




Responsibility - content ideas for Christian collective worship

<p>Definition:</p> <p>Responsibility is a sense of duty and obligation to self and other. Responsibility means accountability, being trustworthy and diligent. It also means accepting duties or roles. The Bible teaches that life is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use our talents and abilities in the best way we can.</p>				<p>Key Bible Character - Adam</p> <p>God gave Adam and Eve the keys not only to their home, but to the whole world. God placed them in charge of the animals and the plants that he made to fill the world. He gave them these things for their pleasure and enjoyment, but he also gave them the responsibility to keep them safe and to protect them. That responsibility is now ours. We now have the responsibility to keep our world clean and keep all God's creatures safe.</p>
<p>Questions – Can I be trusted with an important job? How can I behave responsibly today? Who relies on me to act responsibly? Am I too quick to blame others for my mistakes? Am I ready to own up to what I've done wrong? How does responsibility impact on the environment?</p>	<p>Key Bible verse:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 24:1</p>			
	Bible stories and verses linked to responsibility	Bible chapter and verse	Key message	
1	God gives human beings the responsibility of caring for the world (and of naming the animals).	Genesis 2:4-20	God is the one who provides for us and we should show we are thankful by taking care of what God has given. He has given us the world to enjoy, but also a responsibility to look after it.	
2	The story of Cain and Abel.	Genesis 4:1-16 watch	We have a responsibility to look after each other and make the right choices. Cain says to God about Abel 'am I supposed to look after my brother?' I wonder what God's answer was? The choice to become enemies, not friends, tears the family apart and leads to a life of revenge.	

3	Joseph and Potiphar Lion Storyteller Bible – p.22-26 stories about Joseph	video watch	God watched over Joseph and gave him success in all he did. The Bible tells us that Joseph found favour in Potiphar’s eyes and Potiphar made Joseph his attendant, putting Joseph in charge of everything in his household. Potiphar himself said that with Joseph in charge he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Potiphar relied on Joseph. To rely on someone means that you depend on them to do what you ask them to do. Evidently Joseph took his responsibilities seriously and proved to be a reliable worker. If Potiphar had found Joseph to be an unwilling or unreliable worker, he would not have trusted him with so much responsibility
4	The parable of the two sons	Matthew 21:28-46 watch	Jesus told a story of two sons who were asked by their father to go and work in his vineyard. One son said, “I will not.” But he later changed his mind and went to work. The other son said, “I will, sir,” but he never showed up to work. The son who said “no,” but later decided to obey was more pleasing in the sight of the father than the one who said he would go, but did not. Being responsible means doing what we say we will.
5	Jethro and Moses	Exodus 18:13-27	Jethro advises Moses to share the heavy responsibility of leadership. Every person has a set of God given skills and qualities. We are to use our gifts to serve others faithfully.
6	Daniel and the Lions Den Lion Storyteller Bible – Daniel and the Lions p.76	Daniel 6 video	The king was extremely upset about having Daniel punished and he tried to let Daniel go free, but the men insisted that anyone who broke the law was to be thrown into the den of lions. As Daniel was thrown to the lions the king called out, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” (Daniel 6:16). The king knew that Daniel served his God as faithfully as he had served him, the king. So the king hoped that Daniel’s God would be able to save him. We can see from Daniel’s story that being a reliable and trustworthy worker means serving God <i>and</i> those in authority over you faithfully, honestly and wholeheartedly.
7	Parable of the faithful and wise servant	Matthew 24:42-51	Jesus told his disciples a story about two servants. He said that one servant acted wisely and faithfully, doing his job properly, even when his master was away. Jesus explained that this servant would be rewarded with increased responsibility. The other servant in the story was a wicked servant who chose to mistreat others and relax

			and eat and drink instead of working while the master was away. Jesus warned that there would be severe punishment for the wicked servant when the master returned. The story Jesus told applies to our lives too.
8	Moses and the tabernacle	Exodus 40:1-35 watch	God asked Moses to build a beautiful tabernacle for the Israelites to use in their worship. It took a lot of work to make the tabernacle (Exodus 26-27), and it was a lot of work to set it up for use. It was a big job God gave Moses. Moses did not complain about all the detailed jobs that he had to do. Instead, he got started on the job right away and worked until it was done. We know that God was pleased with Moses, because when Moses was finished all the work, God blessed the Israelites with His presence. He filled the tabernacle so full of His glory that Moses couldn't even go in. Sometimes having responsibility isn't easy. It requires focus and hard work but comes with great rewards.
9	The Good Samaritan Lion Storyteller Bible – The Kind Stranger p.104	Luke 10:25-37 video	The responsibility to care - true compassion demands action, to say you care and not act is not care at all. Jesus always demonstrated compassion toward people. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows us what compassion looks like and what our attitudes should be. It also shows us that we will always have an excuse to justify not getting involved but compassion inconveniences, costs and changes lives.
10	The story of Jonah Lion Storyteller Bible – Jonah the Groaner p. 66	Jonah 1-2 video	Help children recall the responsibilities that Jonah failed to take on. Ask why do you think Jonah did not want to do what God asked of him? How do you think Jonah felt about running away from God? How do you think Jonah felt at the end of the story when he took on the responsibility God had assigned him? Remind children of the way Jonah admitted to the sailors on the ship what he had done. Ask how do you think Jonah felt when he admitted to the sailors that he ran away from God? Encourage children to think about situations they may have been involved in where they did, or did not, tell the truth.

11	The Parable of the Talents	Matthew 25:14–30 watch	Jesus wanted us to understand that however much money, or whatever talents or abilities we have been given, we each have a responsibility to make the most of these things, otherwise we risk losing them altogether.
12	Encourage one another and carry each other's burdens	1 Thessalonians 5:11 Galatians 6:2	'Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up.' It is through encouragement that people can rise up and overcome any obstacle they may encounter if they believe in themselves. We have a responsibility to encourage one another and help carry burdens for others. Galatians 6:2 says, 'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.' No one should have to walk alone feeling burdened. We need to walk with others and share in and lighten the heavy load many carry on their shoulders.
13	Defend others in need	Proverbs 31:8-9	'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.' Other people depend on you – it is your duty and responsibility to stand up for them to challenge injustice and see the right thing done. If someone is being wronged, you must speak up - you are your brother's keeper!
14	Peter's denial of Jesus	Luke 22:54-62 video	After Jesus was taken prisoner, Peter, who was one of Jesus' best friends, swore that he didn't know Jesus. Later, he was ashamed of his denial of Jesus. He accepted his failure and cried to Jesus for help. He was restored and became a leader of the early church. We have to learn to take responsibility for what we do. If we are caught out doing something we shouldn't be doing, then we have to accept that we have no one else to blame, and we should accept the consequences of our actions. The hopeful thing is that failure doesn't have to be the last word. Christians believe that God forgives us the wrong and careless things we do when we are truly sorry. They believe that he helps us to change our ways. We can make up for the things we do wrong by becoming better people.
15	Ruth and Naomi Lion Storyteller Bible – Ruth Finds a New home p.48	Ruth 1 video	We have a responsibility to look after our family.

16	Moses hands over his responsibilities to Joshua	Deuteronomy 31:1-8 watch	When Moses was old and about to die, he asked God for a new leader. Joshua was the personally appointed successor to Moses. Through all the critical moments in the life of God's people, Joshua was there with Moses. Moses taught Joshua how to handle the responsibility of leading and taught him everything he needed to know.
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