

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION- 2006

VICES

VIRTUES

PRIDE

HUMILITY- Tuesday

GREED

MERCY- Wed

ENVY

CHARITY- Wed

LUST

CHASTITY- Wed

ANGER

PATIENCE- Thursday

GLUTTONY

SELF-CONTROL- Thursday

SLOTH

COURAGE- Friday

DAY 1- Introduction to Romans 12:9 and to the Vices and Virtues

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” -Romans 12:9

OPENING ACTIVITY:

- 1- Split the class up into 2 teams and make a clear line in the room splitting it in half.
- 2- Give them equal amount of fire and sun. (will be provided).
- 3- Each team has to try and put fire on the other side, while keeping their suns on their own side as well. Team members can take sun away from another team to keep it on their side.
NOTE: Players cannot hold suns in their hands. They must stay on the floor.
- 4- When the leader says “GO!” the teams will have 1 minute to do number 3. When the leader says “STOP” he/she will count which side has the most suns to determine the winner.

Discussion on Activity:

- Did there seem to be chaos as you were playing the game? *Most likely... chaos can easily arise when trying to keep yourself close to or away from something*
- How easy was it to keep the suns on your side and the fire off your side? *Probably not to easy... because other people were getting in the way*
- What does sun represent to you? *goodness, God*
- What does fire represent to you? *the devil, evil*
- How can you relate this game to this verse from Romans? “Let love be **genuine**. **Abhor** what is evil. **Cling** to what is good.” -Romans 12:9

After they give their answers to these questions, go through the quote and go over the definitions to these 3 words: GENUINE, ABHOR, AND CLING

- ❖ What does the word “genuine” mean? *To be genuine is to be real. If you love others genuinely, then they would never question your love for them. Genuine love is pure and is completely good. Genuine love is loving people as God loves us.*

- ❖ What does it mean to “abhor” evil? *To abhor means to hate. It is important that we absolutely hate and want nothing to do with anything evil. Evil is the only thing that we should hate in our lives because it is the only thing we should turn our back on. Hating evil and completely turning away from it opens you up to completely loving each person we come in contact with. It also puts you in a place where you can be the creature who God created you to be. Doing anything evil focuses us on ourselves and what we selfishly want.*
- ❖ What does it mean to “cling” to what is good? *To cling means to grip, stick, and fit tightly onto something. The scripture tells us to cling to good as if our life depends on it... because it does! It is very easy to let evil slip into our lives, so we should take the word “cling” very seriously! Just as you tried to cling to the suns and get all the fire away from you in the game, every day of your life should be played the same way. We must turn away from evil and cling to good because our life in the Kingdom of God truly does depend on how we live our lives.*

God wants us to be able to recognize evil so that we may be able to defend ourselves against it. To be truly human is to live in the likeness of God, that is, to recognize that we were created in His image, that we may choose to look like Him by clinging to what is good. Any other way of living would be our own way, and none of us are qualified to define what life is. We can only know the way in which we should live by hearing God’s Word and living out His instructions.

*Let’s see how well you can recognize good and evil.

- 1- Set up 2 poster boards labeled: GOOD AND EVIL
- 2- Have all the vices and virtues on post-it notes handy.
- 3- Call out the vices and virtues randomly, and ask them what poster you should put them on. When you place them on the poster, put them randomly.

*Tell me if these things take you away from God or help you to be like Him. Give them these brief definitions after they tell you which poster to put them on.

1-PRIDE: *Wanting all attention on you and how wonderful you are*

1- HUMILITY: *Controls pride. You see your sins and are repentant.*

2- GREED: *The constant desire for more than you have.*

2- MERCY: *Controls Greed. Focus on what other people need.*

3- ENVY: *Wanting what others have.*

3- CHARITY- *Controls Envy. Seeing what others need and filling that need.*

4- LUST- *Wanting someone else for your own pleasure.*

4- CHASTITY- *Controls Lust. Purity from unhealthy desires.*

5- ANGER- *Rage that comes from not getting what you want.*

5- PATIENCE- *Controls Anger. Staying calm and having the ability to wait when things you want don't come when you want them.*

6- GLUTTONY- *Eating more than needed. It leads to the lack of control of other things.*

6- SELF-CONTROL- *Controls Gluttony and every other sin.*

7- SLOTH- *Laziness. Not doing something you should because you don't feel like it.*

7- COURAGE- *Controls Sloth. The strength to do what you should.*

*Distinguish each poster as “vices” and “virtues”. Define what a vice is and what a virtue is:

Vice- Wicked or evil conduct or habits, a weakness

Virtue- Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness.

