



● **Champions are made in adversity.**

Morality: Knowing the difference between good and bad.

Character: The expression of morality in our lives.

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)

Be careful how you behave among your unsaved neighbors; for then, even if they are suspicious of you and talk against you, they will end up praising God for your good works when Christ returns. 1 Peter 2:12 (TLB)

Why character is important:

- It identifies who we are.

The character of even a child can be known by the way he acts—whether what he does is pure and right. Proverbs 20:11 (TLB)

- It defines how we treat people.
- It reveals Jesus to others.

...worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes. Galatians 3:27 (NLT)

A good place to start:

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

How character is developed in us:

- Have I embraced the new life God has for me?

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:22-24 (MSG)

- Do I see the purpose in difficult times?

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

- Do I have the right influences in my life?

..."bad company corrupts good character." Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning...1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NLT)

- Do my thoughts support the person God wants me to be?

Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about. Philippians 4:8 (TLB)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:
These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- When you think of professional athletes, do you think of good or bad character qualities?
- Give some examples of the decline of character you see in our world today.
- Go through 2 Tim. 3:1-5 and note the different expressions of lack of character, and the moral deficiencies it stems from.
- Why do you believe character is important? Why is our character important to God?
- How does embracing our life in Christ develop character? Read Ephesians 4:22-24.
- How do wrong influences affect good character? (Give an example) How do good influences affect our character?
- How do our thoughts affect our character development?
- How will you prioritize the development of your character?

Connection Group Leaders: Remind your group of the following announcements:
Business Meeting - Feb. 26th **Quest "After Hours"** - March 5th

For more Information, and other Talks, visit us at
www.faithisaquest.com/media/talks/