

# Chapter One

## You Can Count On Me

### Note To The Teacher

Students who are taught to be responsible and accountable for their choices and actions develop a greater sense of self-worth and confidence in their ability to make right choices. They will receive the satisfaction of knowing that they are dependable, and trustworthy people who take responsibility for their actions.

In this introductory lesson, students will learn:

- What moral responsibility is.
- That when people in society are irresponsible, others can get hurt.
- How to become responsible.
- That responsibility includes fulfilling tasks and obligations with a positive attitude.
- How to make responsible choices.
- What age appropriate duties and obligations are.
- That responsible people accept the consequences of their choices and actions without making excuses or trying to shift the blame.

When the concepts of this lesson are fully taught, students will have a greater understanding and appreciation for the value of responsibility in their individual lives and society. Together, we can teach our students to be responsible people, capable of making decisions that will support their positive, moral growth and character development.

# Lesson Plan

## You Can Count On Me

### OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

Students will learn what it means to be responsible. They will also explore practical ways in which they can apply responsibility to their own lives.

### MATERIALS

- R Teacher's Audio Lessons
- R CD player
- R Students' handbooks

### PROCEDURE

1. Inform students that today they will begin the **"Responsibility"** Unit of the *Peaceful Solution Character Education Program*. Explain that in this unit they will explore the following points:
  - R How to make responsible choices.
  - R What moral responsibility is and how it is applicable to our society.
  - R How we can be responsible for our safety if disaster strikes.
2. Tell students that in today's lesson they will focus on what it means to be responsible, how to develop a responsible character and the rewards of achieving a responsible character. Have students turn to **page 3** in their handbooks and read the **"Introduction."**
3. Explain to students that responsibility plays an important role in how we function as a society. Many things that we come to rely upon in society are dependent upon someone being responsible. Have students read the section, **"Being Responsible: Is It Really That Important?,"** on **page 4** in their handbooks. Allow time for students to read Articles I and II and complete

the section, “**Understanding The Main Point,**” on page 6 and then briefly discuss the value of having responsible people within our society and the consequences if they are irresponsible. Have students complete the exercise, “**Critical Thinking,**” on page 7 or assign it for homework.

4. Tell students that although different people have various obligations and duties, there are responsibilities that are common to all people. Have students give their opinions of what they are. Then have them read the section, “**Shared Responsibilities,**” on page 8 of their handbooks. Emphasize that ultimately we are responsible for each other. If all people shared this understanding and treated others with compassion and respect we would have a safer and more peaceful world.

5. Discuss as a class what some of their responsibilities are. Guide class discussion by asking students how they think they learned to be responsible for these duties. Accept as many answers as time permits. Have students turn to page 9 in their handbooks and read the section “**How Is Responsibility Learned?**” Allow students time to do the corresponding exercise on page 10.

6. Tell students that an important aspect of being responsible is to know the do’s and don’ts of responsibility. Have students turn to pages 11-13 and read the section “**The Do’s and Don’ts Of Responsibility.**” Explain that being responsible includes not only completing the task, but also completing it in the way they were instructed and with a positive attitude.

7. Inform students that another important aspect of being responsible is to be accountable for their actions. Ask students what they think being **accountable** means. (*Answers will vary.*) Stress that someone who is **accountable** *accepts responsibility for his actions and faces the consequences of his choices without blaming others.* Have students read the section, “**A Is For Accountability,**” found on pages 14-15 of their handbooks. Choose a student to read the scenario. Have students answer and discuss the questions that follow. Stress that we cannot learn from our mistakes if we are not accountable for our actions.

8. Tell students that if we are not responsible for our duties we may face consequences. Ask students what they think some of those consequences may be. Accept as many answers as time permits. Play the narrative, “**Being Responsible,**” from the *Teacher’s Manual Audio Lessons*. Have students follow along on pages 16-17 in their handbooks.

Create class discussion by having students tell about times they were responsible and felt trusted and appreciated because of their efforts or times when they were irresponsible and had to face the consequences of their actions. Stress that a responsible attitude towards our duties and others can be its own reward, but an irresponsible attitude puts more work on others and can lead to distrust and resentment.

9. Conclude the lesson by having students read, **“What I Have Learned,”** on page 18 in their handbooks. Encourage students to value the character trait of responsibility and practice it in all areas of their lives. Emphasize that by being accountable for their choices, they can learn from their mistakes. Remind students that although many people have various duties and obligations everyone should share a moral responsibility to treat each other with respect, care and compassion. When we are morally responsible to others we can help make the world a safer, kinder place.

