



Teaching Character Series: Responsibility

LESSON AIM:

Your students will learn the importance of becoming a responsible person and will gain a greater appreciation for responsibility in their lives. They will learn that responsible people accept the consequences of their actions and choices without making excuses or trying to shift the blame onto others. They will learn to take personal responsibility for the course of their lives and work to make changes in themselves and their community.

SLIDE 1-Title Page

SLIDE 2-What does 'responsibility' or 'being responsible' mean?

FACILITATOR: Have students give their definition of responsibility or being responsible.

SLIDE 3-Responsibility Means...

"being **accountable** (taking the credit or blame) for my decisions and actions and for the **consequences** of my decisions and actions."

SLIDE 4-DISCUSS THIS QUOTE: "Handle your business or your business will handle you."

Facilitator have students recite and discuss this quote: *"Handle your business or your business will handle you."*

Remind them that responsibility means handling your business/taking care of your duties in a timely manner (not procrastinating).

SLIDE 5-RESPONSIBILITY QUIZ

- I take good care of my own things.
- I own up when I know I did something wrong.
- I finish the tasks I start.
- I take care of things that do not belong to me.
- I do my assignments, homework and my share of group projects.
- I get to school and my classes on time.

FACILITATOR: Have students answer and keep count of how many of these statements they can answer 'yes.'

SLIDE 6-

HOW DID YOU DO?

Less than 3 out of 7: You need to work on being more responsible.

3 or 4 out of 7: You are on your way, but there's room for improvement.

5 out of 7: You are pretty responsible.

6 or 7 out of 7: Bravo! We applaud you for being a RESPONSIBLE PERSON!

FACILITATOR: Discuss the results of the quiz by taking a poll by the show of hands for each category.

SLIDE 7- POSITIVES & NEGATIVES

FACILITATOR: Explain what a responsibility is- it's something you are expected to do. When you do the thing you are expected to do, you are being responsible, and a positive result occurs. When you do not do the thing you are supposed to do, you are not being responsible, or being irresponsible, and there is a negative consequence for having neglected your responsibility. Being responsible has two components- 1) the act of doing the thing you are responsible for, and 2) accepting the good or negative outcome of your actions.

SLIDE 8- TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS...

- **Not blaming others or making excuses**
- **Owning up to our actions; admit to making mistakes**
- **Owning how we choose to think or feel**
- **Taking care of our health and personal hygiene**
- **Owning our behavior, attitude and character**
- **Being accountable**

Responsibility is a core value for living a life of integrity and honor. Because irresponsible behavior and choices can have long-lasting effects. People who are irresponsible can bring harm to themselves and others.

SLIDE 9- EXCUSES

- **Can you think of 3 excuses you have used recently? Did they work?**
- **Why do we make excuses?**
- **Is it easier to make excuses or take responsibility? Why?**

Discuss how we sometimes use "excuses" to try to deny responsibility for our actions and for what is happening in our lives. Emphasize that we often try to project blame onto others, in an attempt to also deny our responsibility in fixing the situation. Discuss how repeatedly making these excuses can lead us to feeling powerless.

SLIDE 10- SIX AREAS WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

MORAL RESPONSIBILITY to other people, animals, and the earth. This means caring, defending, helping, building, protecting, preserving, and sustaining. We are accountable for treating other people justly and fairly, for honoring other living things, and for being environmentally aware.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY to the laws and ordinances of your community, state, and country. If there is a law they believe is outdated, discriminatory, or unfair, they can work to change, improve, or eliminate it. They cannot simply decide to disobey it.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY means treating their parents, siblings, and other relatives with love and respect, following their parents' rules, and doing chores and duties at home.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY As a part of the community, we are responsible for treating others as we want to be treated, for participating in community activities and decisions, and for being an active, contributing citizen. Encourage them to pick up trash to keep the community clean. Read local and community newspapers to stay informed. Vote in elections when they are old enough.

RESPONSIBILITY TO CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, BELIEFS, AND RULES These may come from family, community, heritage, or faith. Encourage students to learn what they are and do their best to respect and follow them.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY It is up to each of us to become a person of good character. Parents, teachers, religious leaders, scout leaders, and other caring adults may help to guide us, but only we can determine the kind of person we are and ultimately become. Urge your students to get organized, be punctual, and honor their commitments.

SLIDE 11-

WHY IS BEING RESPONSIBLE IMPORTANT?

- **When you are responsible:**
- **People can trust you to do what you say you'll do**
- **You get positive results and avoid negative consequences**
- **Helps people live together safely and with cooperation**

SLIDE 12-

In Case You Haven't Heard it Today, Let Us Be the First to Say...WE LOVE YOU!

Possible Break Out Questions

#1

Have someone record your group's responses to the questions above, so that you can share your ideas with the larger group.

"You are always responsible for how you act, no matter how you feel." – Robert Tew

Questions:

1. What does your assigned quote mean to you?
 2. What does the quote have to do with **attitude**?
 3. What does the quote have to do with **responsibility**?
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#2

Have someone record your group's responses to the questions above, so that you can share your ideas with the larger group.

"It's not what happens to you, it's how you react to what happens to you." –Epictetus

Questions:

1. What does your assigned quote mean to you?
 2. What does the quote have to do with **attitude**?
 3. What does the quote have to do with **responsibility**?
-

#3

Have someone record your group's responses to the questions above, so that you can share your ideas with the larger group.

"People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude." – John C. Maxwell

Questions:

1. What does your assigned quote mean to you?
 2. What does the quote have to do with **attitude**?
 3. What does the quote have to do with **responsibility**?
-

#4

Have someone record your group's responses to the questions above, so that you can share your ideas with the larger group.

"Some people create their own storms, and then get upset when it rains." –Unknown

Questions:

1. What does your assigned quote mean to you?
2. What does the quote have to do with **attitude**?
3. What does the quote have to do with **responsibility**?