

# Responsibility means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 1

## Read Matthew 22:36-38

In school, every teacher wants their students know what's expected of them so they can have a successful year.

Write down a rule you have at school:

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What happens if you break this rule?

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Can you imagine what it would be like if your teacher had over 600 rules for you to follow? When Jesus lived on earth, Jews followed over 600 different laws or rules. There were rules about work, rules about clothes, and rules about caring for others. When a religious leader asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" it was intended to be a trick question. But Jesus didn't fall for his trap. Instead Jesus simply said: **"Love God. Love others."**

Love God. We are called to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. When you love God and put Him first, you won't need 600 other rules. Loving God is our number one responsibility.

As you pray today, tell God why you love Him. List some things you're thankful for and ask Him to help you put Him first, every day.

DAY 2

## Read Matthew 22:39-40

When Jesus answered the religious leader's question about the most important commandment, He didn't stop with "love God." He quickly added the second, equally important part: Love others.

When you think about it, loving God and loving others are like two sides of a coin. You can't really say you love God and then turn around and be unkind to your brother or the kid at school. And you can't really love your brother or the kid at school without loving God. Why? Because God is love. The only reason you know how to love is because God loved you first.

Grab a coin and cover it with masking tape. Write "God" on one side and "Others" on the other side.

Carry that coin in your pocket this week to remind yourself of your most important responsibilities. **Ask God to help you love Him and love others, even when it's hard.**



Love God.  
Love others.



DAY 3

### Read Psalm 31:23

What are some ways you show your parents you love them? List them in space below:

\_\_\_\_\_

One big way you show your parents you love them is by obeying them. Even when you'd rather not. Even when you think their rules are lame. A parent's job is to guide and protect their children. By obeying them, you're showing that you trust they're leading you in the right direction.

Guess what? The same idea is true when it comes to loving God. The number one way you can show God you love Him is by being obedient to Him. When you read His word and follow what it says, you're taking your responsibility to "Love God" seriously.

Remember, God made you. He loves you. He will always lead you in the right direction because His way is the best way. This week, look for ways to be obedient as you follow God knowing that obedience is best. **Love God. Love others.**



DAY 4

### Read 1 Peter 4:8

List all the people that sat by you today:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From your brother in the backseat, to the kid in the desk next to you, to your parent at the dinner table, on any given day, you sit next to a lot of "one another's." Part of your responsibility is to love God and all those one another's around you.