It's so easy to see how simple distinguishing Good from Evil is. So many times we think too much about it, when if we just simply were obedient to St. Paul's words in Romans, than our lives would be filled with much more joy and so much less pain.

Letting ourselves live in a place of sin cuts us off from other people and puts us in a lonely place where we only are focusing on ourselves. "I am the most important person in the world!" is what we are saying. "Only I matter!" When that happens, we need to lift ourselves out of that place by heading for a warm place instead, where we live in peace with other people, taking the focus off ourselves and putting it on them.

This week we are going to go over these 7 lonely places, and the 7 warm places we should go to when we find ourselves in them. God willing, with prayer and study this week, we can come closer to truly "abhorring" evil and "clinging" to what is good. ☺

Day 2- Pride vs. Humility- The Mother of the Vices and Virtues

- ❖ Pride is the mother of all vices. Pride closes you into a lonely place with a white light like a laser so you can see only yourself, and sits in your heart screaming, “Look only at me!”
- ❖ Pride is the greatest of all vices because it goes completely against God’s purpose for His creation: In John 13:34, the Lord says, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” To love only yourself and focus on your wants is the beginning of every other sin.
- ❖ Pride is doing everything for your own attention and your own praise, as opposed to the praise and worship of God. When you are proud you make yourself God of your world, and you want everyone to worship you.
- ❖ Humility is the virtue that takes you out of the lonely place of Pride, and brings you into the warm place with love for others and not yourself. Humility is the mother of all virtues.
- ❖ Humility is something that comes with practice. You can’t wake up one day and say, “Today I am going to be humble”. Humility comes with deciding to humble yourself in every situation you are in. Jesus tells us a story in the Gospel of Luke that demonstrates this:

Scripture: *Luke 14:1, 7-14*

1 One sabbath when He went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. 7 Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more important man than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher!'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 **For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

Discussion:

- ❖ Ask the children: Someone sum up the story we just heard.
- ❖ What lesson is Jesus trying to teach them? *To wait to be given honor, not give it to yourself. This is the practice of Humility! That in every situation we are in, that we put others before ourselves, and then God will honor us.*

Explain: This parable echoes the warning in the Book of Proverbs: *Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, 'Come up here,' than to be put lower in the presence of the prince"* (Proverbs 25:6-7). Wait for people to recognize you... don't ask to be recognized. You should always wish more for others than yourself. So often we want the cupcake with the most chocolate, or to win the most games, or to be the one that answers the questions. But really, we should wish those things on other people.

- ❖ The big question you should always ask yourself in every situation is, ***"Why am I doing what I am doing?"***
- ❖ So often we dress a certain way, say certain things, even do good things to impress each other, rather than doing good to be obedient to God and be pleasing to Him. Remember that God knows why you do what you do. So deciding to put yourself last in every situation is deciding to be humble.
- ❖ What are some signs that a person is Humble? *Attentive to others, doesn't recognize their own achievements, doesn't argue, considers themselves the greatest sinner, does not want to be known for anything special, joyful.*
- ❖ What are some signs that a person is struggling with Pride? St. John of the Ladder says: *"This person is a believer. They appear to be honoring God, but he actually is out to please not God but men. This person is a showoff."*
- ❖ Pick 3 people to act out the following skit. Then ask these questions: *What is the difference between each of these men? Why was the Pharisee doing all the things he thought he should? What does this quote from St. Nilus of Sinai tell us: "Avoid praise, but do not be ashamed of reproach?"* Praise can only lead us to Pride, while allowing ourselves to be reproached, or criticized, can lead us to repentance and Humility! It is good to welcome correction!

THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

CHRISTIAN ED TEACHER: ⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

THE LORD: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:

PHARISEE: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

THE LORD: ¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said,

TAX COLLECTOR: ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

THE LORD: ¹⁴I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
[Luke 18: 9-14](#)

- ❖ What questions can you ask yourself to be sure that you are doing good things for the right reasons? (discuss in activity groups)

Activity: Please split the children up into 3 groups, each group lead by a counselor. Hand out the sheet labeled: “*Why are we doing what we are doing?*” Tell the counselor to go over the questions, and have the campers answer IN THEIR HEADS, NOT OUT LOUD. Then, have them go over the discussion questions on the sheet.

