



VIRTUE STUDIES

THIS COURSE WAS WRITTEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMMERSING YOUNG MINDS IN ANCIENT TRUTHS

THE 7 CHARACTER TRAITS COVERED:

Grace, encouragement, love, work ethic, modesty and gentleness, courage, trust and faith.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

<u>FOUNDATIONAL TEXT:</u>	<i>Moral Compass</i> by William J. Bennett
<u>GRACE:</u>	<i>The Hiding Place</i> by Corrie Ten Boom
<u>ENCOURAGEMENT:</u>	<i>Bringing out the Best in People</i> by Alan Loy McGinnis
<u>LOVE:</u>	<i>His Stubborn Love</i> by Joyce Landorf
<u>WORK ETHIC:</u>	<i>Do Hard Things</i> by Alex and Brett Harris
<u>MODESTY AND GENTLENESS:</u>	<i>Her Name is Woman</i> by Glen Karssen
<u>COURAGE:</u>	<i>Hind's Feet on High Places</i> by Hannah Hurnard
<u>TRUST AND FAITH:</u>	<i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> by John Bunyan

The outline of study could be used for other virtue topics such as

Self-discipline
Compassion
Responsibility
Friendship
Perseverance
Hope
Honesty
Loyalty

which are topics covered in William J. Bennett's companion volume The Book of Virtues. Other novel selections can also be read to emphasize various character traits. See "Alternative Literature Recommendations" for a list. This course is intended for a one-year, full credit study in English.

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VIRTUE STUDIES

The virtues of an individual possessing excellent character include these seven: gracious, encouraging, loving, industrious, modest and gentle, courageous, trusting and faithful. These are developed in the young through consistent teaching and modeling. Youth need to see examples of good and bad, right and wrong, and the consequences of each. What better place to find them but in the Bible and in great works of literature providing exemplary stories from history?

In this course, the student will examine each of the seven virtues listed, know the definitions, read literary samples, discover Biblical examples, and journal his /her progress toward acquiring these traits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

For each of the seven virtues, the student will:

1. write definitions, positive examples and negative examples,
2. search and read the Bible for stories, examples and teachings,
3. list and summarize the verses and passages discovered,
4. read stories from THE MORAL COMPASS by William J. Bennett as well as other books and authors dealing with subjects of excellent character,
5. list and summarize the stories read,
6. keep a journal of observations, personal character goals, efforts in self-discipline, and prayers.

GRACIOUS

- a. Write definitions of “gracious” and “grace” from the dictionary.
- b. Find examples and verses explaining grace from the Bible (minimum 3)
In addition, read the story of Jacob, Genesis 25:19- Genesis 33: 20.
Write the character weaknesses of Jacob mentioned as the story unfolds.
Describe how many times God was good to him despite Jacob’s dishonest and manipulative behavior.
- c. How does a person behave who has graciousness as a virtue?
- d. How would a person behave who is ungracious?
- e. Read 5- 10 stories from the Moral Compass by William Bennett in the section titled INTO THE WORLD pages 133-242. Many of these stories are short and contain a moral. Write the LESSON LEARNED in each of the stories read.

Watch for how *graciousness* serves individuals well as they deal with the ways of the world. Be ready to discuss your observations and ideas.

And read

The Hiding Place By Corrie Ten Boom.

What were the weaknesses of Corrie’s character? How was grace shown through her sister Betsie’s behavior?

Corrie developed the virtue of grace through her many experiences. Describe an incident where she was gracious toward the end of the book.

- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to graciousness in your character.
Write examples of grace from others that you observe.

ENCOURAGING

- a. Write definitions of “encouragement” and “encourage” from the dictionary.
- b. Find examples and verses explaining encouragement from the Bible (minimum 2)
In addition, read about Barnabas’s contributions to the early church in Acts 4 and then chapters 9- 15. Who did he support? How did he serve? What were his errors?
- c. How does a person behave who has encouragement as his / her virtue?
- d. How would a person behave who is discouraging?
- e. Read 5-10 stories from the ***Moral Compass*** by William Bennett, the section titled EASING THE PATH pages 361 – 480.
Write the LESSON LEARNED in each of the stories read.
Watch for how *encouragement* serves individuals well as they deal with the ways of the world. Be ready to discuss this.

And read

Bringing out the Best in People by Alan Loy McGinnis.

For each chapter, write down ideas and thoughts that you want to remember and practice. Have at least TWO entries from each chapter.

- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to encouraging others.
Write examples of encouragement from others that you observe.

NOTES

LOVING

- a. Write definitions of “loving”, “love” and “loveable” from the dictionary.
- b. Find examples and verses explaining *love* from the Bible (minimum 3)
In addition, read the book of Ruth from the Bible. Write about 3 things that Ruth did because she loved Naomi.
Read I Corinthians 13: 1-13. What are the 3 most important virtues? Which is the MOST important and why do you think that is so?
Read about David and Jonathan in I Samuel 18: 1 – 9 and I Samuel 20: 1 – 42.
- c. How does a person behave who has a loving nature?
- d. How would a person behave who is unlovable?
- e. Read from the *Moral Compass* by William Bennett the section titled HOME AND HEARTH pages 21- 129. Write the lesson you learned in each of the 5 - 10 stories read.
Watch for how *a loving nature* serves individuals well as they deal with the ways of the world.
And read
His Stubborn Love by Joyce Landorf.
Describe the difficult aspects of Joyce’s marriage. How did Joyce contribute to the problems?
Describe in your own words how both Joyce and her husband found answers together.
- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to showing love to others.
Write examples of a loving nature in others that you observe.