# Note To The Student

**H**ave you ever heard the saying, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish, and you will feed him for a lifetime”? How can being taught to fish as opposed to being given a fish change the course of someone’s life? The answer to this question is simple. When you are taught, you gain the knowledge needed to make choices that can lead to success.



Being taught how to develop moral character is much like being taught how to fish. You see, the positive traits that make up moral character, such as honesty, responsibility and respect are the foundation for a successful life. This is why the book that you are now holding in your hands is so important. From this book, you can learn the value of having a responsible character and how to develop positive traits.

## Being Responsible Is Important

At your age, you most likely have chores around the house, in addition to keeping your room clean. You have homework and may even have to help with a younger sibling. Guess what? Having chores and other obligations are great things. They help you learn how to prioritize, make decisions, and complete what you start. Simply stated, having responsibilities now will prepare you for your role as an adult. Speaking of adulthood, the type of adult you will become will depend largely on the choices you make today. If you make irresponsible choices by experimenting with drugs, abusing alcohol, or engaging in premarital sex, you may not even make it to adulthood.

Did you know that young adults have the fastest growing rate of STDs in our nation, and that teen pregnancies have reached approximately one million a year? The bottom line is, if you make irresponsible choices, you are just as likely to have to face the consequences as anyone else. So it is important that you develop a responsible attitude about your choices, obligations, and personal well-being, then consistently practice making choices that are healthy and beneficial to yourself and others.

## **What You Will Learn**

In this unit you will learn to build and develop your character to become a morally responsible person. You will also learn more about what it means to fulfill your obligations, manage time, and treat yourself and others in a responsible way. In addition to this, you will explore the benefits of responsibility to society, and how you can be responsible for your safety in times of disaster.

So pay close attention as the lessons are being taught. Participate in all the activities and class discussions. Practice being responsible as you learn more about developing this important character trait because the lessons you learn today will determine the adult you become tomorrow.

“Anything worth doing is worth doing until you get it right.”

# Chapter One

## You Can Count On Me

### Introduction

**H**ave you ever stopped to consider why people are so different? Why are some people honest, while others are dishonest? Why are some kind, while others are unkind? The differences in how we behave and how we treat others are based on our character. Character is the sum of traits that enable you to choose between right and wrong behavior. A person’s character is made up of both positive and negative traits. For example, having respect for others is a positive trait, but disrespect is a negative one. Having self-control is a positive trait, but a lack of self-control is a negative one. You can develop positive character when you focus on developing positive character traits, while eliminating negative ones.

In this unit, you will learn how to develop the positive character trait of responsibility, because, believe it or not, people are not born knowing how to be responsible. Responsibility, like respect and self-control, must be developed over time. Being responsible means you are someone others can count on to fulfill your duties and obligations, but most of all, you can count on yourself to make choices that are positive and supportive of your moral character development.

You learn how to be responsible through everyday tasks, interactions and experiences. The tasks that we sometimes think are boring, because they take us away from the fun things we want to do, are often the ones that teach us how to be responsible. So, the next time you are told to turn off the TV, close the back door, or feed the dog, don’t get upset, you are being taught how to become a responsible person. Developing a responsible character takes time and determination, but being someone others can count on as dependable and trustworthy, is well worth the effort.

# Being Responsible: Is It Really That Important?

**H**ave you ever considered what it would be like if everyone stopped being responsible for their actions, duties, and obligations? Would anything be accomplished? Simple things, that you probably don't think much about, are accomplished because people are responsible.

For instance, what if the school bus driver decided not to show up for work one day and didn't call or notify the bus company of his absence? The school would be expecting the bus to keep its schedule. The students who depend on the bus would be waiting and wondering what caused the delay.

Frustrated, they would either return home or walk to school. Just think of all the people it would inconvenience, just because one person decided not to be responsible.



How about this example: at your age you are not old enough to provide your own shelter, clothing, and food. If your parents or guardians failed to meet their obligations to take care of you by providing these basic necessities, as well as an education and love, you would certainly be affected in a negative way.

