

## **Unit B:** Qualities of a Good Leader

### **Lesson 5:** Understanding Responsibility and Accountability

#### **Student Learning Objectives:**

Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. Define personal responsibility and accountability.
2. Identify the value of personal responsibility and accountability.

#### **Recommended Teaching Time:** 1 hour

#### **Resources:**

- Connors, Roger, et al. *The Oz Principle: Getting Results Through Individual and Organizational Accountability*. New York, New York: Prentice Hall Press, 1998.
- Johnson, Spencer and Blanchard, Kenneth. *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life*. New York, New York: Putnam Pub Group, 1998.
- Marshall, Marvin L. *Discipline Without Stress, Punishments or Rewards: How Teachers and Parents Promote Responsibility and Learning*. New York, New York: Piper Press, 2001.
- Miller, John G. *QBQ! The Question Behind the Question*. Denver, Colorado: Denver Press, 2001.

#### **List of Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities:**

- Writing surface
- PowerPoint Projector
- PowerPoint Slides
- Transparency Masters
- Copies of student worksheets
- Markers
- Paper
- Pencils

**Terms:** The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- Responsibility
- Accountability

## Interest Approach:

Encourage your students to be hungry learners and give truthful answers to the questions being asked for them. Take about 10 minutes.

**Script for Teacher:** *What responsibilities do you believe you personally have for yourself, your family, your community, and your world? Remember, the discussion today just might make the difference of having an average week an exceptional week, so, be hungry learners and give truthful answers to the questions being asked of you.*

## SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Objective 1:** Define personal responsibility and accountability.

*Anticipated Problem:* What is personal responsibility? What is personal accountability?

**Brainstorm a list of words or phrases that describe a responsible and accountable person. Compare the students' list with the list from TM: 5-1. Take about 10 minutes for Objective 1.**

**Script for Teacher:** *As a whole class, let's think of as many words or phrases that might help us describe responsibility and accountability. Raise your hand when you think of a word and we will place it on the writing surface. Be thoughtful and courteous to yourself and others as they are quietly thinking and writing down our responses. Let's begin.*

### (PowerPoint Slide 2)

- I. What is responsibility and accountability?
  - A. Job
  - B. Duty
  - C. Task
  - D. Dependability
  - E. Liability
  - F. Answerable
  - G. Reliable
  - H. Don't blame others
  - I. Fulfill obligations
  - J. Make good judgments
  - K. Exercise self control

**Read the following definition to the students and ask them to help answer the following questions. Underline the key words "regularly, answerable, key areas, qualified" as you ask them the four questions. Use TM: 5-2.**

**Script for Teacher:** *Now let's look at a possible definition.*

**(PowerPoint Slide 3)**

- II. A more concrete definition for responsibility and accountability might be to be regularly answerable for key areas of our lives with qualified people.
- A. What does regularly mean?
  - B. What does answerable mean?
  - C. What are the key areas?
  - D. Who is qualified to be accountable?

**Objective 2:** Identify the value of personal responsibility and accountability.

*Anticipated Problem:* What is the value of personal responsibility and accountability?

**Discuss with the students the positive and negative consequences of their actions with the following activity. Divide the class into small groups of three. Have each group develop a list of do's and don'ts for being responsible and accountable. This activity will be done in groups of three. Take about 20 minutes and use TM: 5-3.**

**Script for Teacher (PowerPoint Slide 4):** *Let's continue keeping our creative juices flowing and create a list of "do's" and "don'ts" for being responsible and accountable. We'll make oral reports back to the rest of the class addressing the following questions: What happens when people live in accordance with the things on the "do" list? What happens when they live in accordance with the things on the "don'ts" list? In what ways does irresponsible behavior affect our community? How can young people today demonstrate personal responsibility and accountability? Begin now.*

**Share with the students the following four basic areas and see if their discussion relating to young people today demonstrating personal responsibility and accountability fit into these categories. Use TM: 5-4 and take about five minutes.**

**(PowerPoint Slide 5)**

- III. Our lives can mature and grow when we are:
- A. Morally responsible and accountable
  - B. Spiritually responsible and accountable
  - C. Relationally responsible and accountable
  - D. Financially responsible and accountable
  - E. Are there other categories we could create?

**Review/Summary:** Use PowerPoint Slide 6 to help review the objectives of the lesson. Have students say aloud the definition of accountability and the four main areas of value for personal responsibility and accountability. Take about five minutes.

**Application:** As a group, research resources in your school and community that can support a person who would like to be more responsible and accountable. Assemble this material and make a copy for all class members.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation should focus on student achievement of the objectives for the lesson. A sample test is included.

## **Answers to Sample Test:**

Part One: True or False

1. True
2. True

Part Two: Short Answer

- A. Morally responsible and accountable
- B. Spiritually responsible and accountable
- C. Relationally responsible and accountable
- D. Financially responsible and accountable

## Understanding Responsibility and Accountability

### **Part One: True or False.**

Read each statement and decide if it is true or false. Write the word “true” or “false” next to each statement.

1. To be regularly answerable for key areas of our lives with qualified people is a definition of responsibility and accountability.
2. Dependability, liability, and answerable are all words that help describe responsibility and accountability.

### **Part Two: Short Answer.**

Provide the information needed to answer the following questions.

Our lives can mature and grow when we are:

# WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

- Job
- Duty
- Task
- Dependability
- Liability
- Answerable
- Reliable
- Don't blame others
- Fulfill obligations
- Make good judgments
- Exercise self-control

## RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

- A more concrete definition for responsibility and accountability might be: to be regularly answerable for key areas of our lives with qualified people.
  - What does regularly mean?
  - What does answerable mean?
  - What are the key areas?
  - Who is qualified to be accountable?

- What happens when people live in accordance with the things on the “do” list?
- What happens when they live in accordance with the things on the “don’ts” list?
- In what ways does irresponsible behavior affect our community?
- How can young people today demonstrate personal responsibility and accountability?

# **MATURITY AND GROWTH**

Our lives can mature and grow when we are:

- Morally responsible and accountable
- Spiritually responsible and accountable
- Relationally responsible and accountable
- Financially responsible and accountable
- Are there other categories we could create?