NOTES

INDUSTRIOUS

- a. Write definition of “industrious” from the dictionary. Find the meaning of “work ethic”. Write about how the two are related.
- b. Find examples and verses explaining the benefits of hard work from the Bible (minimum 1)
In addition, read in Proverbs chapter 6: 6-8 about the ant. What can be learned from the ant?
Finally, write a description of an INDUSTRIOUS woman from Proverbs chapter 31: 10-31.
Read about Gideon in Judges chapters 6-8. How was Gideon an industrious person? Why did God limit his army to only 300? What was the result?
- c. How does a person behave who has a strong work ethic?
- d. How would a person behave who has a poor work ethic?
- e. Read from the ***Moral Compass*** by William Bennett the section titled CITIZENSHIP AND LEADERSHIP pages 593-696. Write about the lesson learned in each of the 5 - 10 stories read.
Watch for how *hard work* serves individuals well as they deal with the ways of the world.

And read

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris

Complete at least two questions from each of the study guide chapters as you work your way through the book. The study guide may be downloaded at this website..... http://www.therebelution.com/dohardthings/study_guide.htm

- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to developing a strong work ethic.
Write examples of a mature work ethic in others that you observe.
Be ready to discuss this.

NOTES

MODESTY AND GENTLENESS

- a. Write the definitions of both “modesty” and “gentleness” from the dictionary. What does “gentleness” have to do with “modesty”?
- b. Find examples and verses explaining God’s principles of modesty.
Read I Peter 3:3-4. Restate this verse in your own words.
Read I Samuel chapter 25: 2-42 about Abigail. How did Abigail talk about her difficult husband to King David? What attracted David to Abigail?
- c. How does a person who is modest BEHAVE, DRESS, and ADORN herself?
- d. Read from ***Moral Compass*** by William Bennett the section titled MOTHERS AND FATHERS, HUSBANDS AND WIVES pages 481-590. Write the lessons learned in each of the 5 - 10 stories read.
Watch for how *gentleness and / or modesty* serve individuals well as they deal with the ways of the world.
And read *Her Name is Woman* by Glen Karssen
- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to developing modesty and gentleness.
Write examples of modesty and gentleness in others that you observe.

NOTES

COURAGEOUS

- a. Write the definitions of “courage” and “brave” from the dictionary.
- b. On your own find examples and verses related to courageous people in the Bible.
Also read I Samuel 17. How is courage demonstrated in this chapter?
Read Matthew chapter 26 verses 36-56. How was courage needed at this time?
- c. How does a courageous person act in times of danger? Why is courage necessary in order to live a virtuous life?
- d. How would a person behave who was a coward?
- e. Read from the ***Moral Compass*** by William Bennett the section titled STANDING FAST pages 245 – 360. Write the lessons learned in each of the 5 - 10 stories read about courage.

And read

Hind's Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard.

Keep a list of each time Much Afraid needed to exercise courage in order to press on. How did the Shepherd encourage her to be brave?

- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions.
Set a goal for yourself in regards to developing courage in the face of obstacles.

Write examples of courage in others that you observe or have heard / read about. Be ready to discuss this.

NOTES

TRUSTING AND FAITHFUL

- a. Write the definitions of “faith”, “faithful” and “trust” from the dictionary.
- b. On your own find examples and verses related to FAITH in the Bible.
Also read: Hebrews 11
Tell in your own words what “faith” is. Explain how faith enables the heroes to withstand torturing and cruelty.
Also read Genesis 12: 1-7 and then Romans 4: 21 and 22. Explain what FAITH is according to these verses.
- c. How does a faithful person act in times of doubt? Why is faith necessary in order to live a virtuous life?
- d. How would a person behave who was faithful?
How would a person behave who was unfaithful?
How would a person behave if they had little or no faith in God?
- e. Read from the ***Moral Compass*** by William Bennett the section titled WHAT WE LIVE BY pages 697 - 812. Write the lesson you learned in each of the 5 - 10 stories read.

Read

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan

Summarize every story in which faith was needed in order for Pilgrim to keep moving toward the goal.

- f. Keep a daily journal of lessons, experiences, readings and resolutions. Write examples of faith in others that you observe or have heard / read about. Be ready to discuss this.

NOTES

For each of the virtues studied, a discussion is recommended in the lesson plans. Use this rubric to score the quality of each discussion.

VIRTUE STUDIES Discussion Rubric

Name _____ date _____

Topic discussed _____

Adult's signature _____

As the student reads about the 7 virtues,
Encourage insight, understanding and leadership in initiating discussions.