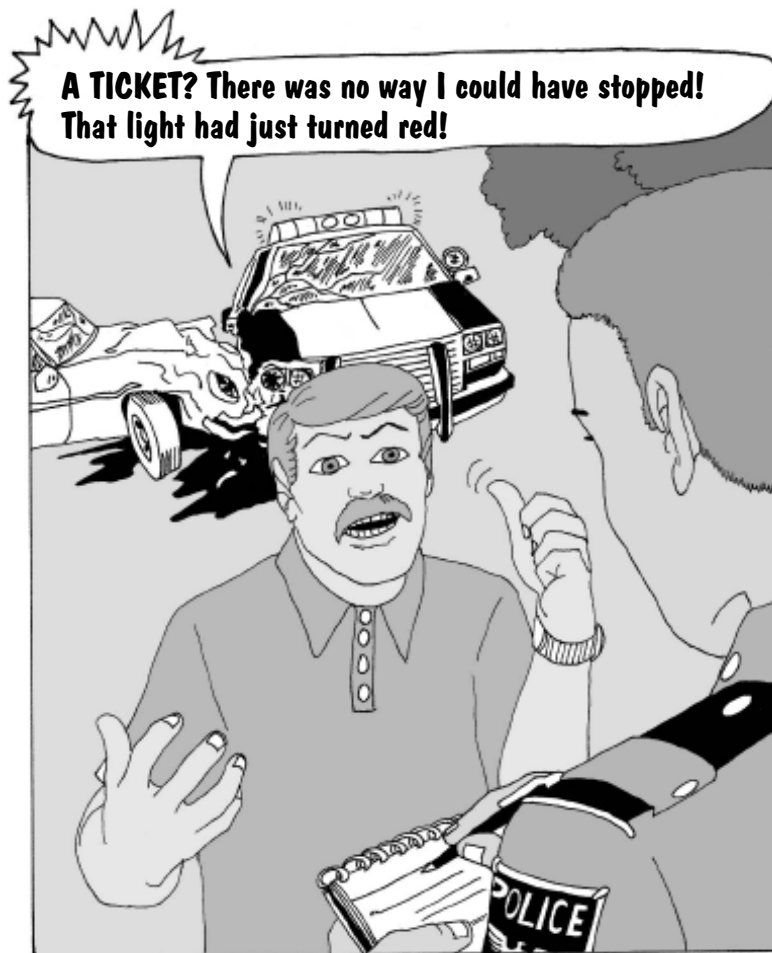
Sadly, this is the case for many children in our society. Because significant people in their lives fail to be responsible, children are left without a home and all other necessities of life.



When people fail to take their duties and obligations seriously, they are called **irresponsible**. Irresponsible people tend to ignore their duties or fool around, rather than work hard to fulfill their obligations. They are more likely to act first and think later. They either do not take the time to consider the consequences of their actions or they have a nonchalant, "it doesn't really matter," attitude. As a result, they can cause undue stress and frustration, as well as harm to themselves or others.

For example, every time you go for a drive your safety depends upon the responsibility of all drivers. Every day, thousands of people die or are injured in accidents because someone failed to stop at a red light, drove while under the influence of alcohol, or went over the speed limit. People also die or are injured because they do not take responsibility for themselves and fail to wear safety belts.

There are many examples in our society of people who endanger their lives or the lives of others because of their irresponsible actions.



# Understanding The Main Point

Read the articles and answer the questions that follow.

## Article I

### American West Fires Pilots Accused of Drinking

PHOENIX, Arizona (CNN)—American West Airlines sent termination letters Tuesday to two pilots police say failed Breathalyzer tests as they prepared to fly a jet full of passengers Monday morning, a company spokesman said....

A screener tried to stop the two pilots as they were boarding the plane, but they ignored the screener and boarded the plane to fly anyway. By the time police arrived the two pilots had already taxied off the runway. The police had to contact the Miami Airport Control Tower, which ordered the aircraft to return to the gate.

The pilots, Floyd and Hughes, both had blood-alcohol levels, which exceeded the legal limit in Florida for operating an automobile. In addition to this, the company, American West, has a zero-tolerance policy that does not allow any alcohol use by pilots within 12 hours of a flight. Floyd and Hughes were charged with operating an aircraft and driving under the influence...They were taken to a jail, booked and later released on bond.

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/US/07/02/american.west.dui/>

1. How were the pilots' actions irresponsible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If the pilots had not been stopped and had flown the plane, what do you think could have occurred? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Article II

### Woman Charged With Abuse In Home Fire - Death of Boy Nephew was left alone so she could make crack sale, Detroit police say.

*By David G. Grant/The Detroit News*

Detroit—A woman accused of leaving her 7-year-old nephew home alone at 2 a.m. so she could sell crack cocaine was charged Thursday with second-degree child abuse in her ward's death.

Shirley Lippett's nephew, Gary Young, perished in a fire in their frame home April 30...witnesses told police that Lippett, 52, and her 37-year old boyfriend, left the boy alone in the house. While she was gone, a fire started at an electrical outlet and swept through the home, trapping Gary inside.

