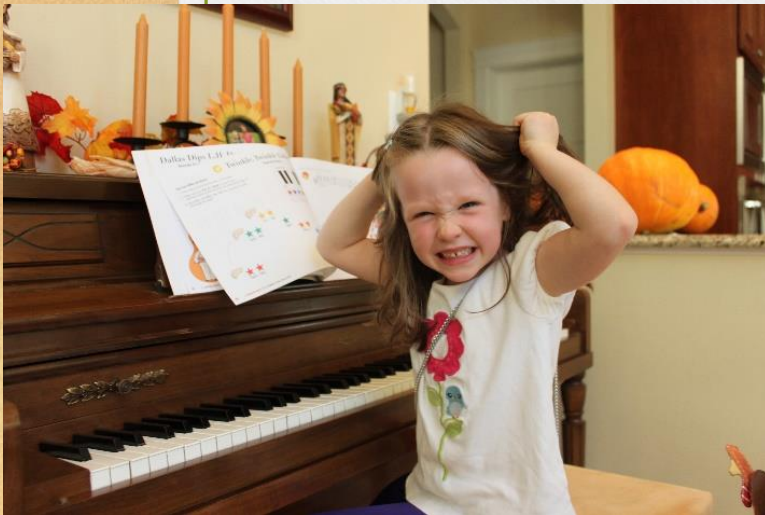




THE
BEAR CREEK
SCHOOL

Intentionally Building Godly Character

By Ben and Michelle Dale



Why teach Character? We can fight “the Fall!”

This is from a Biblical Worldview of:

- “Creation” by God
- “the Fall” of humans into sin
- God’s “Redemption” through Jesus Christ

We (can) pursue character because we are fighting against the brokenness of this world!



How? “...suffering produces
perseverance; perseverance
[produces] character” Romans 5:3,4

We will have suffering but character is success through perseverance.

Power - We can be transformed by renewing our mind and overcome evil with good (Romans 12:2, 21)

Purpose - And after acceptance of God’s Grace, we are designed to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Promise -- Our good works, character, shining in this world glorifies God in heaven (Matthew 5:16).



What is first?

Gratitude (Get the order correct!)

- We work on character out of **gratitude** because of God's gift of Hope not self-serving ingratiating to work oneself into Heaven.
- We teach and work on character because **first**, we have been given Grace and thus God's strength.
- Growing in character is not a contest or a competition against others.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart: and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Accepting	Appreciative	Attentive	Boldness
Caring	Cheerful	Compassionate	Confident
Courteous	Content	Courageous	Dependable
Diligent	Empathy	Encouragement	Faithful
Forgiving	Friendly	Generous	Gentleness
Helpful	Honest	Humble	Integrity
Joyful	Just	Kind	Leader
Loving	Obedient	Patient	Peaceful
Persevering	Rejoicing	Responsible	Repentant
Secure	Self-control	Serving	Sharing
Teachable	Thankful	Thoughtful	Wise

We “Get To”

- **Teaching** – Identify the character quality so you can learn about it from:
 - Bible
 - books and stories
 - music and DVDs
 - real-life examples
 - activities



Follow Through

- **Training** – Intentionally make time to see

the character quality:

- Specific praise
- Role playing
- Point out ways to improve
- Give examples of when you saw the character quality taking root
- Provide correction when needed



Teaching & Training

Takes time

- Schedule it
- Implement it
- Pray for it
- Reflect on growth



Go Deeper

- **Modeling** - Our kids often value what we value. Verbalizing actions for kids that are younger can be very helpful. Provide opportunities where you model correct actions.

Go Higher

- **Honor God** - Show them from the Bible what God says about the specific character quality. This gives validity and authority.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Go Broader

- **Continue to Grow** - What areas are you growing in? Do you ever verbalize this to your kids? (Try something new Tuesday. I am growing in being courageous in trying new dinner recipes.)

Example: Thankfulness

- **Teaching** – 1 Thess. 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- **Training** - “Put off” complaining “Put on” thankfulness
- **Activities vary by age:**
 - * Thankfulness spoon, turkey, tree, jar etc.
 - * Attitude of gratitude – be quick to give thanks (Don’t rob your kids of the opportunity to say thanks without being prompted)
 - * Thank two people-a-day challenge
 - * Make cards, donate food, bless others



Look at the bookmark and circle which character quality you want to begin teaching your child.

Think about what training process you could integrate into daily life this week.

Resources

Seeds Family Worship CDs and resources – www.seedsfamilyworship.com

We Choose Virtue Cards – www.wechoosevirtues.com

Wise Words for Moms by Ginger Hubbard, app

Child Training Bible Chart Set – www.childtrainingbible.com

Virtue Training Bible Chart Set – www.virtuetrainingbible.com

Adventures in Odyssey – www.whitsend.org

Hide ‘em in Your Heart Bible Memory Melodies with Steve Green

DVDs:

Chuck Swindoll’s Paws & Tales biblical wisdom for kids

Adventures in Odyssey

Character Builders Series

Theo – Teaching Children God’s Word

Veggie Tales

Buck Denver asks What’s in the Bible?

Books:

Learning about Jesus by James Welles www.childrenministries.com (web site under construction)

Paw Paw Chuck's Big Ideas in the Bible by Charles R. Swindoll

Raising a Young Modern-Day Princess by Doreen Hanna & Karen Whiting

God's Wisdom for Little Girls by Elizabeth George

Joy by Jane Moncure

Adam Raccoon and the Circus Master by Glen Keane

Building Christian Character – Buzzle Billy – A Book About Sharing by Michael Waite

Wallaby Booth And the Truth about Honesty by Joanna Weaver

A Children's Book About Disobeying by Joy Berry

The Children's Book of Virtues by William Bennett



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