HEMPSTEAD City of Character

"Building On a Solid Foundation"

"Indecisiveness is weakness of character. A leader cannot afford to be 'wishy-washy.' You m must be able to have confidence in what a leader tells you." --Gen. Carl Spaatz

Featuring this month~

Decisiveness

vs. Procrastination

"The ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions."

I will:

- Not look back.
- Do what I say.
- Make the right decision and stick to it.
- Look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind.
- Not give in to peer pressure.

More...

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What is decisiveness?

"Decisiveness" comes from a Latin word that means to "cut off." It implies firmness and determina- tion to make right decisions and stand by them.

A person must have a wise process for decision making, not basing them on mere emotion or present circumstances. Instead, right principles and sound judgment must be the basis of any good decision. Good decisions that appear be quick ones are often the result of many years of experience, study, observation, and training.

When making a decision, a person must be willing to commit to following it through, whatever the cost. Criticism may come, but with the confidence that a decision was based on right motives, sound judgment, and good information, a person can choose to learn from critics rather than be defensive. If the decision should turn out to be wrong, a person should show good character by admitting it and by actively pursuing a corrected course.

"The more clearly we define our goals, the more skilled we can be in making wise decisions."
The Power of True Success p. 61

The Badger

When threatened, the badger has to decide whether to fight or back down. Once it decides to fight, however, it will not be deterred and will take on an animal many times its size.
If a badger decides to retreat, it can dig a hole in 90 seconds and disappear underground.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever worked with a leader who was "wishy washy"? Describe what that was like.

2. Can you think of an authority who made wise decisions, even quickly sometimes? What about him gave you confidence in the decisions he made?

3. What are some practical ways you can prepare to make sound decisions in your particular area of responsibility?

4. What are some factors that could cloud your ability to make wise decisions in that area?

5. Can you share an experience in which you made an unwise decision? What influenced you that direction?

6. Do you have difficulty handling criticism? What are some positive ways to handle it?

Procrastination

Decisiveness is defeated by a tendency to procrastinate. Don't allow the most urgent needs to crowd out the most important tasks. Worse yet, don't allow the tasks that seem unpleasant to you remain undone. Schedule the most important tasks first and keep focused until they are finished.

Develop Decisiveness

1. Begin by following through on decisions you have already made, even if it is sacrificial for you.
2. Think through carefully the principles you want to live by and be sure your decisions are consistent with those principles, not just influenced by emotions and circumstances of the moment.
3. Once a decision is made, proceed wisely and in a timely manner. Do not put off acting on your decisions.
4. Prepare to make wise decisions. Read, make observations, ask questions, seek expert counsel. Be sure you know your options when a decision is at hand. Be realistic. List the pro's and con's before you decide.

Parents - Click here for tips on encouraging your children to develop the character quality this month.

Check out the Just for Kids pages for decisiveness in a nature analogy and a historical lesson.

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