When Lippett arrived at home, she found it gutted by the fire and her nephew had already died on the front lawn where medical technicians were unable to revive him...



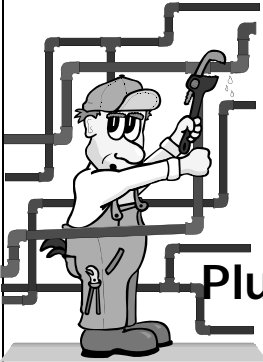
<http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0305/09/b02-159797.htm>

1. How were Shirley Lippett's actions irresponsible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What occurred because of her irresponsible behavior? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After reading the previous articles, it is clear to see that if even one person fails to act responsibly, the results can be disastrous. Without the positive character trait of responsibility, lives can be lost, people can be abused, and confidence in others will become nonexistent.

## Critical Thinking

Listed in the chart below are three occupations. **In the first column, list some of the responsibilities for each. In the second column list what could occur if that person was irresponsible.**

Job	Column I	Column II
 <p>Fire Fighter</p>		
 <p>Teacher</p>		
 <p>Plumber</p>		

# Shared Responsibilities

**A**lthough we have different responsibilities, if everyone fulfills their duties as they are instructed, we could create a world where we can rely on and trust others. Of course, some people have more responsibilities than others. A man with a family will have more responsibilities than his teenage son. A President will have the responsibility of taking care of his own family as well as the citizens of his country.

Regardless of how varied our duties are, there are some responsibilities that should be shared by all.

**We are morally responsible to each other.** A moral person is able to choose between right and wrong and is respectful of others. He would never intentionally hurt others or steal from them. When we lack moral responsibility toward each other, society suffers. This is apparent by the high rate of crime, violence and war within our world. By being morally responsible to each other, we can avoid the hatred and hostilities that lead to violence and war. Treating each other with respect, by not being verbally or physically abusive, are examples of being morally responsible.

**We are responsible for our environment.** This is the only planet in the universe that we can live on at this time. We rely on our planet Earth to sustain our lives. Yet, everyday, we deplete the earth of its natural resources and pollute the air, land, and seas. Even our food sources are polluted at this time. Food and water contaminated by pollution have been known to cause serious diseases within the human body. It is up to everyone to take responsibility for preserving and caring for our planet's natural resources.



# How Is Responsibility Learned?



Now that you know how important being responsible is, how is responsibility learned? Responsibility is a trait that is developed. What you have been taught in regards to how you treat others, how you treat possessions, how you work, and even how you play help you to develop the character trait of responsibility. In other words, you have to be taught to be responsible in everything you do.

Your first lessons in learning to be responsible most likely came from your parents or guardians. For example, a three-year-old child may be responsible for picking toys off the floor and putting books back on a shelf. However, that same three year old would not be responsible for taking out the garbage, or washing the dishes. These responsibilities would be assigned to someone who is older.

When you begin your school years, you learn to be responsible when asked to erase the chalkboard, distribute students' workbooks, and so on. As you grow older, responsibilities will develop with you. Sooner or later, you will obtain a part-time job and you will learn responsibility there, as you perform the roles or tasks that the job entails.

Two very important aspects of learning to be responsible are to always follow the instructions given precisely and to bear in mind the importance of the duty that you are responsible for.

Were you taught how to wash dishes? Did you know that if they are not rinsed properly, removing all food particles, the stale food left on them can grow bacteria that sometimes cause food poisoning? Therefore, pay close attention as you learn your duties and do them to the best of your ability.



a. List some things you are responsible for \_\_\_\_\_

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b. How do you think you were taught to be responsible for these duties?

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c. What would occur if you chose to be irresponsible and leave your duties undone? \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF RESPONSIBILITY

If you listed chores, homework, or even taking care of a pet as some of your responsibilities, then you are right on target. All of these responsibilities are age appropriate. In other words, you have both the mental and physical capabilities of successfully completing these tasks. Being responsible however, does not mean only completing the tasks. It also includes:

- | Completing the task within the given time.
- | Having a positive attitude.
- | Doing it as you are instructed.

For example, you are responsible for completing your homework and turning it in the next day. What would occur if you turned in your assignment three days late, with grape juice spilled on it, and most of it wrong, because you didn't take the time to do it right? The likelihood is that you would get a poor grade and a lecture about doing your assignments correctly, neatly and on time.

