

20 VICTORIOUS VIRTUES

**From Vices to Virtues- How to
Make the Transition**



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INTRODUCTION

The word virtue means to behave in a way that exhibits high moral standards, a commendable quality or trait.

Virtue is the opposite of vice. Virtue is regulating life according to some standard. Children naturally desire to fulfill their passions impulsively. Teaching them to have restraint and respond with reason is called virtue.

I love Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Jesus is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy.

Aristotle believed "...that the function of a human was to engage in an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue. Aristotle thought that there were two overriding virtues, intellectual and moral." [1] All of these virtues must be based in love - love is the greatest virtue. Here are some virtues that should be taught early and should be modeled by the adults for children to witness.

20 Victorious Virtues

Bible Stories & Applicable Bible Verses

1. **Courage** – Not to be fearful of the dark, bugs, or bullies. Learning how to be bold in faith at a young age will allow them to feel natural in sharing their faith as they get older, regardless of what others think (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Bible Stories

Gideon Defeats the Midianites
(Judges 7)
David and Goliath
(1 Samuel 17)

Bible Verses

Mark 6:50
Acts 4:13

2. **Temperance** – Having self-control and restraint – not biting or hitting. Learning this early will allow children not to fall prey to the sinful desires of the flesh when great restraint and self-control is needed (Galatians 5:16).

Bible Story

David Spares Saul's Life
(1 Samuel 24: 1-14)

Bible Verses

Galatians 5:22-24
2 Peter 1: 5-6

3. **Honor** – To be respectful to others, especially parents and elders. Honor those who are in charge and have authority. Act honorably in all situations (Hebrews 13:18). Learning how to have honor and respect for authority early could one day keep them from being expelled from school or going to jail.

Bible Stories

Mary Praises God (Luke 1)
Foot Washing (John 13)

Bible Verses

1 Peter 2:17
Romans 12:10
John 5:23

4. **Good Temper** –Do not allow uncontrolled anger (tantrums – angry outburst) to be an acceptable form of behavior. Some people think it is cute when little ones show their independence in the form of an angry outburst. However, if outbursts are permitted and not addressed early in life, this can later foster a deluge of serious problems in school, jobs, and relationships. What may look cute now will not look or sound cute when they are teenagers. Tantrums are a way for your child to express feelings they cannot express in words. Help to avoid tantrums “by providing consistent routines and an organized environment at home, you are helping your child feel safe physically and emotionally.” [2] Remember to empathize with their feelings. Make sure they know you understand what they are feeling and that you love them. Be wise and address anger right from the start (Proverbs 29:11). A tempestuous personality will cause much pain and heartache for the child and the parent. “Remember, children do not grow out of anything but their clothes!” [3] Another tool is to distract the child to calm them down; however, “distracting may be a quick way to settle down a distraught or angry child, but it cannot be a substitute for discipline that will subdue the will.” [4]

Bible Stories

Cain and Abel
(Genesis 4)

Moses Flees to Midian
(Exodus 2:11-14)



Bible Verses

James 1:19
Proverbs 15:1



5. **Friendliness** – Being kind, even when they do not feel like being kind, is a form of grace. The more they practice being a good friend to others, the more they will learn the difference between a good friend and a bad friend (Luke 6:31). When they learn to be friendly, they become great team members in sports and in life.

Bible Story

A Friend Comes at Midnight
(Luke 11:5-11)

Bible Verses

1 Corinthians 15:33
John 15:13-15
Proverbs 17:17

6. **Truthfulness** – Being honest at all times. Never allow a lie to go unpunished, so they can present themselves as being truthful, never being ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). Those who are caught in lies feel the consequences of shame. One little lie can turn into two little lies, and before you know it, your child has become a compulsive liar. Set an example, do not lie yourself. Don't tell your child to answer the phone and tell the person you are not there. Don't think little white lies are acceptable, and don't exaggerate, that is a lie. "...Truth-telling has been designated as the highest of virtues in every culture, and why the credibility that results therefrom is always so powerful." [5]

Bible Story

Anias and Sapphira
(Acts 5:1-11)

Bible Verses

Psalm 15:2
John 1:4

7. **Justice** – Being fair and expecting fairness, understanding that sometimes things in life are not fair and one does not have to seek remedy or retribution for unjust deeds (Hebrews 10:30). Teach children that God is just even if his actions don't seem to be fair. For example, the parable about the workers in the field were justly paid for a full day's wage. However, some who did not work the full day were paid the same as those who did work a full day. God is just to all and can be gracious in his generosity if he chooses to do so.

Bible Stories

The Parable of the Persistent Widow
(Luke 18:1-8)

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
(Matthew 20:1-16)

Bible Verses

Luke 18:7
Isaiah 1:17

8. **Charity** – Always be willing to share and give to others. Explain that what they do for others, they are really doing for Jesus (Proverbs 19:17). Jesus said, it is better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). It brings me greater joy in my heart to give to others, than when others give to me. Charity also affords the child the opportunity to understand that the needs of others is most important. I once read, you make a living at what you get, and you make a life out of what you give.