- ❖ Come back together as 1 group
- ❖ In conclusion, go over as a group these 3 things that St. John of the Ladder says will help us to overcome pride.

1- Remember the example of the Saints. “We should always be on the lookout to compare ourselves with the Fathers and the lights who have gone before us. If we do, we will discover that we haven’t even begun to live holy lives, and that our thinking is rooted in the world.”

- ❖ Do you think you pray a lot? *Remember St. Seraphim of Sarov who prayed for a thousand days upon a rock and be humbled.*
- ❖ Do you think your fasting is intense? *Remember St. John of San Francisco, who ate but one meal a day and nothing at all during several weeks of Great Lent, and be humbled.*
- ❖ Do you think you have been consistent in your private prayers? *Remember St. Herman of Alaska, who prayed the full monastic cycle of prayers by himself for over forty years on a deserted island in northern Alaska, and be humbled.*
- ❖ Do you think you have loved your enemies? *Remember St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, who visited her husband’s assassin and offered him her love and blessing, and be humbled.*

Whatever you think you have done, there is a saint who shows you that you have a long way to go. Thank God for their example!

2- Remember your blessings. To overcome pride, it is helpful to remember that we did not do anything to earn all the gifts that God has given us. How have you been blessed? (allow the campers to answer)

3- Remember that you owe EVERYTHING to Christ. “If we were to die ten thousand times for Christ, we would still not have repaid what we owe, for in value rather than in physical substance there is no comparison between the blood of God and that of His servants.” St. John of the Ladder. All of the gifts we have, the blessings we have received, the fact that we wake up in the morning, are only possible because of Christ becoming man for our sake and choosing to suffer and die on the cross so that Heaven may be opened to us. Let us take this challenge to overcome Pride and do as Christ did... put ourselves last in every situation and allow God to give us honor.

WHY ARE WE DOING WHAT WE ARE DOING?

Please ask the campers the following questions. They should answer them in their heads, as these are only for self-reflection.

- ❖ Does my behavior change when no one else is around?
- ❖ Do I find myself telling others about how hard I am trying to be a good Christian?
- ❖ Do I replay what others have said to me or what I have said to them over and over again?
- ❖ Do I become discouraged or quit when no one notices what I do or gives me the thanks I think I deserve?
- ❖ Do I hide my sins and failings from others, even to the point of lying?
- ❖ Do I become defensive when I am criticized?
- ❖ Do I feel the need always to make sure that everyone knows why I did something?

Discussion:

- ❖ How many of you said yes to most of these?
- ❖ Did any of these things stand out to you as something that many people struggle with? Why?
- ❖ What is wrong with focusing on these things? *Because the focus is on yourself and how people are seeing you. You have no time to think about how God is seeing you and what you need to change about yourself to be pleasing to Him.*
- ❖ If we answer yes to any of these, then we have the spirit of Pride living within us. Let us not be saddened by this, but repent and conquer our Pride! It is good to recognize how we are wrong so that we can grow more and more into the Likeness of Christ.

When we come back together as a group, we will discuss how to fight pride every day.

Day 3: Greed vs. Mercy, Envy vs. Charity, Lust vs. Chastity,

- ❖ Review previous class
- ❖ **Activity:** As a group, come up with 3 lists:
 - **1st list:** 5 things you would ask for if you could snap your fingers and get them
 - **2nd list:** 5 things you could have of someone else's that if you could snap your fingers you could have them
 - **3rd list:** 5 people in your life you would love to control
- ❖ Very often, we tend to focus on what we wish we had, instead of being grateful for what we already have. These 3 vices: Greed, Envy, and Lust, all put us by ourselves in a lonely place once again, just wanting to please ourselves.
- ❖ **GREED** takes you where it's always empty, no matter how much you stuff in, you always want more. You say, "I must have all and everything and nothing is enough and no one can have anything but me!" Look at the 1st list you made. How many of the things on there do you really need? The Lord warns us against thinking that wealth and stuff is of any value: *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15* Possessions are tools to experience and work out the purposes of God. When we look for life in our stuff, instead of using our things to do God's work, that's when we have become Greedy.
- ❖ **So then what should all men strive to possess?** *Oneness with God. Peace with all men and love for all men. When you die, none of your stuff is coming with you, but how much you have loved your brothers and sisters will matter. How much you have focused your life towards what other people need will matter.*
- ❖ **GREED** is conquered with **MERCY**. To be merciful is to always show forgiveness and compassion to others. It is to have your mind on the suffering of others, so that you can fill their needs. St. Issac the Syrian describes Mercy in this way: *And what is a merciful heart? It is the heart's burning for the sake of the entire creation, for men, for birds, for animals, for demons and for every*

created thing; and by the recollection and sight of them the eyes of a merciful man pour forth abundant tears. From the strong and vehement(intense) mercy which grips his heart and from his great compassion, his heart is humbled and he cannot bear to hear or see any injury or slight sorrow in creation. (Discuss)

