



KID KICK SKILL SHEET

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Word to Remember

HUMILITY

Humility can be a difficult character strength to define. Look it up in the dictionary, and you'll find a something along the lines of: "Noun — Freedom from pride or arrogance; the quality or state of being humble". By its very nature, Humility is not a character strength that draws attention to itself. We're much more likely to notice the absence of humility — someone who is proud, vain, boastful, and generally in-your-face obnoxious.

I think it is important for us to understand humility in a positive, definite way. It has been seen as a character strength of central importance to our personal development across many cultures, and in many different times. Confucius, Benedict of Nursia, William Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin and Dwight Eisenhower all spoke and wrote on the importance of Humility. Franklin remarked wryly on more than one occasion that if he ever truly achieved humility, he would almost certainly spoil the entire effort by being proud of himself for it. He was not one to take himself (or others) too very seriously, for all his very real abilities.

Some of the key features of Humility:

- ◆ An accurate sense (not underestimated) of our abilities and achievements.
- ◆ Our ability to acknowledge our mistakes, imperfections, limitations, and gaps in our knowledge.
- ◆ Our openness to new ideas, contradictory information, and advice.
- ◆ Keeping our abilities and our accomplishments in perspective.
- ◆ Our understanding that other people matter every bit as much as we do.
- ◆ Our appreciation of the value of all things, as well as the many different ways that people and things can contribute to our world.

We'll explore these ideas in our lessons together during October. Let's finish with Dwight Eisenhower's words at the end of the World War II, as he was being publicly honored in London for leading the allied armies to victory over Nazi Germany: "Humility must be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends."

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