

great expectations

WEEK 1

Day 1

Read Matthew 25:23

Sometimes we want to jump right to the “good stuff.” We want things that cost a lot, dessert first, or even to be famous. But it’s easy to forget that we have to be responsible with the little things before we can be trusted with the big things.

Fill in the blanks below:

If you wanted to be trusted with a car, you should be responsible with your _____.

If you wanted to be trusted with an iPad® or laptop, you should be responsible with your _____.

If you wanted to be trusted to babysit your neighbor’s baby, you should be kind and loving to your _____.

If you wanted to be trusted to be captain of your sports team or in gym class, you should _____.

THANK God for the things that He’s trusted you to be responsible with.

Day 2

Read Matthew 5:13

Go the kitchen and get a salt shaker. Shake it one time in your hand and taste a couple of grains. It’s salt, so it tastes ... salty, right?

Tasting salty is salt’s job. And it also serves other purposes, like preserving food. Long before there were refrigerators or electricity, people used salt to keep their meat from turning bad. But if salt didn’t do its job—let’s say you sprinkled it on your French fries or popcorn and it didn’t taste salty for some reason—you would probably throw it away, right? Or if you have a pen that won’t write, you toss it. We don’t trust or value things that don’t do what they’re supposed to do. Thankfully God isn’t going to throw us away if we’re not responsible, but He’s given us talents and abilities that He can use in the world around us.

ASK God to help you stay salty and responsible!

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Day 3

Read 2 thessalonians 3:11-15

What are you good at? Sports? Math? Music? Cooking? Painting? Writing? Reading? Acting? Making people laugh? Write one or two things here that you know God has gifted you with: _____

Whatever you wrote, think of someone who is good at that same thing. Put their name here: _____

Now write some words that describe that person and the great job that they do with their talent: _____

Now go back and circle any of the following words if you see them: lazy, idle, irresponsible, careless, slacker, passive.

You didn't have anything to circle, did you? That's because that person didn't become well known or good at what they do by being lazy. God may have given them some natural talent and ability, but they were also responsible to work hard and improve.

LOOK for ways to improve the gifts God has given you.

Day 4

Read LUKE 16:10

The phrase "a little white lie" is talking about a lie that is so small that it's harmless. But even if a lie is so small that no one ever finds out the truth, or no one is hurt by it, is it really "white" or "clean" or "good"? Jesus said that if we are dishonest in the little things, we'll be dishonest in the big things too. If we practice being honest, responsible, and trustworthy in even the smallest of circumstances, others will know they can trust us in the big things, no matter what.

Imagine there's a little rock rolling down a hill and it could pick up grass, dirt, and mud on the way down. At the bottom of the hill, what once was a small pebble would now be a big rock, covered in stuff. Go outside and find a pebble to keep in your pocket as a reminder to be honest and responsible, even with the small things.

KNOW that to be trusted with the big things, we must be trusted in the small things.