

Wisdom and Humility

(May & June Parent Edition)

Definitions:

- Wisdom is the master virtue, the one that steers the others. Wisdom tells us how to put the virtues into practice; it tells us when and how to act.**
- Humility is the virtue of striving for virtue. Humility allows us to see ourselves, flaws and all, and to grow in character as we make positive changes.**

Quotes:



“Dare to be wise!”

-Frederick von Schiller

“Humility is the solid foundation of all the virtues.”

-Confucius

“We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success.”

-Samuel Smiles

“There is no limit to what can be done if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.”

-Unknown author

Discussion Starters:

- What is the difference between being smart and being wise?
- You've won your basketball game against a team that has never won a game. How could you show humility, even though you were the winner?
- Discuss these scenarios: You really want a new CD player, but your mother's birthday is in a month. What should you do? Pick a fable and talk about how the character was wise and or possibly foolish.
- Brainstorm ways that family members can show wisdom (or humility) at home, or in their community.
- Discuss someone that is currently in the news. Do you consider this person wise? Why or why not?
- Interview elders in your family and ask them to share their wisdom with you.
- Think of a wise person (Pearl Buck, Susan B. Anthony, Jimmy Carter, Ben Franklin, Anne Frank, Helen Keller, Abe Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa) and talk with your child about what behaviors and qualities this wise person demonstrated.

Resources:

- Good Ideas to Help Young People Develop Good Character* available in every school.
- www.charactercounts.org
- The Giver* by Lois Lowry (ages 12 and up)
- The Boy Who Lost His Face* (ages 10 and up)
- Winter Camp* (ages 10 and up)
- The Children's Book of Virtues* by William Bennett

