

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSET™ #30
Responsibility

YOUNG PERSON ACCEPTS AND TAKES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

By Natalie Sasseville

Edited by Lyle Griner & Marie Sundet © 2007 EveryDay LLC, Bloomington, MN

Natalie Sasseville, scatter-brained, is a student at Augsburg College studying Youth and Family Ministry and French. When she busts out of college she hopes to become a Pastor. She spends extra time figuring out how many licks it takes to get to the center of a tootsie pop and having impromptu dance parties with her roommate.



Matthew 25:20-27 “Well done good and trustworthy slave...”

- *When I do something that is irresponsible I feel...*
- *Was the master in the parable a good master? Why or why not?*
- *Which servants were responsible and which servants were irresponsible?*
- *Was the master in the game a good master? Why or why not?*
- *What did it mean to be responsible in this parable?*
- *How might what you know about God and “master” in the parable be different? Similar?*
- *To whom do you have to be / want to be / choose to be responsible? What’s the difference?*
- *How might expectations and responsibilities differ?*
- *How do you judge between feeling responsible and being responsible?*
- *Have you ever blamed another for your being irresponsible? What happened?*
- *What are consequences for not being responsible? Benefits?*
- *What are your responsibilities as a Christian?*

So What?

Pick one of the following that describes your reflection on this discussion. Complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering...
- I am feeling...



Candle Time

Each person has a tea light sitting in front of him or her. Each person tells about one responsibility that he/she are proud to have and one responsibility that is stressful or worrisome. Someone else in the group prays for the person while lighting his or her candle.



EXPLORE

Micah 6:8 What does the LORD require of you but to do justice...
Genesis 3:11 Have you eaten from the tree...
Hebrews 12:11 “Discipline always seems painful...but later...
Proverbs 3:11 ...the LORD reproves the one he loves, as a father...
Ephesians 4:32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving...
Psalms 94:12-13 Happy are those whom you discipline...



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Personal Responsibility is tough, but God can help!

Background

Each of us has responsibilities. These are commitments for doing things and obeying important orders that are assigned to us. We are expected to follow through on these promises we've made by doing what we said we would and being accountable for our actions—not blaming others for the responsibilities to which we fail to attend.

Just about everyone fails to follow through on all responsibilities from time to time, and other times, people give us expectations that are not good. Take for example the kid that never listens in class but expects you to hand your notes over everyday. In such situations, we have to use our conscience to discern—or judge—if it is our responsibility and whether the expectation is right or wrong.

When we do not handle responsibilities well and are not faithful to our commitments there are negative consequences. Such consequences affect our relationships with others, causing them to lose their trust in us and give us fewer responsibilities. Responsibilities can be a privilege.

But there is good news: No matter who we are or what irresponsible things we've done, we are forgiven through Jesus Christ who died on a cross for us. This leaves us free to forgive others and to try again to correct of the things we've messed up. We can have more confidence in ourselves through Christ, who helps us discern what's right through God's word in the Bible. Jesus also gives us hope and courage to do our best and shows us that by learning to act responsibly, we will see benefits in our lives. In this way, following God and becoming more responsible become things that are joyful!

Motivate

A volunteer becomes the *master* while everyone else is a *servant*. Servants receive different number of talents represented by pieces of gold wrapped chocolate. One servant only gets one. It is the servant's responsibility to take care of the master's talents. The master steps outside of the room. Servants each draw a piece of paper with directions that they try to follow.

– keep them – eat them – invest them – trade them – divide them – ask for more – steal more

The master reenters and asks each to give an account of what he/she did with the talents.

The master is asked to answer

–Am I happy with this servant? –Did he or she act responsibly? –Would you trust this person with more responsibility?

Together read Mathew 25:20-27.

Permission Granted:



Permission granted to copy this resource for local uses only. Copying for publishing or commercial use in whole or in part is prohibited.

The Developmental Assets® information is used with permission. Copyright © 1997 Search Institute®.
To view the original and complete list of 40 Developmental Assets, visit www.search-institute.org. All Rights Reserved.