



Reflecting Jesus: Building Character

5



Before you start:

1. Prayerfully read through the whole lesson at least twice.
2. Gather all the materials you need for each section (see right).
3. Work with another team member and plan who will manage each section of the session.

Leadership Personal Preparation:

Which aspect of God's character have you most appreciated during the past week? Perhaps it was his acceptance, or his patience, or his forgiveness?

If the Holy Spirit invites you to do so, be ready to tell the group your thoughts during the welcome or the conclusion. Otherwise use your experience of God's character to inspire you as you lead out in today's session.

You will need:

Icebreaker:

- A copy of the 'God's Character' cards, cut apart so that there is one card per person. Copy as many sheets as necessary.
- A whistle

Word Search:

- Copies of the different Word Search studies – one copy per person. (Give each person in a family the same study so that they can work together.)
- Pens
- Copies of the Combined Word Search studies – one per person

Mission Possible:

- A copy of the 'God's Character Alphabet' for each family
- Pens

Family Focus Time:

- Copy Family Discussion' cards onto thin card and cut them apart. Provide one card per family.
- Drinks and cups for refreshments during the Family Focus time.

Jesus and Me (JAM) Session:

- One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant

Take-away Menu (optional):

- A selection of toy building bricks of any kind
- A supply of fine-tipped permanent markers

By the end of the session, the group members will:

- Know that the character they build during this life is something they will have for eternity.
- Feel a desire to work with God to build a character that will last forever.
- Respond by consciously choosing to develop pure and lasting character traits that will make a difference in their lives today



KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Building Character



Welcome, Prayer and introduction – 5 mins

Say:

“ If you were going to build something that would last forever, how would you go about it? What would you have to consider? How would you make sure it would last? What would you do to make sure it would survive a fire, a bomb, or an earthquake?

Today we are going to explore how being connected to Jesus enables us to build a character that will last forever. Our character is made up of our thoughts and feelings, and together they shape how we respond to the different events that happen in our lives. ”

Icebreaker - 7 mins

You will need:

1. 'God's Character' Cards
2. A whistle

- Hand out 'God's Character Cards' – one per person.
- Say: 'I've given you a card with one of God's characteristics written on it. Don't let anyone else see what's written on your card.'
- Find a partner, decide who is the older of the two of you, and the oldest person goes first.
- When I blow the whistle you have 1 minute to act out the characteristic on your card for the other person to guess. After 1 minute I will blow the whistle again and they can have three guesses. Then swap over and have another minute for the younger person to act out their characteristic.
- You are not allowed to speak, mouth words or write anything down! You can only act out the word.
- Allow the group to complete this activity, stopping and starting them as you have described.
- Then ask: 'How easy or hard was it to guess your partner's characteristic?'

Mission Possible - 15 mins

You will need:

1. 'God's Character Alphabet' one per family
2. Pens

- Give each family a pen and a photocopy of 'God's Character Alphabet'.
- Say: 'You have five minutes to write down as many different aspects of God's character as possible.'
- You must write down one characteristic for each of the 26 letters before adding other characteristics to your list. In other words, before adding a second characteristic under the letter 'A' you must have found one characteristic for each of the other letters first. There are even characteristics for Q*, Y and Z! For X use words beginning with eX.
- *(In case anyone challenges you – quieting, questioning, yearning, zealous, etc.)
- After 5 minutes of activity call the group back together
- Ask someone from each family to read aloud the characteristics of God that they have written on their alphabet sheet.

Feedback Questions:

- Look over the list of characteristics that you wrote down. Which characteristic of God do you most want to experience today? Why?
- Which characteristic of God surprised you the most, or was one you hadn't thought of before? What difference does your awareness of that characteristic make to the way you see God now?
- Which characteristics of God do you think he enjoys the most?





KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Building Character



Word Search - 25/35 mins

You will need:

1. Copies of the different Word Search studies – one copy per person. (Give each person in a family the same study so that they can work together.)
 2. Pens
 3. Copies of the Combined Word Search studies – one per person
- Break the group up into the different families and give each family one of the 4 different Word Search sheets to study and explore.
 - As part of their exploration they will create a mime, presentation, picture or verbal report to illustrate what they have learned about God's character from doing their Word Search.