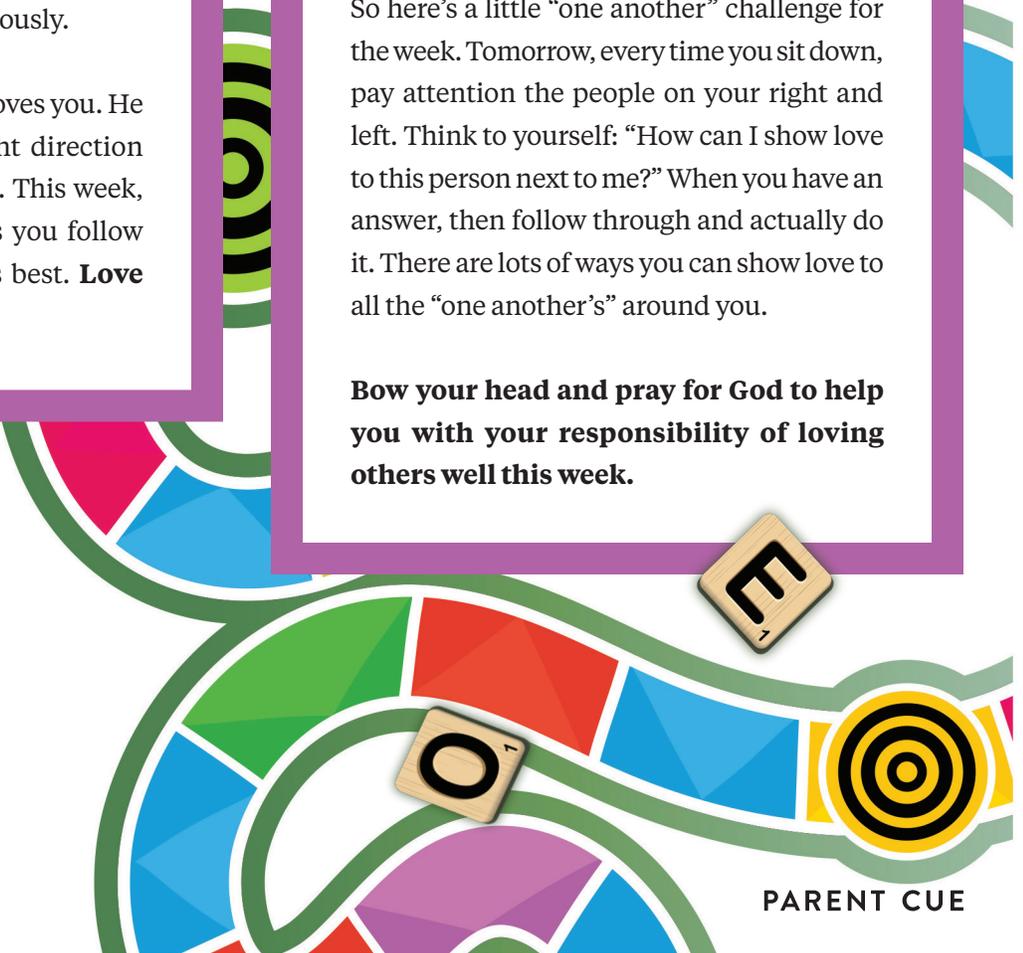
So here's a little "one another" challenge for the week. Tomorrow, every time you sit down, pay attention the people on your right and left. Think to yourself: "How can I show love to this person next to me?" When you have an answer, then follow through and actually do it. There are lots of ways you can show love to all the "one another's" around you.

**Bow your head and pray for God to help you with your responsibility of loving others well this week.**



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DAY 2

## Read Hebrew 13:16

What is an offering? Usually when we think of an offering, we think of money. But the offering today's verse is talking about has nothing to do with money.

Today's verse is all about sharing and doing good for others, not ourselves. And when we share what we have God is pleased. Why? Because helping others costs us something. When we choose to stop and help someone else, when we share what we have, the sacrifices we make are pleasing to God.

On each line, write one way you could help in each example.

A classmate has used up all of his eraser trying to fix his incorrect math problem.

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A kid on your ball team is sad because he missed the shot and the other team scored.

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A friend in your neighborhood has to finish raking the leaves in his yard before he can play.

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**Ask God** to help you pay attention this week so you "don't forget to do good." Remember to share, and serve, and love others this week, knowing that this makes God very happy!

DAY 1

## Read 1 Timothy 6:18

Did you catch the first part of the verse that says, "Command the rich"? Maybe you're thinking, "Yeah, but this verse talks about the rich doing good. I'm not rich." Hold on, you're not off the hook yet. Read the second sentence. Tell them to be rich in doing what? Good things! Good things have nothing to do with money or stuff. Good things can include: being helpful, showing courtesy to others, putting others first, listening, being kind.

**God wants us to be rich in good things and good deeds.** He wants us to take our responsibility to love others seriously and to share what we have. As you pray today, picture one person you see almost every day. Ask God to help you "be rich in good things" toward that person this week.



DAY 3

### Read Romans 12:13

Today's verse reminds us of our responsibility to share what we have. If we aren't careful, we can walk through life never noticing the people around us that need our help. We can be so focused on our lives, that we forget to look for the needs all around us.

The key to sharing what you have is first identify or find the need. Tonight, at dinner, start a discussion with your family about your own community. Ask the following questions:

- What are some organizations in our community that are doing good things to help people in need?
- What do we know about this organization?
- What is one thing we could start doing to support this organization?