- ❖ **To truly have Mercy on all of God's creation gives you no time to think about what you wish you had. This is how Mercy conquers Greed. No longer are you alone trying to get as much as you can, but you are looking at everything in the world trying to give as much as you can.**
- ❖ Now let's look at our 2nd list. Which vice does this bring to mind?
- ❖ **ENVY**- Envy is a foggy place like a deep dark swamp where what you have shrinks and fades and what your friend has grows big and bright. What you have is not enough and you want what your friend has.
- ❖ **ENVY** creates negative feelings towards other people because they have what you desire. Envy often leads to hate, which brings us completely away from loving each person as God has instructed us to. St. Maximus instructs us on how to get our envy of others under control: *"As for your own envy, you will be able to check it if you rejoice with the man whom you envy whenever he rejoices, and grieve whenever he grieves."* This truly is the way out of Envy and into a warm place. Always supporting the people around you will keep you far away from wanting what they have.
- ❖ **CHARITY** towards our brothers and sisters erases Envy. What you can give to other people becomes important, and what you can get from them doesn't matter any more.
- ❖ **CHARITY** opens the door to your heart and says, "He must be hurting as I am. I want to do all that I can for him." Charity, like mercy, puts the focus on the other person.
- ❖ Now let's look at the last list. What vice does that remind you of? **LUST** is dangerous because you are focusing on others in an unhealthy way.
- ❖ **LUST** makes you say, *"I will take you for my pleasure to make me feel good. Who cares what you think?"* Lust is a world of only one person and all the other people are toys and not real. Lusting after anyone makes them an object and takes the image of God out of them. You only see how you can use them, and not how you can serve them... once again putting yourself in a lonely place where no one is important but you.

- ❖ **CHASTITY** conquers Lust! Chastity is living in control of your body's desires. You only put before your eyes and ears things that are of God and the Kingdom to come. Living a Chaste life is living on Earth as if you are in the Kingdom.
- ❖ **St. John of the Ladder said:** *"We should strive in all possible ways neither to see nor to hear of that fruit we have vowed never to taste."* To sit and lust after something with your eyes, in your mind, or in your heart is to focus on what your body wants instead of focusing on what your soul needs. Your soul needs to be ready to face Jesus Christ, and that means that His commandment to love others should **FIRST** on your mind.
- ❖ **HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF CHASTE: A monk speaking to his elder:** The brother asked the old man, "What shall I do, then, for I am weak and passion overcomes me?" He said to him, *"Watch your thoughts, and every time they begin to say something to you, do not answer them but rise and pray; kneel down, saying, 'Son of God, have mercy on me.'"*
- ❖ **So there's something that someone who struggles with GREED, ENVY, AND LUST is neglecting to do. What do you think that is? BE GRATEFUL AND GIVE THANKS!**
- ❖ **GRATITUDE** conquers all of these sins. If we are thankful for what we have, what we don't have won't matter.
- ❖ **GRATITUDE IS AN ATTITUDE: NOT JUST SOMETHING WE DO OR SAY.** Being grateful means giving thanks to God for EVERYTHING- the good and the bad. *How does being grateful conquer these sins?*
- ❖ **When should we give thanks? In every situation we're in.** In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 it is written, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God."* **What does this mean?** *That whether good or bad things happen to us, always give thanks because they are happening for a reason. Every situation is an opportunity for us to learn and grow closer to God. We may not always know why God allows things to happen, but we do know that if He lets something happen, it is for a good reason that we may not be able to see right away, but we have to trust that He knows much better than we do.*
- ❖ **For what should we give thanks? (let the children answer)** *For His victory over sin and death, His goodness and forgiveness, His protection, His holiness, for all of His creation, for his truth and judgments, for healing, for food, drink, and all of His other gifts.*

❖ **LET'S MAKE A FINAL LIST OF THE THINGS WE ARE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR! ☺**