Bible Stories

The Collection of the Lord's People
(2 Corinthians 8)
Moses and Israelites
(Exodus 36:1-7)

Bible Verses

1 John 3:17
2 Corinthians 9:6-8



9. **Discipline** – Self-discipline affords the child to feel in control when things seem out of control. It will help them to have the power to turn away from evil enticements and traps set by the devil (2 Timothy 1:7) and keep them safe from harm as well.

Bible Story

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness
(Luke 4:1-13)

Bible Verses

Proverbs 25: 28, 29:11

10. **Purity** – Learning to respect their mind and body and seek what is pure and good. This will allow them to turn away from things that are sinfully abhorrent later in life (1 Timothy 5:22). Purity is a gift they can give their future spouse. Staying pure can help keep them safe from becoming indecent, depraved, immodest, sick, and defiled. Dress your child modestly, it is a shame how some parents dress their children to look "sexy."



Bible Verses

Proverbs 20:11
Philippians 4:8
Matthew 5:8

11. **Wisdom** – Instilling a longing to desire knowledge and to pray to Jesus for wisdom to know what is truthful. Also, learning to apply common sense with wisdom guided by the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 1:7). I always say, “common sense is not common anymore.” Their worldview should be anchored in biblical truth. The definition of the word “true” can only mean the character of God. Dostoevsky said, “If god does not exist everything is permitted.” Help them to not only give their life to God but to give their will to God. “Being willing is essential. Evidence cannot convince the unwilling.” [6] In addition, “Your will is your decision-making faculty. Often it is caught between your thoughts and your desires. Your emotions express how you feel, your mind says what you know, but your will decides the direction you will go.” [7]

Bible Stories

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom
(1 Kings 3:5-15)
The Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 7:24-27)

Bible Verses

James 1:5, 3:17
Proverbs 2:6



12. **Forbearance** – Learning to have restraint under provocation. Not hitting back, not exchanging hurtful words. Letting the sin of another go without retribution (Romans 3:25, Colossians 3:13). Have patience during suffering. Forbearance is a tool to protect your child's feelings against those who are bullies.

Bible Story

David Spares Saul's Life
(1 Samuel 24)

Bible Verses

Ephesians 4:2
Matthew 5:38-41

13. **Empathy & Compassion**– Identifying, imagining, and showing kindness for how others feel in various situations; you feel their pain (Matthew 22:39). Even babies show these early on as they start to cry when they hear another baby cry (Romans 12:15). Whereas sympathy means that you have pity on or feel sorry for the situation.

Bible Story

The Parable of the Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37)

Bible Verses

Luke 6:27-31
Matthew 14:14
Colossians 3:12



14. **Perseverance/Persistence** – Do not give up on the first, second, or third try. If it is worthy (knowing it will bring good), it is worth the work. However, do not be persistent on doing evil (1 Samuel 12:25). Teach children early not to give up. Resilient children don't give up easily. Also, encourage perseverance as that will help them when they face challenging obstacles. If they do not learn persistence, later in life they may quit their job or marriage when the situation becomes difficult. "The plans of the diligent lead to profit..." (Proverbs 21:5). Help them to be diligent and take initiative in their desire to learn. "Everyone is going to fail from time to time, but you are only considered a 'failure' when you allow failure to defeat you. You are only a failure when you give up and refuse to try again. Remember, there is a difference between failing and being a failure." [8]

Bible Stories

Wickedness in the World
(Genesis 6-7)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow
(Luke 18:1-8)

Bible Verses

James 1:4

Matthew 24:13

2 Thessalonians 1:4



15. **Respect-** Learning to be respectful at all times, even with those who are not respectful toward you. Do not repay evil with evil (1 Peter 3:9). Again, respect and honor go hand-in-hand. One of the best tools in marriage is respect. Learning to be respectful can one day save an important relationship. It is paramount that children learn to say please and thank you. Otherwise, they will have the impression that the world revolves around them. Having a selfish attitude may cause a child to become thoughtless toward other's rights and feelings. Likewise, they should always reply, "You're welcome" after someone has thanked them. Handwritten thank-you notes seem to be a lost art. I personally love to know that someone truly appreciated my effort enough to send a handwritten thank-you note. I especially enjoy the penmanship of little children!

