

Week 4 – Responsibility

Day 2

Situations

Situation #1: The student fails a class. His response, “I had a bad teacher.” This would infer that if the student does not have a great teacher, then it is okay to fail.

Situation #2: The team loses the game on a tough call. The team feels the referee cheated them. This would infer that the only way the team can win is if all the calls go their way.

Situation #3: A person has one parent, is abused as a child, is born into abject poverty and uses any or all of these as the excuse for not being successful. This would infer that anyone born into these situations is going to be a failure.

Situation #4: A man murders and cannibalizes young men. His defense: He was abused as a child. This would infer that if you are abused as a child, it is okay for you to kill and cannibalize others.

What is wrong with all the above inferences?

If you cannot change the circumstance, it is time to change the person. What does this mean to you?

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Day 3

Home Builder

A wealthy home builder contractor had a foreman who had worked for him for many years. When the foreman came to him and told him that he was retiring, the contractor asked him to build one more house. Reluctantly, the foreman agreed but his heart was not in the building as it had been. He used second rate material and did not pay attention to the details. When it was finished, the contractor gave him the keys and said, "This is your house, my gift to you."

Your life is up to you. You will get what you deserve, not what is fair. Make sure you pay attention to the details and use the best materials, so you can be proud of what your life has been.

You get what you deserve. Why?

Every choice has a consequence. An example would be studying to make good grades. What choice have you made to guarantee you deserve success?

Why do people blame others for their choices?

What kind of house are you building? Do you think the foreman had regrets? How do you keep from having regrets?

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In Spite of the Weather

When the Alaskan Pipeline was being built, many Texans went to Alaska and found work on the pipeline. The Texans could only work a few hours in the frigid weather, yet the Eskimos, the native Alaskans, could work indefinitely in the cold. Scientists decided to do a study to find out why the Eskimos could withstand the weather. They found that no physiological differences existed between the Eskimos and the Texans. Nothing in terms of skin thickness, blood or any other physical aspect would explain the differences in the ability to withstand the cold. The solution came when scientists did a psychological study. One Eskimo said, "I knew it was cold but there was a job to be done." In other words, his focus was on the job and obtaining results, rather than on the weather. The Texans tended to focus on the weather, which kept them from focusing on the job at hand.

How do you become "Eskimos?"

Why is this so important to your success?

Who is responsible to see that this happens?

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Day 5

Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Responsibility" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Responsibility" this week.

Of the three stories, "Situations", "Home Builder", "In Spite of the Weather", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M_____ T_____ W_____ Th_____ F_____ Sa_____ Su_____