"The first hall of justice is not the courtroom, but daily decisions."

--Character First

Featuring this month~

Justice

vs corruption

"Taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true."

I will:

- ***Keep a clean conscience.***
- ***Respect the authority of the law.***
- ***Speak out for what is pure, right, and true.***
- ***Not harbor prejudice.***
- ***Remain open to reason.***

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What is Justice?

"Justice comes from the Latin word "justus," meaning "lawful, right, proper." It was used to describe a proper fit of a suit, that which is "fitting."
Justice assumes having a moral compass, a sense of what is right at the core of one's being and played out in everyday life in countless daily decisions. It is an inner motivation to do what is right because it is right, not to conform to the opinions of men or to achieve what looks like a right conclusion, but by the wrong methods.
Justice is taking personal responsibility when wrongs are observed, either by intervening or by drawing attention to the wrong. A just person will recognize the authorities who have jurisdiction.
He will seek to restore the victim of wrong actions and to reform the wrong-doer, but only in humility first regarding his own actions. He will apply a consistent standard to his own life, correct situations where he has done wrong, and then see clearly to address the wrongs of others.
Justice is distinguished from "fairness," in which it is assumed that everyone should get the same thing at the same time. Justice considers the abilities, responsibilities, and needs of the individual and does what is right for each one.

The time is always right to do what is right."
--Martin Luther King

Talk about Justice

1. How have you previously defined justice?

2. What is the difference between fairness and justice? Can you think of a situation where fairness was wrongly called for?

3. How would you answer the accusation, "It isn't fair!" when a worker complains about his work load?

4. Think of a situation in your town that has offended your sense of right and wrong.
a. What can you do to help bring justice?
b. How could you help restore the victim?
c. How could you help reform the perpetrator?

Roadblocks to Justice

- **Apathy -** "not my problem!"
- **Dullness -** too much injustice on TV, movies, etc.
- **Compromise** of standards

Having a moral compass makes decisions clear.

- **Fear** of the opinions of others
- **Wrong** motive of revenge, not restoration

How to Bring Justice to a Situation

- Clear your own conscience
- Choose to take personal responsibility in the situation
- Gain understanding of the moral issues involved.
- Use the right method: address the issue where you have authority and inform others who have authority, appealing to higher authority and informing the public, if necessary.
- Confront the wrongdoer and give them an opportunity to admit their wrong and change.
- Promote reform, not revenge. Help them to identify their character issues. Bring restoration to the victim.

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

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