

# Lesson 13: Taking Personal Responsibility for Learning—Part 1

A weakness in our society today is people's reluctance or refusal to take personal responsibility for their actions. God holds each of us responsible for what we do; we cannot blame our actions and mistakes on anyone else. If we do wrong, for whatever reasons, God holds us personally responsible.

As you grow in your ability to manage yourself and your time, those around you will observe that you are becoming more mature spiritually and emotionally. Shirking responsibilities is a sign of immaturity. Being willing to take personal responsibility for your life and actions is an important part of self-management.

When you do well on a school assignment or make a high grade on a major test, you should be excited about your achievement. Pat yourself on the back, and give thanks to the Lord. You worked hard; you deserve the credit. But, on the other hand, when you do poorly, accept the blame. Don't blame the teacher, blame yourself. If you excuse yourself from learning and from your school studies, you are the only person at fault. Think of it this way—you have a duty to God, to your parents, to your teachers, and to yourself. Do your best in everything you do.

If you don't believe that you can succeed, you probably won't. A positive attitude and a good work ethic will help you deal successfully with the difficult tests and school assignments. The attitude and work habits you demonstrate in your school studies will carry over into the workforce.

## Putting God First

The most important personal self-management responsibility is maintaining a proper relationship with God. At the top of your daily to-do list is your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. No matter how busy you get in school or in your social life, always take the time to enjoy your relationship with Christ and to honor your duty to God. You must make this a priority and seek daily to keep a close relationship with God.

## Getting Help

As you develop self-management skills, you will better understand the value of asking other people for help, including seeking advice or guidance to make wise choices. Successful students recognize the value in Bible-based counsel. If you are experiencing difficulty with course content, if your grades are dropping, or if you are facing a personal problem, ask for help. Seeking advice is a part of making wise choices, especially if it is Bible-based counsel. As a young person, you have four major sources of help and counsel: God, parents, teachers, and friends.

**“An On-Purpose Person accepts personal responsibility for discovering his or her unique attributes, and intentionally puts them to a positive purpose.”**

—Kevin McCarthy in *The On-Purpose Person*



## My Personal Relationship with God

1. Bible reading
2. Prayer
3. Meditation on Scripture
4. Scripture memorization
5. Church attendance
6. Christian service
7. Honor and respect for creation
8. Soul-winning



## QUESTIONS

**Part 1—Directions:** If God is first in your life, you will want to share spiritual blessings with others. The following questions will remind you of how God has blessed you.

1. What personal prayer request has God answered recently? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What Bible promise has encouraged you recently? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What has a Christian friend done for you recently that demonstrated God's love? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What have you done recently for a friend that demonstrates God's love? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What biblical principle has your Bible teacher shared with the class this week? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What decision have you made recently that required putting God first? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2—Directions:** God's Word emphasizes the importance of counsel. Answer the following questions about asking for help or seeking counsel. Use your Bible to answer the questions.

1. Read Proverbs 15:22. Rewrite this verse in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to James 1:6, how are we to ask God for His help? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Give an example of a time when you really needed God's help. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are some ways your parents can help you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How should you ask a teacher for help? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How can your friends provide wise counsel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. On your own paper, write a paragraph describing how a friend has helped you by giving wise counsel.