Here is a list of some Do's and Don'ts of responsibility

## DO'S

**1. Do have a positive attitude about your duties.** A positive attitude towards your duties shows maturity on your part. Instead of looking at chores as a waste of time or a drudgery, be glad that you are given an opportunity to contribute to your household. By doing your chores, you help your family members. Doing homework or class projects is your opportunity to learn and increase your knowledge.



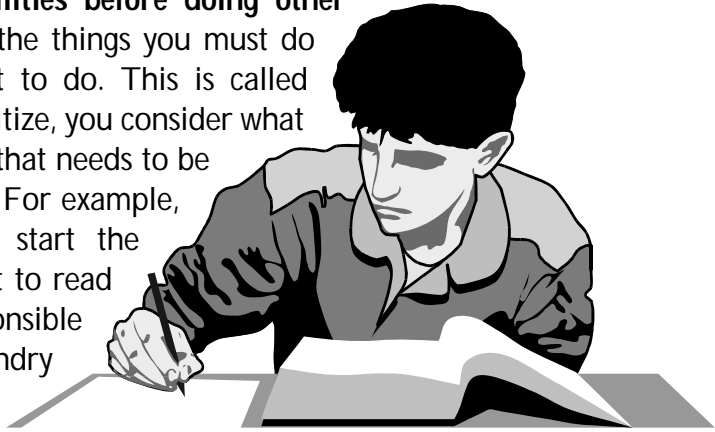
*Knowledge is power.*

**2. Do make every effort to do exactly what you have been instructed to do.** A responsible person will do everything within his power to do exactly as he has been instructed. Knowing that you did what you were told will give you a sense of accomplishment. So the next time you clean your

room, don't throw your clothes under the bed or hide a pile of miscellaneous junk in the closet, make every effort to do your duties right the first time. By not having to re-do your work you will save a lot of time and frustration for yourself and others.

*If you have to do it, then do it right.*

**3. Do put your responsibilities before doing other things.** In other words, do the things you must do before the things you want to do. This is called prioritizing. When you prioritize, you consider what the most important thing is that needs to be done and you do that first. For example, your mother asks you to start the laundry, but you really want to read your new book. The responsible person would start the laundry first, then read the book.



*Life is more than doing only what you want to do.*

*Life is also about doing what you need to do.*

**4. Do your best work regardless of who you are doing it for.** For example, you do great work for your teacher, but when there is a substitute you goof off and hand in poor work. Or, you may be quick to do something your aunt asks you to do, but refuse to do the same for your uncle. A responsible person would do his best all the time. It shouldn't matter if you are doing it for someone who is important to you or not.

*Responsibility is doing what you know you should do,  
even when no one is there watching over your shoulder and  
telling you what to do.*

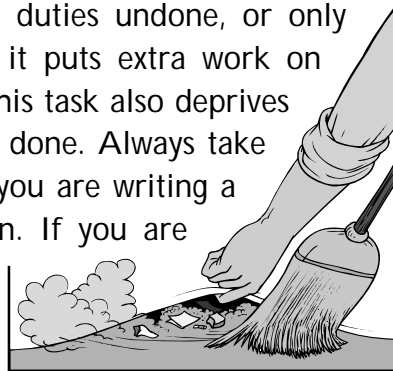
**5. Do take any assignment or duty you are given seriously and complete what you start.** Your responsibilities are important for your growth and development. Learning to follow through on tasks is the mark of a responsible person. Although it may be hard to believe, taking out the garbage, making the bed, mowing the lawn, and completing school assignments are preparing you for the future. People who learn the value of responsibility as children grow up to be responsible adults.



# DON'TS

1. **Don't approach your responsibilities with a negative attitude.** A person who argues and fusses about doing chores or other duties lacks the maturity to see the value in contributing to the family's well-being. Someone who complains about doing schoolwork lacks understanding of the value of education. People who complain about their responsibilities make life unpleasant for others and for themselves. For example, you are asked to supervise your younger brother for a short time, but since you had other plans, you began to argue and complain about always being the one to look after your younger brother. By arguing and complaining you can upset your mother and you could also make your younger brother feel that you don't care about him.

2. **Don't do your duties halfway.** Leaving your duties undone, or only partially done, makes things harder on others; it puts extra work on someone else. Someone who does not complete his task also deprives himself of knowing the satisfaction of a job well done. Always take the time to recheck your work. For example, if you are writing a book report, proofread it before you hand it in. If you are cleaning your room, give it one last glance to make sure nothing has been overlooked before you say you are done.