**Thank God** for all the ways He has provided for your family and ask Him to help you do the same for others by helping out in an organization that's helping others where you live.

Share what you have.

DAY 4

### Read Galatians 6:10

Just do it.

You've probably heard that phrase before. This three-word slogan was first introduced in Nike ads in 1987 as a way market their brand and inspire athletes of every level to push themselves to keep going and do the work.

But these words aren't new. Paul wrote them in a letter to the churches in Galatia thousands of years ago, saying, "When you can do good to everyone, just do it!" In other words, when you have the opportunity to help, to share, to show love to others, don't sit there, just do it.

**Write the words "Just Do It" on an index card and tape it to your doorframe.** As you leave your room each morning, read those three words out loud. Ask God to help you share what you have with others and then give the card a tap to acknowledge your willingness to "do good to everyone" as you head out the door.



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# Responsibility means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 2

DAY 1

## Read Proverbs 6:6-8

Did you know?

- There are over 12,000 different species of ants.
- Ants can lift anywhere from 10 to 50 percent of their body weight depending on their species.
- In 2000, the world's largest ant's nest was found in Argentina measuring in at a whopping 3700 miles wide! This ginormous colony housed 33 ant populations that merged into one giant super colony with millions of nests and billions of workers.

What would happen if one of those ants suddenly stopped working? What would happen if 20 or 100 or 500 hundred stopped? Those ant colonies wouldn't function well at all if each ant didn't pull its own weight.

**Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.** It means you need to carry your own load, to do your own part.

This week, when you're given a responsibility—whether big or small—think about that ant. Work hard and do your part so others will trust you.



## Read 1 Corinthians 3:8

Have you ever planted a garden? What happens if you plant all your seeds and then just walk away and never tend to it? Probably nothing. Farmers know that you have to put in the work if you want to reap a good harvest. If the farmer doesn't take his responsibility seriously, his family and families he grows food for won't eat.

What if this were true for us in everything we're responsible for? Can you imagine if life worked like a harvest? What if every time you didn't make your bed, your bed was taken away? What if every time you skipped your math homework, you got a big fat "zero" in math?

**Grab a stack of sticky notes and write "WORK HARD" on each one.** Then head to the kitchen and stick these notes on every vegetable or fruit you can find. Each time you (or someone in your family) grabs one of these items, remember your responsibility to work hard. Thank God for the opportunities He gives you each day to prove you can be trusted by doing what you're asked to do.



*Work hard.*



DAY 3

### Read Galatians 6:5

Have you ever played a team sport? Ever had a player on your team that didn't really participate? Maybe they spent their time staring at the sky instead of paying attention to the game. Maybe they stood still instead of charging after the ball or didn't play defense. Wouldn't a team be even more successful, if everyone carried their own weight? On a team, every player has a position to play. One weak player can affect the whole team's performance.

**Today's verse reminds us that each one of us need carry our own load.** Just like you want the people around you to do their part, others are counting on you to work hard and do your part too! When you follow through with what's expected of you, then others learn to trust you.

This week, if you find yourself in any sort of "team" situation—whether it's a pick-up baseball game with friends in the neighborhood or a group project at school, think to yourself, "Am I carrying my own load right now?" If the answer is "no," ask God to help you change course and get involved so others can depend on you!



DAY 4



### Read Colossians 3:23

Unscramble the words from today's verse below.

"Work at \_\_\_\_\_ you do with  
Y E E V R I N T H G  
\_\_\_\_\_ your heart. \_\_\_\_\_ as if you  
L A L K O R W  
were working for the \_\_\_\_\_ not for  
R O D L  
human masters." Colossians 3:23

What did you write in the that first blank? Yep, everything. When there's a job to be done, what if the most powerful man or woman you can think of (like a president, or queen or king) walked into the room? Would you slack off or would you work harder because someone super important was there? You'd probably work harder, right?

