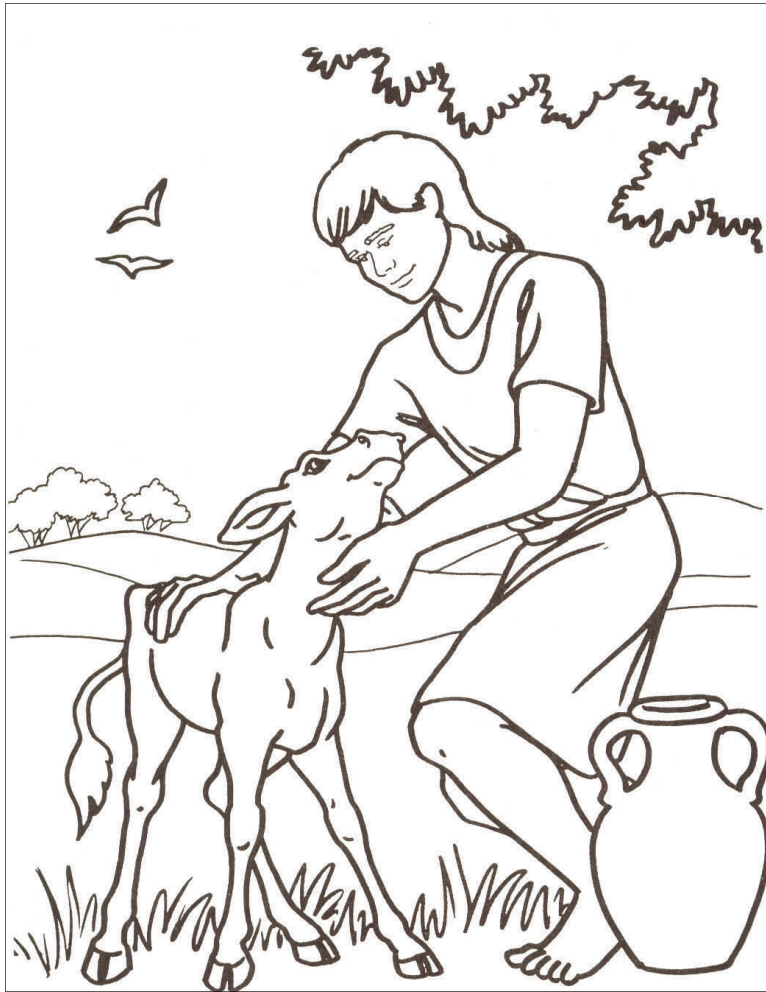


Coloring Page



God needs people of excellent character to express Him in His glory.



PKI

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...”

(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?