Bible Stories

Jesus Respected his Parents
(Luke 2:51)

Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem
(Nehemiah 2:1-8)

Bible Verses

Ephesians 6:1-3
1 Peter 2:17



16. **Faith** – Learning to have faith in our Lord Jesus, faith that Jesus gives, will allow your child to be strong when he or she feels weak or finds him/herself dealing with a mean foe. Faithfulness will bring blessings (Proverbs 28:20). They need to understand that faith comes from listening and obeying. There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can involuntarily hear but we actively listen for comprehension. Hearing is through the ears but listening transforms the heart and mind. At night, ask your child if they believe the sun will rise with morning bringing daytime. That is an example of faith.

Bible Stories

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
Abraham and Isaiah (Genesis 22)

Bible Verses

Romans 10:17
Hebrews 11:16
2 Corinthians 5:7

17. **Mercy & Forgiveness**- Having compassion on others who do not deserve it. This is a form of forgiveness. Forgiveness takes the power away from the offender. Be merciful just like Jesus (Luke 6:36). Balance mercy with justice, you do not want your child to be taken advantage of for their forgiving spirit. Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is an action. Forgiveness is grace in action. We are commanded to forgive others their trespasses against us.

Bible Stories

Joseph's Dreams
(Genesis 37)
The Parable of the Unmerciful
Servant
(Matthew 18:21-35)

Bible Verses

Matthew 9:13
Ephesians 2:4-5

18. **Thankfulness & Gratitude**- The quality of being appreciative for what you have or toward other people's kind actions. Teaching children to be thankful in all situations helps them experience the world and relationships in a positive manner. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 states, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Children learn by example, and they need to witness the adults in their lives saying thank you and expressing gratitude, even for the small gestures. Children recognize gratitude in the behavior, words, and facial expressions.

Bible Stories

Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy

(Luke 17:11-19)

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

(Daniel 2: 2-23)

Bible Verses

Philippians 4:6

Ephesians 5:20

Psalms 105:1

19. **Prayerfulness**- One of the most important virtues! Teaching children to pray to the Lord should become as natural as talking to family members. Pray with your children and let them see and hear you praying to the Lord. Prayer is an active obedience and brings peace to one's soul (Philippians 4:6).

Bible Stories

Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)

Jesus Prays to be Glorified (John 17)

Bible Verses

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Colossians 4:2

Jeremiah 29:12

20. **Humility** – This is the opposite of pride. Pride comes before the fall (Proverbs 16:18). God brings down the proud and saves the humble (Job 22:29). If children want to make friends they need to exhibit a humble attitude. No one likes a bragger! In fact, I wrote a Christian children’s book, *What A Bragger!*, showing children how to love someone who is not humble. This particular character bragged because she wanted to fit in with the other children. She learned it was not what she had, but who she was, that was most important.

Bible Stories

A Warning Against Hypocrisy
(Matthew 23:1-38)
John Testifies Again About Jesus
(John 3:26-30)

Bible Verses

James 1:9, 4:6
Philippians 2:8
Numbers 12:3



REFERENCES

[1]<https://aesthetichealingmindset.wordpress.com/2011/06/12/4706/>

[2]Aubrey Hargis, *Toddler discipline for Every Age and Stage*, pg 29.

[3]Phil & Diane Comer, *Raising Passionate Jesus Followers*, pg 100.

[4]Reb Bradley, *Child Training Tips*, pg 67.

[5]Gerry Spence, *How to Argue and Win Every Time*, pg 54.

[6]Norman L. Geisler, Frank Turek, *"I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist"*, pg 44.

[7]Erwin W. Lutzer, *How to Break a Stubborn Habit*, pg 115.

[8]David A.R. White, *Between Heaven & Hollywood*, pg 90.

All Bible Verses Referenced are NIV



Virtues Your Child Exhibits

Virtues Your Child Needs Help Exhibiting & How You Can Help

20 VIRTUES WORD SEARCH

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

Words To Find

Courage
Temperance
Honor
Good Temper
Friendliness
Truthfulness
Justice

Charity
Discipline
Purity
Wisdom
Forbearance
Empathy

Persistence
Respect
Faith
Mercy
Gratitude
Prayerfulness
Humility

WORD SEARCH KEY

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



Virtues Used in the Bible

On following pages, match each virtue with the correct Bible verse and write them down.

Use open-ended questions for discussion.



How can you exhibit each of these virtues in your life?

Bible Verse

Virtue

1. Proverbs 3:12:

2. James 1:5:

3. Psalm 119:160:

4. Exodus 20:12:

5. Proverbs 11:2:

6. Timothy 3:4:

7. Philippians 4:8:

8. Act 3:6:

9. Proverbs 17:17:

10. Romans 10:17:

11. James 1:5:

12. Proverbs 21:15:



Courage
Honor
Friendliness

Purity
Wisdom
Respect

Truthfulness
Justice
Discipline

Faith
Mercy
Humility

ANSWER KEY

1. Discipline
2. Wisdom
3. Truthfulness
4. Honor
5. Humility
6. Respect
7. Purity
8. Courage
9. Friendliness
10. Faith
11. Wisdom
12. Justice