3. **Don't procrastinate.** When you procrastinate you ignore or put off doing your responsibilities to do other things. People who procrastinate don't take their responsibilities seriously. For example, Sam had a book report due in two weeks. If he was responsible and took his duties seriously he would have set aside a certain amount of time everyday to work on his report. Instead, Sam watched TV and played video games. He kept telling himself that he would start his report the next day. But everyday he would find something else to do instead. The night before the report was due, Sam finally sat down to read his book. He handed in poor work and received a failing grade.

# A Is For Accountability

Another aspect of a responsible character is *the willingness to answer for your choices and behavior*. This is called **accountability**. People who are accountable accept the consequences of their actions and learn from the choices they have made. People who are not accountable for their actions blame others for the choices they have made and make excuses for their actions.

**Read the following scenario to determine if Jenny was accountable for her actions. Then answer the questions that follow.**

Jenny had looked forward to the big field trip for several months. The night before the field trip, Jenny stayed up late watching a movie. The morning of the field trip, Jenny did not get up when her alarm went off, but kept hitting the snooze button. By the time she finally got up, she was half an hour late. Rushing, Jenny made it out the door just in time to miss the bus.



Jenny was mad, "That stupid bus driver, I'm sure he saw me. Jenny began to jog the quarter of a mile to school, and got there just in time to find out she had just missed the bus for the field trip. Her class had boarded the bus at the scheduled time and left. "I can't believe those people left me. Not even my best friend waited for me," said Jenny. "Everyone is so lame. I would have waited for them."

Jenny was mad at everyone for the rest of the day. She even received a conduct form to take home because she had a bad attitude with her teachers.

1. Was Jenny responsible? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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

2. Did Jenny accept responsibility for her actions? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Accepting responsibility for your actions means being honest with yourself and admitting that you are wrong. When you admit that you are wrong you give yourself an opportunity to change, mature, and grow; otherwise, you will continue to make the same poor choices over and over again. People who choose not to be accountable make excuses for their actions or shift the blame onto someone else.

## STRAIGHT TALK

Trying to hide that you have made a bad choice by blaming someone else is not going to change what you have done. Oftentimes, other people can see that you are the one at fault, so, the only person you deceive is yourself. Although it is not easy to admit you have made a bad choice, it can be done. If you want to build a responsible character, it must be done.



So, the next time you make a bad decision, don't blame someone else. Be honest, courageous, and admit your mistake. Learn from it and be determined not to make the same mistake again.

**On the lines below rewrite the scenario on page 14. Make Jenny responsible and accountable for her actions.**

Jenny had looked forward to the big field trip for several months. The night before the field trip \_\_\_\_\_

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# BEING RESPONSIBLE

Today was the first day of school for the new year. Abby and her friends had now moved up to Junior High School. Abby called her friend Brenda and asked, "Hi Brenda. Do you want to walk to school together with Amy and me?"

"Sure," Brenda replied. "Let's stop at the corner store on the way. I want to pick up a drink for lunch."

"That sounds great," answered Abby. "I'll see you in about 30 minutes at our usual spot." Abby hung up the phone and went downstairs to get ready to leave.

"Mom, I'm almost ready to leave. Have a nice day," said Abby.

Her mother, Mrs. Frost, replied, "Abby, don't forget to pick up your little brother on the way home. Today is his first day of school. I'm going to take him this morning, but I need you to pick him up this afternoon."

"Thanks for the reminder," said Abby. "I'll remember."

Abby met up with her friends, and they walked to school together. Junior High School was going to be great. Abby asked her friends excitedly, "Are you nervous at all about Junior High? I am."

Amy and Brenda both replied that they were a little nervous as well. Amy suggested, "Let's meet for lunch."

Brenda replied, "That sounds great to me. We can compare schedules and see how close our lockers are."

There was so much to see and do at the school. It was hard to keep up with it all. There was a new locker number and combination to memorize plus the new school schedule. There were so many after-school activities to choose from.

When they met at lunch, Abby exclaimed, "Wow, this is so cool! I can't decide which after-school activities I want to join. There's the debate team, the chess club, the school newspaper, the science club and the choir."

"I know," Amy agreed, "Junior High School is sure different from the baby grades. I'm loving it."

Brenda added, "Yeah it's great, but I hear you get a lot more homework in Junior High. I think I'm going to join the choir. You know how I like to sing."

Abby said, "I definitely want to join the school newspaper. They announced they're having a short meeting today right after school."

Brenda and Amy both agreed that they wanted to attend that meeting as well. Lunch was soon over and the girls decided to meet after school in the rotunda to attend the meeting together.

