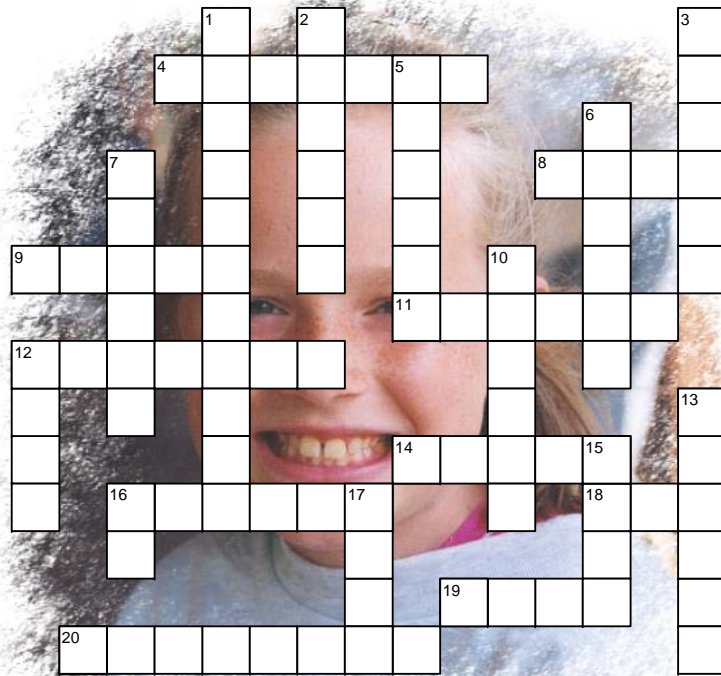


Crossword Puzzle

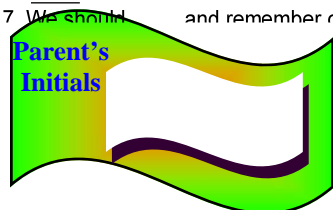


Across

Down

4. He was taught the scriptures by his grandmother and mother.
8. When clay is _____ and fresh it can be shaped easily.
9. An Old Testament example of excellent character.
11. When clay is soft and fresh it can be _____ easily.
12. Love and remember your _____ in the days of your youth.
14. When clay is soft and _____ it can be shaped easily.
16. Another Old Testament example of excellent character as a youth.
18. Character is what we _____ and what we do.
19. Used by the potter to shape the clay.
20. _____ your Creator in the days of

1. This big word just means "who we are".
2. A useless lump of clay is not suddenly _____ into a waterpot.
3. Useful to the _____.
5. Our _____ are "what we do".
6. The one who forms the clay into a vessel.
7. That formed of the clay by the potter.
10. He served the Lord in the temple from a very young age.
12. What the potter uses to make things.
13. Vessels of honor _____ to the master.
15. Old habits are _____ to change.
16. Character is "what we are" and "what we _____".
17. We should _____ and remember our



2-6

Character - Lesson One - Introduction

I. Overview.

In this series of lessons we will look at the matter of building up a proper character. Although it is very necessary that we love the Lord Jesus, know His word and obey His will, we also need to be the proper persons so that we might be useful to Him.

We want to serve the Lord with the greatest capacity. This depends on our character. Our character will determine our future usefulness to the Lord.



We are shaped by the Lord to be His vessels of glory.

Our character is not just our disposition, "who we are". It is also our habits, "what we do". Our character is just who we are and what we do. The kind of person that we are and the things that we daily and habitually practice become our character. For this reason we should never neglect our daily living. How we live each day determines our habits and our character.

II. Memory Verse.

"If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work."

(2 Tim 2:21)

III. Lesson.

We Are Vessels

The Bible tells us that we are vessels. God is the potter and we are the clay (Rom. 9:20-23). A useless lump of clay is not suddenly formed into a beautiful waterpot; it takes time, patience, and a lot of repetitive handling to produce a nice and useful shape. The clay spins around and around on the potter's wheel and is gradually shaped by his hand. So also our character is formed by our responses to God, to our parents and to others.

The "Clay" is Soft When We are Young

When clay is soft and fresh, it can be shaped easily. However, as the clay gets more dry it is harder to work with. Once it is fired in an oven, its shape can never be changed. When we are young, we are like the soft and fresh clay. We are easily shaped. This is why the Bible tells us to love and remember our Creator in the days of our youth (Eccl. 12:1).

While we are young, we should allow the Lord to mold us and make us into a vessel of honor that can be useful to Him. As the years go by, we develop old habits which are very hard to change. It is better to learn good habits, even the best habits, while we are young.

Most people who became very useful to God began to have a good character shaped in them from their youth. Some examples of



Our character is displayed in the way that we do things...
Are we careful?
Are we accurate?

people who were very useful to God, who began to develop an excellent character from their youth, are Moses, Samuel, David, Daniel, Peter, John, Paul and Timothy. There are also many more.

The Young Man Timothy

Timothy is an excellent example of a person who became very useful to the Lord. Timothy's grandmother and his mother taught him the scriptures from a very young age. Because Timothy began to learn very young he became a useful vessel in the Lord's work. We need to be like "soft clay" in the hands of God, our parents and others like our teachers. They will shape us into vessels of honor, useful to the Master.

~~~ Questions for Discussion ~~~

1. What is our character?

2. In what way are we like clay?

3. When should we start to develop good character?

4. Who are some examples of good character ?

5. What is our disposition?