How much more important is your heavenly Father? He is way more powerful than any elected president or reigning queen. When you're tempted to give up or quit, think about working hard for God!

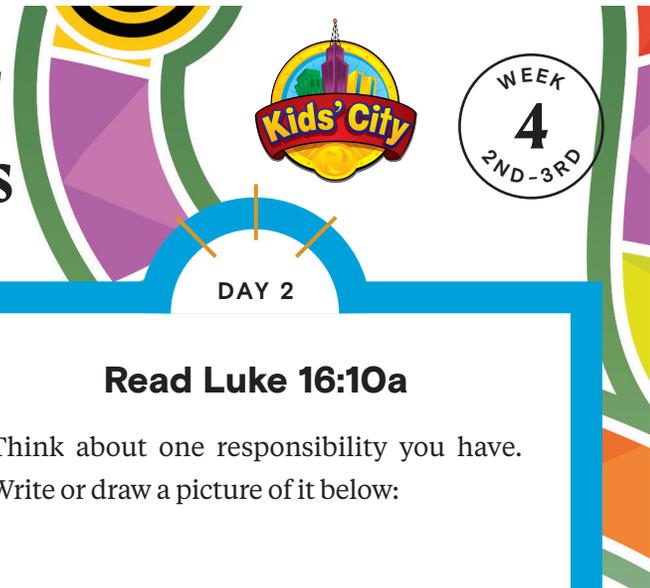
At your next family meal, read today's verse out loud. Ask your parents to give an example of something they're responsible for that's not all that fun. Then ask them the answer the following question: How does this verse help you think about that responsibility in a new way?



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# Responsibility means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 1



## Read Galatians 6:7

When you buy a package of tomato seeds and plant them in the ground, what plant will grow? A tomato plant. Okay, that was a pretty easy question. Everyone knows that the seed determines what eventually sprouts and grows.

The same idea applies to responsibility. What you put in, determines the outcome. And guess what? The work you put in, the time you spend, the care you take, all of that is seen by God. But not in a “Oh I’m going to catch you doing the wrong thing” kind of way. God sees and knows all because He is God. And He’s trusted you to take care of what He’s given you.

**Do you have any seeds at home?** If so, ask your parent to let you plant a seed or two in a cup with some potting soil. Make sure to keep the soil moist and place it near a window so it can get the sunshine it needs to grow. As you take care of your little seed responsibly this week, remember to make the most of what you’ve been given.



DAY 2

## Read Luke 16:10a

Think about one responsibility you have. Write or draw a picture of it below:

That responsibility, like making your bed, or putting your bike away, or setting the table, might seem like a small thing. But all those small responsibilities that you take seriously now lead to bigger and more important responsibilities later on. Taking care of your room might lead to owning your own home someday. Taking care of your bike might lead to driving a car when you’re old enough. Every responsibility that you take seriously right now, no matter how small, builds trust.

Take a look at the responsibility above. How are you doing with that? Are you slacking off or taking it seriously? If not, what can you do right now to act more responsibly? **Ask God to help you do what’s asked of you right now to prove you can be trusted with bigger things later on.**



*Make the most of what you've been given.*

DAY 3

### Read Ephesians 5:15-16

All wisdom comes from one source. Not the internet. Not Siri or Alexa. Wisdom comes from God. Today's verse reminds us to live as people who are wise. Wise people follow God.

Part of our responsibility as followers of God is to actually follow what God tells us to do. Take a look at the list of scenarios below. Look up each verse listed and then write the "wise" response to that scenario.

Your mom asks you to finish your homework before you go outside. (Read Ephesians 6:1)

\_\_\_\_\_

Your older brother is taking forever on the video game. You're about to grab the controller out of his hands so you can have a turn. (Read Proverbs 15:18)

\_\_\_\_\_

You've figured out a way to cheat so that your team wins and you're pretty sure you can pull it off with no one finding out. (Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13)

\_\_\_\_\_

Every time you make a wise choice, no matter how big or small, you make a responsible choice. You show you can be trusted. That's making the most of every opportunity.

