comes from a Greek word that means an engraving instrument. A character is an impressed image that corresponds with the original pattern. Likewise, God desires His character to be impressed into ours.

← Key point to emphasize! God desires to have His character impressed into ours.

2. Character is tested and proven through pressure.

Failure can have ultimate value, if life lessons are learned. Consider King David in 2Sa 12:13. Although he sinned grievously, the Lord restored him because of his repentant heart.

← Ask the group how their character has been formed through pressure.

3. Character is revealed in crisis – not formed in it.

Character is what we default to in difficulty. Consider King Saul in 1Sa 15:22-23. The Lord rejected him as king because he failed to seek and obey the Lord during a crisis, costing him the throne.

4. Character is measured by what we are willing to surrender.

Consider Jonathan in 1Sa 23:17. Although he was next in line for the throne, Jonathan deferred to David as God's anointed choice.

5. Character is a lifetime pursuit.

We will each spend our life developing our character. Even though it will never be perfected here, we must keep on trying. (Mt 5:48)

6. Character is not charisma.

People can have charisma (dynamic personalities and giftings), but no character. Personality and gifts can take you places, but you need character to keep you there.

7. Character is fearing God, not man.

Character is much more concerned with God's opinion than living for the praise and approval of man. (Pr 29:25)

8. Character is shaped by the company we keep.

Associating with others of godly character will impact our own (Pr 4:13). And associating with others of ungodly character also will impact our character (1Co 15:33).

If time permits, have the group see Appendix 3A and 3B for more thoughts on character.

Review the eight attributes described in 2Pt 1:5-7 for further focus on character.

[See Appendix 3A,B]

Point to Ponder

Character is who you are when no one is looking.

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