

## Growing to be like Jesus... "COLOR & LEARN" ACTIVITY BOOK

First Steps in Biblical Instruction and Character Training

"Growing to be Like Jesus Color & Learn Activity Book: First Steps in Biblical Instruction and Character Training" by Cynthia Carrier, Copyright © 2008 by Cynthia Carrier. All rights reserved.

Published by Values-Driven<sup>®</sup>.

No part of this publication may be distributed or reproduced in any way by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the author except as provided by USA copyright law. Printing is permitted for personal use only. You may freely copy any number of pages for your own family's use; however, if you wish to share the content, please encourage others to purchase their own copy by visiting <u>www.valuesdrivenfamily.com</u>.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the *Amplified Bible*, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked "NKJV<sup>TM</sup>" are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked TNIV are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 2001, 2005 by International Bible Society®. Used by permission of International Bible Society®. All rights reserved worldwide. "TNIV" and "Today's New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by International Bible Society®.

Scriptures marked as "(CEV)" are taken from the Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture marked (NCV) taken from the New Century Version. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Hi, Kids!

The Bible is a big book, isn't it? Even so, it is important for us to read it, to try to understand it, and to live out its teachings.

The Bible tells us that God wants us to grow to be like His Son, Jesus. Jesus was without sin, though—that means He never did anything wrong! As hard as we try, we always seem to do wrong things, don't we? But when we do, we should go to God and ask His forgiveness—then, remember what the Bible says about how God wants us to behave, and try our best to do it!

Your Mom or Dad will help you to read about twelve different characteristics that describe the nature of Jesus: faith, surrender, love, faithfulness, wisdom, self-control, righteousness, holiness, humility, diligence, generosity, and praise. Your job (after you have fun coloring the pictures!) is to ask God to help you grow in all of these areas, each and every day.

The Bible tells us that we are blessed when we hear God's Word and obey it (see Luke 11:28). That means that being more and more like Jesus will make us truly happy! Have fun coloring, and also learning and living the Word of God.

## **Character Training Definitions for Parents**

You should encourage your children in Bible reading and study to help them grow in



knowledge. However, you may find (like we did) that **daily application** of the Word and **consistent character growth** is simplified by focusing on just a handful of essential traits that God wants to see expressed in His people.

This coloring book is separated into twelve different values or character qualities, which effectively describe Christlikeness. By

integrating core value concepts into your Biblical instruction and day-to-day living, your children will be equipped to grow in Christlike character and pursue a more fruitful relationship with God.

To help you teach these twelve character traits to your children, we have compiled some basic definitions for your reference. You can read through these descriptions with your children or just read them yourself to be able to understand and explain the ideas as your child colors each of the pictures.

**Faith**— The simplest definition for "Faith" is found in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Having faith means trusting in God to fulfill His Word and His promises, making real in our lives everything that is according to His purpose. Faith means *expecting* and *believing* that God will deliver these things, even when they are far from being seen. We will see that faith has an important function in many areas of our lives. It is necessary for our salvation, for our daily trust in God, for effective prayer, and for courage and confidence in our actions.

**Surrender**— God asks for us to surrender ourselves to His will and to His teachings through the Bible. This is because God knows what is best for us. He knows that if we do things His way, we will experience a much happier and more productive life. Lasting blessing can only come through a reverent submission to God and His Word.

**Love**— The Bible says that God is love (1 John 4:8) and that "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). All of our feelings and expressions of love have God's love at their foundation (1 John 4:7, 12). We are called to love God and to love others (Luke 10:27). As we grow closer to God, our love for others is simply an expression of His love within us (1 John 4:16-21).

**Faithfulness**— *Faithfulness* means being trustworthy and true. Faithful people are trusted by God, and by others, to do what is right and to walk in the truth. One of the ways we express our faithfulness is through obedience to God's Word (see, for example, 3 John 1:3, Luke 11:28). We must also obey the authorities that God has placed over us, so long as they do not cause us to be unfaithful to God's law.

Jesus was a person of faith. What is *faith*?



"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

By faith I trust in God, even though I can't see Him. I know that He hears my prayers and He is there to help me.



"You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy." (Ephesians 4:22-24, CEV)

I will surrender to God's way of doing things instead of doing things my own way.

## Jesus lived a life of faithfulness. What is *faithfulness*?



"I have chosen the way of truth and faithfulness; Your ordinances have I set before me." (Psalm 119:30, AMP)

I will read, think about, and remember God's Word so that it will help me to be faithful in serving and pleasing God.

Jesus lived a life of *humility*. What is *humility*?



"One of Satan's angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud. Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away. But he replied, 'My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.'" (2 Corinthians 12:7b-9, CEV)

Pride says, "I can do it!" but humility says, "I can do it because of God's power." As I grow to be more like Jesus, I will be blessed!



"Blessed (happy and to be envied) rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey and practice it!" (Luke 11:28, AMP)

I will do my best to learn and live the Word of God.