Word Search Feedback:

- Call people back to the larger group
- Invite each group to share what they discovered about God through whichever means they have chosen to do so.
- Give each participant a copy of all the Word Search sheets to take away. These can be used as resources for family worships during the week. They can also be used by individuals as part of their personal time with God.

Family Focus – 10/15 mins

You will need:

1. Drinks and cups
 2. Family Discussion Cards
- Let the everyone re-assemble into their family groups, collecting a drink on the way.
 - Give each family a talk-time card to pass around their circle. Each person can discuss a topic or answer one of the questions from the card. They can also pass it to the next person if they would prefer not to speak.

JAM Session (Jesus and Me) - 5 mins

You will need:

1. CD player and CD of soft worship music
 2. One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant
- Give out the 'Jesus and Me' journal pages for Session 5.
 - Allow at least five minutes for people to make a start on their pages so that they will be encouraged to complete their projects during the week ahead.

Praying together - 15 mins

- Each person in the family chooses and names a character trait that they would like God to help them develop in their own life.
- Then each person prays for the person on his or her left, that God will help the person to develop the character trait that they would like to see developed in their life.



Take-Away Menu (optional)

You will need:

1. Toy building bricks of any kind
 2. Fine-tipped permanent markers
- Let each person choose a toy brick and use a fine-tipped permanent marker pen to label the brick with the characteristic they most want to develop in their lives at the moment.
 - The brick can be taken home as a reminder to work with God on building their character.
 - Ask each person to show their brick to someone who is not a member of their family and to tell them what they have learned about God's loving character during this session.

Closing Prayer

Cut these apart and give one to each person - copy more sheets if you need them.

<i>Patience</i>	<i>MERCY</i>
<i>Love</i>	<i>Saving/Redeeming</i>
<i>FORGIVENESS</i>	<i>CREATIVITY</i>
<i>HONESTY</i>	<i>PERSISTENCE</i>
<i>SELF-SACRIFICE</i>	<i>HUMILITY</i>
<i>GENTLENESS</i>	<i>HELPFULNESS</i>
<i>GENEROSITY</i>	<i>Healing</i>
<i>JOYFULNESS</i>	<i>HOPEFULNESS</i>



KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Mission Possible: God's Character Alphabet



See how many of God's character qualities you can write down.

Try to find at least one character quality per letter.

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





KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Word Search: Experiencing the Glory of God's Character - A



Read the story of Moses experiencing the glory of God: Exodus 33:18-34:7

Then ask each person the following questions:

What do you most like about the story?

What do you think is the most important idea in this story?

Where are you in the story? Which part of the story do you identify with the most?

What does this story tell you about God's character?

Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this passage?

In this story , which aspect of God's character would you like to present to the rest of the class, and how?

Now create something you could perform in one minute that will share your discoveries with the rest of the group – perhaps a picture, mime, summary of fresh insights, etc.





KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Word Search: Experiencing the Loving Forgiveness of God's Character - B



Read the story of the welcoming father: Luke 15:11-24

Then ask each person the following questions:

What do you most like about the story?

What do you think is the most important idea in this story?

Where are you in the story? Which character in the story is most like you?

What does this story tell you about God's character?

Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this passage?

In this story, which aspect of God's character would you like to present to the rest of the class, and how?

Now create something you could perform in one minute that will share your discoveries with the rest of the group – perhaps a picture, mime, summary of fresh insights, etc.





KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Word Search: Experiencing the Care and Comfort of God's Character - C



Read Psalm 23 together. It is a Psalm, but it is also the story of a good shepherd.

Then ask each person the following questions:

What do you most like about this Psalm/story?

What do you think is the most important idea in this Psalm/story?

Where are you in the Psalm/story? Which verse in this psalm is most about you?

What does this Psalm/story tell you about God's character?

Which aspect of God's character in this story would you like to present to the rest of the class, and how?

Now create something you could perform in one minute that will share your discoveries with the rest of the group – perhaps a picture, mime, summary of fresh insights, etc.





KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Word Search: Experiencing the Diversity of God's Character - D



Read the description of God in Psalm 145. Use a modern translation if possible.

Then ask each person the following questions:

Which verse - or description of God - do you like the best?

What do you think is the most important characteristic of God in this Psalm?