	None at all	Very little	Adequate	Showed good effort	Showed outstanding effort
Took initiative to discuss the assignment	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Willingly shared the read information	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Offered ideas and insights	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Made an effort to answer questions thoroughly	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Demonstrated that some previous thought and effort had been made.	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points

Add points from each column and multiply the sum by 4.

The discussion grade is _____

Grading the Seven Virtue Studies

At the completion of each of the seven virtue studies, use this form to assess the student's achievement for each of the stated objectives.

	Scores	Weights	
Course Objectives	Circle a score that represents the achievement of each objective (6=low, 10=high)	Give each objective a number between 1 and 3 that represents its importance. The sum of all these numbers should be 10	
		Weights	Sub-totals
1. Write complete definitions, positive examples, and negative examples	6 7 8 9 10	X	
2. Search and read the Bible for stories or verses that illustrate the virtue.	6 7 8 9 10	X	
3. Summarize the lessons learned from each of the stories read from <i>Moral Compass</i>	6 7 8 9 10	X	
4. Present ideas developed from reading the suggested book in writing	6 7 8 9 10	X	
5. Write ideas, prayers, and observations about virtues studied consistently in a journal	6 7 8 9 10	X	
Multiply each of the objectives' scores by their weights. Add all the subtotals in column three to get the grade for this section of the course.		Total:	

Alternative Literature Recommendations

Grace

Eternity in Their Hearts, Richardson, helps readers connect missionary work with the concept of God's preparation and grace.

Queen Esther's Reflection, Platz The Scripture-based content addresses topics that contemporary women can relate to and helps each woman connect with the idea of becoming spiritually beautiful.

Extravagant Grace, This "Women of Faith" publication includes many stories from various authors that will encourage the reader to recognize and look for grace in all of life's events.

Encouragement

Amos Fortune, Freeman, Yates, A man who became a slave in 1725, worked to become free and then to set his loved ones free.

Sounder, Armstrong, Sharecroppers living at the turn of the century overcome injustice and the deepest hardships of life.

The Endless Steppe, Hautzig, Taking place in 1941, this story about a family enduring struggles for survival in Russian Siberia is truly encouraging and moving.

Love

The Great Gilly Hopkins, Paterson, A foster child learns what true love really is and what it means to belong

The Chosen Potok, An exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty and the power of love. deeply thought-provoking,

Crazy Lady Conly, A heartfelt and inspiring story about a special needs son and his mother's dedication.

Jacob Have I Loved, Paterson, a challenge to teenagers who perceive themselves as unloved

Strong Work Ethic

The Dry Divide, Moody, A story filled with deep insight into the human condition, hope, kindness, and amazing banking acumen

The Contender, Lipsyte, An inner city dropout learns through the disciplines of boxing, what it takes to win the battles of life.

Adam of the Road, Gray, This is a heartwarming story about the son of a traveling minister who is separated from his father and forced to live by his wits and music.

Modesty and gentleness

Dating With Integrity Holzmann, This book offers a Biblical model of male-female relationships based on our status as sons and daughters of God. Challenging!

My Antonia, Canther, a literary feast, beautifully written about a believably real immigrant woman from Bohemia living in 1880's Nebraska.

The Tanglewoods' Secret, St. John, An encounter with the Shepherd teaches a girl how to control her fiery temper and selfish spirit.

Courage

Cry the Beloved Country, Paton, A classic story about the racial injustice in South Africa that demonstrates love, hope, courage and endurance

After the War, Matas A gripping story about the period of time following WW2

Living on the Devil's Doorstep, McClung A challenging story about a "straight" preacher's kid who becomes a missionary to very wayward people.

Up From Slavery Washington, This simply written, anecdotal life story bears the mark of a man of real courage, talent and dedication.

Trust and faithfulness

Master Cornhill, McGraw, This story from London's great plague in 1665 illustrates the power of friendship, courage and faithfulness.

A Single Shard, Park, This is a story of an orphan boy raised by a beggar. However, through determined effort, the boy grows in his talents to make his way out of poverty. His journey shows the results of faith, perseverance and courage.

Peace Child, Richardson, This story about the Sawi cannibals of Irian Jaya, teaches how their culture was prepared by God to receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

Writing About Your Reading Journal

Name _____ date _____

Virtue Studied: _____

Book Read: _____

Author: _____ publisher _____

What are your ideas about this virtue before reading the book?

pages read today _____

Each day after reading a portion of the book, summarize the plot and / or concepts discussed. (5 sentences minimum)

Also, each day after the reading, write your comments, notes, and thoughts. (3 sentences minimum)

Daily Reading Log

Date _____ pages read today _____

Book read _____

Virtue being studied _____

Summarize the plot and / or concepts discussed. (5 sentences minimum)

Record your comments, notes, and thoughts. (3 sentences minimum)

Final Reading Log

Reflection Page

Name _____

Book Read _____

Finish date _____

What is your conclusion about the virtue studied? How have your ideas been changed or strengthened?

What was the strongest example of this virtue in the story?

What example of this virtue have you seen in your own life, either practiced by you or given as a gift to you from others?