

Topic: Character – Careful (1) (Fine) (Lesson 410)
Note: This lesson is to balance the lesson on being broad.

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth...” (Ephesians 4:29a).

Focus: When choosing our friends we need to be both broad and careful. We need to be willing to include all people but at the same time we must be careful to not speak in the way that they do, if they speak in an inappropriate way.

Practical Application: We may hear our friends speak to their parents or teachers in a way that is not respectful. For example, a friend’s mom may call him, and he may answer her by saying, “What do you want?” or “What is it?” Or your friends may tell “potty jokes” or jokes using bad words. We should recognize when our friends are not speaking in an appropriate way and be careful not to speak in that way.

Intermediate:

Verse: “Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Focus: When choosing our friends we need to be both broad and careful. We need to be willing to include all people but at the same time we must be careful to not join with people to watch or play with things that are inappropriate.

Practical Application: We know from our parents that we should not watch or read certain things or play certain games, but we may have friends who are interested in these things. It may be helpful to discuss with the children some of these things, such as shows/games involving violence, killing, bad language, wizardry/witchcraft, vampires, or _____, and why they may be inappropriate. What if they are searching for things on the Internet and come across videos that contain things they should not be watching? What if their friend invites them over and plays a movie or video game that is violent or inappropriate? What are some things they can do in these situations so as to not join in?

Advanced:

Verse: “He who walks with wise men will be wise, / But the companion of fools will be troubled” (Proverbs 13:20).

Focus: When choosing our friends we need to be both broad and careful. We need to be willing to include all people but at the same time we must be careful to not go places with them which are inappropriate or join in with their wrong conduct.

Practical Application: The Bible tells us that our companions influence us. This is why we need to be careful not to join in with others who are making bad choices concerning where they go and what they do. What if everyone were invited after school to a person’s house, but you know your parents would not approve? What if your friends want to play a prank on a neighbor? What if you see/hear your friends making fun of someone or excluding him or her from their activities? We need to follow our conscience to be careful not to go where we should not go or participate in something wrong, even if others do it, or find it funny or “cool.”