Mrs. Baker called the meeting to order. She said, "Welcome, if this is your first year with us, you are in for a treat. This year we're planning on putting out a bi-weekly newspaper. The making of a newspaper involves many different positions. We will need writers, photographers, interviewers, and people who want to typeset the newspaper. Think about what you'd like to do and be ready to answer when we have our next meeting two days from now. Let's meet here again right after school."

Abby, Amy and Brenda were so excited. Amy exclaimed, "I'm going to sign up for one of the photographer's positions. You know how I love to take pictures."

"Yeah," Brenda added, "we know. You've taken some funny ones of us. I'm going to sign up to help with the writing. Someday I want to be an author."

Abby considered for a moment and said, "I'm going to sign up to typeset. Computers are an interesting challenge to me."

Soon they were at the corner, and they split up to go home. Abby told the girls, "I'll call you later. I've got some homework already, and I've got to cover all my books by tomorrow."

The girls agreed and parted company. When Abby got home, she opened the door and called out, "Hi, Mom, I'm home."

"Hi dear," replied her mother. Abby's mother's face changed as she entered the kitchen. She entered with a smile and the smile quickly changed to a concerned look. "Where's your brother?" she asked.

Abby exclaimed "Oh, no! I forgot all about him."

"Abby, how could you?" her mother asked firmly. "I hope he's still at the school and not trying to walk home by himself. I'm going to call the school." Abby's mother called the school, "Hello Mrs. Prince, this is Mrs. Frost, is my son, Eddy still there?"

"I haven't seen him," Mrs. Prince replied. "He didn't come to the office. I'll talk to his teacher and call you right back." Mrs. Prince called right back and reported, "His teacher said he wasn't there. She thought he had been picked up."

"Thank you Mrs. Prince," said Mrs. Frost. "I don't know where he could be."

Just then there was a knock on the door. Abby said, "I'll get it."

Abby opened the door and saw her little brother accompanied by a policewoman. Her eyes opened wide. "Mom! Eddy's home with a policewoman."

Mrs. Frost rushed to the door. "Hello, ma'am," the officer said, "Is this your son?"

"Yes, officer," replied Mrs. Frost relieved. "Eddy, are you okay?"

"I'm fine Mom," replied Eddy.

"Ma'am, you sure have a smart boy there. We found him trying to walk home by himself. He didn't know the way, but he knew his full name and address."

"Mama," exclaimed Eddy. "I got lost walking home, and I got to ride in a police car."

"Thank you, officer," said Abby's mother. The policewoman nodded her head and left.

"Abby, we need to talk," said her mother in a stern voice. "Let's go to the livingroom to talk while Eddy has a cookie and some milk."

Abby knew she had done wrong. The first thing she did was apologize. "I'm so sorry, Mom. I forgot completely about picking him up."

"Abby, I understand," sighed her mother. "However, think about what the consequences could have been if that officer had not found Eddy and brought him home. Eddy could have been kidnapped or even murdered. Being responsible means you are someone others can count on to fulfill your duties and obligations. Do you think you were being responsible today?"

"No, Mom," replied Abby. She hung her head in shame.

"Thankfully Eddy's okay. I think you should apologize to him. Let's go to the kitchen and join him. Then we can all have a cookie and milk, and we can talk about our day," said her mother. She gave her daughter a quick hug.

"Thank you for being so understanding, Mom," said Abby. "I learned a valuable lesson. I'm going to carry a small notebook so I won't forget anything in the future."

"That's a great idea," said her mother. "Now let's go see your brother."

# What I Have Learned

- y I am being responsible when I can be depended upon to fulfill my duties and obligations as well as when I make choices that are positive.
- y Being responsible is an important quality to have as part of my moral character development.
- y When I fulfill my duties and I'm accountable for my actions, I gain the satisfaction of knowing that I have done exactly as I was instructed with a positive attitude.
- y I can demonstrate responsibility by being accountable for my choices and actions.
- y In some circumstances, my life and safety depend upon others taking their responsibilities seriously and fulfilling their obligations.
- y When others do not act responsibly, the results can be tragic.
- y It is very important that each individual take his or her responsibilities seriously.
- y A responsible person is respected and appreciated by others for their dependability.
- y A responsible person can be counted on to always do the best job possible.

"A responsible attitude towards your duties and obligations gives you structure, strength, and backbone."

~The Peaceful Solution

## Enrichment Activities

1. Interview a parent, teacher or principal. Ask what things they are responsible for. Ask how they view their responsibilities and what consequences would result if they were irresponsible.
2. Make a list of your daily responsibilities and how completing those tasks benefit you and others.
3. Complete the “**Just For Fun**” activity found on page 20.