❖ **After making the list, go over the following:**

- **YOUR FOOD IS NOT YOUR FOOD.** *Remember that everything we eat and drink was given to us by God. He gave growth to the wheat that made the bread. He gave life to the cow that gave us milk, etc. It is written in Romans 14:6, "...he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God..."*
 - A priest named Fr. Paul Tarazi said that to remind you that nothing is really yours; you should always share your food with others. For example, if your family goes to a food court and each of you get something different, when you come back to the table to eat, you should share what each of you got, in order to remember that you are eating gifts from God that are for everyone.
 - **YOUR HOUSE IS NOT YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR CAR IS NOT YOUR CAR.** Every material that went into building your house & car was produced by God. God gave growth to the tree that was cut down to build your house. Give thanks to God daily for the roof over your head!
- ❖ **The secret of always having a grateful heart is always choosing to be happy.** Thank God no matter what happens. God said, "I will never leave thee or forsake thee..." Hebrews 13:5. This tells us that no matter what is happening in our lives, He is there with us to help us through hard things and to rejoice with us through the good. Remember, through everything, GIVE THANKS! It will truly keep you out of the lonely places of **GREED, ENVY, and LUST.**

Day 4: Anger vs. Patience, Gluttony vs. Self-Control

❖ Review Greed, Envy, and Lust.

"Be angry but do not sin"; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4: 26-27).

What makes you angry? *Ask for answers*

What does it mean to “not let the sun go down” on your anger? *Never go to bed without resolving your anger*

The first words of this passage from one of Saint Paul's letters quotes the Psalms (Psalm 4:4). How can we be angry without falling into sin? We generally consider the stirring of anger within us to be wrong. If we are really honest, we must admit that every time we are angry, we feel that we have not behaved as God would want. Today we are going to talk about what we should do with our anger to prevent sinning.

One obstacle to overcoming anger is our tendency to lay blame for it on someone else. We make others' transgressions, real or imaginary, the excuse for our anger. "He makes me so mad," we say, or "He did something bad to me (or to someone else)." In reality, we are simply denying our responsibility for our own anger. Saint John Cassian stresses that other people cannot be the only source of our anger because, if left alone, we find ourselves getting angry even at inanimate(*not having life*) objects: Chairs that get in our way, light bulbs that burn out, buttons that will not button, all become targets for our displeasure.

Anger's true beginning lies within us. Saint Nilus the Ascetic says that **ANGER** is like **GLUTTONY** (over-eating); both result from our craving for personal physical pleasure and psychological self-satisfaction. When we don't have control of how much we eat, it spills over into other areas of our lives that we are not able to control, such as getting **ANGRY**. You would be surprised what happens when your eating habits are under control... everything else in your life seems to feel like it's under control.
(Fasting= having the right relationship with food).

What virtue do you think conquers anger? *PATIENCE* What virtue do you think conquers gluttony? *SELF-CONTROL* Being PATIENT and having SELF-CONTROL are decisions we have to make in every situation. James 1:3-4 says, *“For when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.”* The result of having the SELF-CONTROL to be PATIENT is having great strength to be ready for anything that comes!

OK, so if we're not supposed to direct our anger at others, what should we do with our anger? Saint John Chrysostom says that **ANGER** can be put to good use by turning it against our own sinfulness and against temptation. He is saying that when we are tempted to be angry at someone, we should instead turn our anger towards our own sins and towards the devil.

Above all, we must direct our anger away from others. We must remember the great commandment, love of neighbor. Saint John of Damascus says that we destroy anger "by goodwill and love for all men." **The devil wants us to be angry at each other... do we want to make him happy, or do we want to make God happy by loving each other?**

Our Lord died violently because people were angry and hateful towards Him. He turned what they did into a glorious act of salvation! You can use people's anger towards you and your anger towards people for your salvation by fighting hard to stay close to God and to love others!

Please read and discuss this story: [The Fence](#)

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You

can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

ACTIVITY:

- 1- Break the campers up into 4 groups
- 2- Give them each one of the following situations to discuss
- 3- Have each group present their solution to the issue to the rest of the group

YOU ARE SHOPPING WITH YOUR MOM AND SHE WON'T GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT. HOW DO YOU REACT?

SOMEONE TELLS YOU THEY ARE GOING TO MEET YOU AT THE MOVIES AND THEY DON'T SHOW UP. WHAT DO YOU DO?

