Character First Lesson

Orderliness

Today we will be talking about Orderliness and why this is an important Godly character trait that we should all strive to possess!

Determining the Definition

Questions to ask the group:

- What is a definition that you would give for Orderliness?
- What comes to your mind when you think of someone who is Orderly?
- Do you like to have things in order?

Dictionary Definition of Orderliness -

adjective
1. arranged or disposed in a neat, tidy manner or in a regular sequence: an orderly desk.
2. observant of or governed by system or method, as persons or the mind.
3. characterized by or observant of law, rule, or discipline; well-behaved; law-abiding

** An Orderly person is one who takes pride in making sure everything is done correctly. We live in a world today that rushes to get everything done quickly no matter what the outcome is. An orderly person looks at the details and arranges themselves to achieve greater efficiency. By not overlooking key details, reducing clutter, and looking at all the points you can save time, energy, and frustration!

- Do you like spending time on little details?
- What are some specific ways to try and become more orderly?

Life Example of Obedience

"Little Things" by Elisabeth Elliot

When we were growing up our parents taught us, by both word and example, to pay attention to little things. If you do a thing at all, do it thoroughly: make the sheets really smooth on the bed, sweep all the corners and move all the chairs when you sweep the kitchen, roll the toothpaste tube neatly and put the cap back on, clean the hair out of your brush each time you use it, hang your towels straight on the rod, fold your napkin and put it into the silver ring.
It is not easy to find children or adults who are dependable, careful, thorough, and faithful. So many lives seem honeycombed with small failures, neglectful of the little things that make the difference between order and chaos.

** This is a clear picture of being orderly! Sometimes there are a lot of details to accomplish a task and we want to quickly skip steps to get done quicker (like a math problem), but in the end if you take the time to put things in their correct order and go through each step thoroughly and efficiently then you might be surprised at the outcome! It also might save you a lot of time in the end by not having to look for something that is lost or redoing a project because a step was missed! Here is a Biblical example of Orderliness:

**Biblical Example**

*Moses and Building the Tabernacle*

*(Read Exodus 25 in preparation for this lesson)*

**Background Story:** Moses was God’s chosen man to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God spoke through Moses and told him exactly what he wanted the Israelites to do. The Lord gave Moses a lot of different orders and if Moses wasn’t orderly key parts of God’s plan could have been missed. Let’s read an example together:

Read to the group Exodus 25 : 1 – 9

- How detailed was God in what He was telling Moses?
- How did God want Moses to carry out his orders? (“Exactly like the pattern I show you”)
- How detailed are you when you are given an assignment or job to do?
- Do you follow it “exactly” or do you take short cuts.
- How does it bring glory to God when we are orderly?
Application

Now you get the opportunity to show Orderliness in your life! Think of different projects you might have coming up in school or at home. How can you begin by being more orderly? Think of ways to organize a schedule, get things done ahead of time, and get supplies that you might need. Take small steps and you will reap great rewards!

Practical applications to show Orderliness in your life:

1. **Set Priorities** – When cleanliness becomes a priority, you will clean up after yourself. When school is a priority, you will do homework before watching television. When health is a priority, you will practice good hygiene and eat healthy food. Make becoming orderly a priority in your life.

2. **Set Standards** – Recognize standards at school, home, and in your community. Do your work the way teachers instruct you. Complete chores according to your parents’ wishes. Evaluate your attitudes and actions based on standards of good character.

3. **Get Organized** – Make a place for everything, and keep everything in its place. Group similar clothing, books, paper, supplies, and equipment. If you keep things organized, you can easily find what you need, or pass surprise inspections.

4. **Avoid Clutter** – If you do not use an item, sell, donate, or recycle it. Eliminate clutter in your life so that you can concentrate on what is most important.

5. **Put Away – Right Away** – Instead of stacking papers, books, laundry, games, or dishes to organize later, put things away – right away. I know it is hard but it will pay off!

Remember: You are the Light of the World so let your Light Shine through Orderliness!