Are there any aspects of God's character, listed in this Psalm, that you think are less important than the others?

Which aspect/s of God would you like to present to the rest of the class, and how?

Now create something you could perform in one minute that will share your discoveries with the rest of the group – perhaps a picture, mime, summary of fresh insights, etc.





KID for Teens: Handout: Building Character Word Search: Combined



Experiencing the Glory of God's Character

- Read the story of Moses experiencing the glory of God in Exodus 33:18-34:7
- Then think about the following questions:
- What do you most like about the story?
- What do you think is the most important idea in this story?
- Where are you in the story? Which part of the story is most about you?
- What does this story tell you about God's character?
- Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this story?

Experiencing the Loving Forgiveness of God's Character

- Read the story of the welcoming father in Luke 15:11-24.
- Then think about the following questions:
- What do you most like about the story?
- What do you think is the most important idea in this story?
- Where are you in the story? Which character in the story is most like you?
- What does this story tell you about God's character?
- Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this story?

Experiencing the Care and Comfort of God's Character

- Read psalm 23 together. It is a psalm, but it is also the story of a good shepherd.
- Then think about the following questions:
- What do you most like about this psalm/story?
- What do you think is the most important idea in this psalm/story?
- Where are you in the psalm/story? Which verse is most about you?
- What does this psalm/story tell you about God's character?
- Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this story?

Experiencing the Diversity of God's Character

- Read the description of God in Psalm 145. Use a modern translation if possible.
- Then think about following questions:
- Which verse, or description of God, do you like the best?
- What do you think is the most important characteristic of God in this psalm?
- Are there any aspects of God's character, listed in this psalm, that you think are less important than the others?
- Through the ways you relate to them, how could you help someone to experience each of the different characteristics of God as described in this story?



LESSON 5 -

FAMILY Discussion CARD

Which of God's characteristics have you most enjoyed experiencing in the past week?

Which of God's characteristics is the hardest for you to understand or accept? Why do you think it is difficult?

Which characteristic of God would you most like to have, or want to develop? Why?

List five of God's characteristics that begin with the first letter of your name.

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Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 5: Building Character: Exploring God's Character - Growing My Character - A



Take time to explore God's character.

Using the alphabet chart below as a guide, write down as many of God's characteristics as you can. Search for the Bible verses that mention or describe these characteristics.

If you run out of space, buy a small notebook with alphabet tabs. Add extra characteristics of God as you find them in your Bible studies.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD	BIBLE VERSES DESCRIBING GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	



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Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 5: Building Character: Exploring God's Character - Growing My Character - B



CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD	BIBLE VERSES DESCRIBING GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS
N	
O	
P	
Q	
R	
S	
T	
U	
V	
W	
X	
Y	
Z	

Use this chart in your prayers. Choose one characteristic of God each day and wonder about how God demonstrates this characteristic in his relationship with you. Shape your worship and prayer time around the characteristic. For example: try praising the comforting God (2 Corinthians 1:3-5) and pray to the God who comforts you. Or wonder about the singing God, who sings over you (Zephaniah 3:17). What song do you think God sings over you, etc?

Discover how spending time thinking about God's character can transform your character too.



Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 5: Building Character: Growing My Character



Read 2 Peter 1:3-11.

This describes how a Christian's character can be developed.

On the steps below write the sequence Peter describes, starting at the bottom step with *Faith*.

Why do you think Peter listed these qualities in this order?

How do you keep growing these characteristics in increasing amounts, as Peter describes in verse 8?

STEP 7

STEP 6

STEP 5

STEP 4

STEP 3

STEP 2

STEP 1





Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 5: Building Character: Growing with God



Prayerfully read through the characteristics of God that you have listed on the alphabet chart and ask him to show you which 2 or 3 characteristics he most wants you to develop at this time in your life.

List them next to the numbers below:

1. Characteristic:

How might God help you to develop this characteristic?

2. Characteristic:

How might God help you to develop this characteristic?

3. Characteristic:

How might God help you to develop this characteristic?

Prayerfully work with God as he builds your character.

Choose some Bible verses that will encourage you to develop that characteristic

Notice the difference God is making in your life. Thank him for the character he is building in you day by day.

Celebrate your step by step journey towards becoming like Jesus.