SOMEONE STARTS CALLING YOU NAMES AND MAKING FUN OF YOU IN FRONT OF A BIG GROUP OF PEOPLE. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

YOUR TEACHER IS GIVING OUT PRIZES TO 5 PEOPLE IN YOUR CLASS THAT BEHAVED THE BEST TODAY. YOU THINK YOU BEHAVED THE BEST, BUT YOU DIDN'T GET A PRIZE. HOW SHOULD YOU REACT?

Day 5: Sloth vs. Courage, Review, and Conclusion

- ❖ Review previous class
- ❖ There is one great sin that prevents us from conquering the rest. Which one is that? *Sloth*
- ❖ **SLOTH** tells you to say, “Nah, I won’t do it. I’ll let someone else do it because I don’t want to and I’m real tired.” Sloth tells the voices that tell you to do things to be quiet because nothing is important. Sloth makes you think the world outside you isn’t even there.
- ❖ **SLOTH** again puts the focus on who? *Yourself*.
- ❖ Modern Christians tend to start things, do them for a while, and then start something new. This will get you **NOWHERE** in the spiritual life. To really finish the race with flying colors is to have the **COURAGE** to stay in the race!
- ❖ **COURAGE** allows you to stay strong and keep going, despite that your body is telling you that you are tired. It doesn’t leave room for pausing or taking breaks. **When something needs to get done, you don’t even hesitate... you get up, and you do it.**

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done

- ❖ What does this story tell you about **SLOTH**? *That it keeps necessary work from getting done... work for others, and work on yourself and the things you know you need to change.*
- ❖ St. John of the Ladder says that the way to battle this demon is to have great **COURAGE** and to stay close to people that are struggling with their sins as well. If you are surrounding yourself with lazy people who are OK with being disobedient to God, than chances are that you will not have the **COURAGE** to work on your own sins. Having a team of people that are fighting their demons together with you is so encouraging and exciting!
- ❖ Here's a serious lesson for the lazy, courtesy of an ant. Proverbs 6:6-11: *"Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy fellow. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no king to make them work, yet they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you—all you do is sleep. When will you wake up? 'Let me sleep a little longer!' Sure, just a little more! And as you sleep, poverty creeps upon you like a robber and destroys you; want attacks you in full armor."* What does this story say to you?
- ❖ **Being lazy is like putting your spirit to sleep.** You are standing still and not being mindful of the work around you and inside you that needs to be done. The Lord says in [Luke 12:37](#), *"Blessed are those servants whom the lord, when he cometh, shall find watching."* To be watchful is to be ready for the Lord when He comes. That means that we can't waste any time being **SLOTHFUL**. We must put sin behind us today, because we don't have a guarantee that tomorrow will come. We must have the strength and courage to come completely to Christ and walk in His Way. There is no other way.
- ❖ **The Lord said, "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."** There is no safer, warmer place than with the Lord. He promises us here that we will be saved and sustained through voluntarily coming to Him.
- ❖ **He is "the door" which means that once you have come to Him you must close the door behind you to your old life.** With Christ, we shut the door on sin, guilt, pain, and loss and look forward to a life of joy, peace, and all the blessings that come with life with Christ.
- ❖ **The first step in being courageous is being able to see your real self and what is keeping you from completely, 100% giving**

yourself to God. *What do you want to put behind you?* (OPEN DISCUSSION)

❖ Let's practice being **COURAGEOUS!** (Give the campers an opportunity to volunteer to complete these tasks)

- 1- Who will come up and sing a verse of their favorite song?
- 2- Who will tell 5 people in this room why they love them?
- 3- **GROUP 3-4:** Who will spend 10 minutes with Group 1 tonight instead of their group?
- 4- Who will admit something they did wrong towards another person this week?
- 5- Who will... **ADD YOUR OWN!**

CONCLUSION OF CHRISTIAN ED PROGRAM:

- ❖ What can you say that each of these vices has in common? *They all keep you centered on yourself.*
- ❖ What do all the virtues have in common? *They all move your focus to other people.*
- ❖ What does that tell you about what living 100% committed to Christ means? *That you will live in the joy of Christ if you are in constant service to people you know and don't know. Whatever anyone needs at any moment, YOU are the one that will do what is in your power to fill their need.*
- ❖ Remember that living as God intended for His creation is to constantly close the door on your own wants for the sake of what others need.
- ❖ (Review quote from Romans)