# Just For Fun

Find the words from the word list in the puzzle below.

S S L A S S I G N M E N T N D  
R Y B S S X E O P L L M N C Y  
T R M O D L N M B J B O W E T  
B R E L R L O A Q C I R T Y I  
Z P Z J A I D A N T S A W A L  
L K U T W N Q U C G N L G O I  
A P P R E C I A T I O N W Q B  
E X S P R N F O T Y P I Y N A  
C A E B S S X S P R S I C B T  
Q D U B I Y A S H P E H G M N  
G N L T K R E G R Q R O B T U  
Y G A I C H E X K B R Y P P O  
Z S V O B L I G A T I O N Q C  
C R R E S P O N S I B L E U C  
K P O A C C O M P L I S H O A

## Word List

appreciation  
assignment  
dependable  
duty  
irresponsible

moral  
accomplish  
obligation  
procrastinate  
responsible

reward  
satisfaction  
value  
accountability



# Answer Key

## LESSON ONE

### Page 6

- I.
  1. The pilots attempted to fly a plane even though they were under the influence of alcohol, which violated company policy.
  2. The plane could have crashed and many people could have been seriously hurt or killed.
- II.
  1. She left her 7-year-old nephew home alone.
  2. Her nephew died in a fire and she was charged with second degree child abuse.

### Page 7

Firefighter: Some of the responsibilities for fire fighters include putting out fires, rescuing people trapped in burning buildings, and assisting paramedics at accident sites.

If a fire fighter was irresponsible, someone could get hurt or even die. Homes could be completely consumed by fires which could spread to nearby houses, wiping out entire neighborhoods.

Teacher: Some of the responsibilities for teachers include being on time and providing an atmosphere of learning and caring for students. They are responsible to fulfill lesson plans and offer every student the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

If a teacher was irresponsible, students could be left without proper care or supervision. Students could slip through the system without receiving proper education, hurting their opportunities at future careers.

Plumber: Some of the responsibilities for plumbers include fixing installing and fixing sinks, faucets, water lines and drainpipes. They also help design and install pipes so that a building's water system works effectively and efficiently.

If a plumber was irresponsible, pipes could be poorly designed or repaired. This could lead to leaks which could flood homes or destroy property. Without working plumbing, we could not shower, bathe or even use the bathroom.

### Page 10

- a. Answers may vary, but should include: getting up in the morning on time, doing chores, completing homework assignments, not being late for appointments.

- b. Answers may vary, but should include: your parents set an example before you in the things they are responsible for. They also taught you by giving you tasks, giving you certain deadlines to work with and specific times to do chores.
- c. Answers may vary, but should include: someone else would have to do them or you would suffer the consequences for not completing your tasks, such as a low grade, being late for an appointment, or being grounded.

### Page 14

1. No, she should have put off watching the movie so she could get to bed on time.
2. No, she never admitted that it was her fault that she was late and missed the field trip.

### Page 15

Jenny really wanted to watch a movie, but knew if she did, she would get to bed late, so she recorded it to watch at a later date. She set her alarm early so she would have plenty of time in the morning and not be rushed. When the alarm sounded, she bounced out of bed, feeling refreshed. She ate breakfast and was ready for the bus. She was the first one off the bus at school and prepared herself in the classroom for the day's events. When the teacher asked everyone to line up for the field trip, Jenny was prepared and ready.

### Page 20

S	S	L	A	S	S	I	G	N	M	E	N	T	N	D
R	Y	B	S	S	X	E	O	P	L	L	M	N	C	Y
T	R	M	O	D	L	N	M	B	J	B	O	W	E	T
B	R	E	L	R	L	O	A	Q	C	I	R	T	Y	I
Z	P	Z	J	A	I	D	A	N	T	S	A	W	A	L
L	K	U	T	W	N	Q	U	C	G	N	L	G	O	I
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N	W	Q	B
E	X	S	P	R	N	F	O	T	Y	P	I	Y	N	A
C	A	E	B	S	S	X	S	P	R	S	I	C	B	T
Q	D	U	B	I	Y	A	S	H	P	E	H	G	M	N
G	N	L	T	K	R	E	G	R	Q	R	O	B	T	U
Y	G	A	I	C	H	E	X	K	B	R	Y	P	P	O
Z	S	V	O	B	L	I	G	A	T	I	O	N	Q	C
C	R	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E	U	C
K	P	O	A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	O	A