Ask God to give you the wisdom you need as you follow Him and make responsible choice this week.



DAY 4

### Read Proverbs 16:3

Have you ever thought about all the things you do in a day? If you were to make a list of all those decisions and actions, it would probably take a long time. No matter how big or small our decisions or actions may be, God asks us to commit everything to Him.

So here's a little responsibility challenge. Grab a wide rubber band and write the word "EVERYTHING" on it with a ball point pen. If you have trouble writing that small, ask an adult for help. If you don't have any rubber bands, cut out a strip of paper, wrap that around your wrist and tape to secure.

**For 24 hours,** wear that bracelet as a reminder to commit everything you do, every word, every action, every thought and decision, to God. Stop and pray and ask God to help you and He will! Take the responsibility to follow God and commit everything to Him.



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**Responsibility** means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 2

### Read Psalm 141:3

With a parent's permission, grab a small tube of toothpaste and a paper plate. Squeeze out some toothpaste onto the plate.

Okay, now see if you can get that toothpaste back into the tube.

That toothpaste is like the words we choose. Just like you can't push toothpaste back in a tube once it's on the toothbrush, you cannot take back harsh or unkind words. That's why it's important to be responsible and use your words wisely.

Spend some time thinking back over your day yesterday. Did you speak unkind words to someone else? If you did, go tell the person you hurt that you're sorry. Then pray and tell God you're sorry too. **Ask Him to help you guard the door of your lips so that you are careful with the words you choose.**

DAY 1

### Read Ephesians 4:29

Have you ever stacked up a set of Jenga® blocks or spent hours constructing a super cool LEGO® creation, only to have it knocked over or destroyed by someone walking by? It's super frustrating and time consuming to build back that tower or Lego masterpiece.

**Words work the same way.** You have the opportunity every day to choose words to that build others up or tear them down. If you want to have the kind of friends who use kind words, then you need to be the kind of friend who uses kind words too. Let's be encouraging, helpful and kind as we use our words wisely.

Grab a stack of Jenga blocks or Legos and some masking tape and a pen. Write out the words of today's verse in phrases and stick them on individual blocks. Then stack up the blocks to build the verse.

*Use your words wisely.*

DAY 3

### Read Proverbs 12:18

Have you ever gotten a paper cut on your finger? It's amazing how one little cut can hurt so bad! Have you ever thought about words like paper cuts? Words can hurt. An unkind word won't make you bleed or leave a physical scar but they can ruin our friendships. When we are thoughtless with our words, we end up hurting the people around us.

There is good news though. Kind words can do the opposite. Kind words heal. They soothe. They encourage. They help.

So the question is: what kind of friend do you want to be? The kind of friend who hurts or brings healing?

**As you pray today, ask God to help you choose your words wisely.** Think about those tiny paper cuts that cause so much pain and remember that every word you say has the power to hurt or heal.



DAY 4

### Read Proverbs 15:1

Have you ever been so frustrated about something that you yelled? Or said something really mean?

We've been talking all week about using your words wisely. But it can be really hard to do that when you're in the middle of a frustrating, or stressful situation. No matter what's going on around us, it's important to remember that the words we say make a difference.

Fill in the blanks from today's verse:

"A \_\_\_\_\_ turns anger away. But \_\_\_\_\_ stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1

Gentle answers calm things down. Mean words stir things up. So what kind of friend do you want to be? The kind that calms things down or stirs things up to make it worse?

**Ask your parent if you can help the next time someone is cooking in the kitchen.** If there's anything that requires stirring, think about this verse and how unkind words can stir things up and make them worse! Ask God to help you choose your words wisely so you can calm things down instead.



\_\_\_\_\_ Name

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