

# CHARACTER TRAITS

## Building An Image

Here's a learning experience for your youth group which involves role playing and discussion. It focuses on character traits and peer approval.

Divide into small groups that function independently. Give each person the following list of character traits. Everyone reads through the list and assigns a number value to each trait on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high).

- 1 = an absolutely worthless or negative character trait  
5 = neither good or bad

10 = essential to a respectable and likeable person

Next, put a batch of role plays in a hat. They can be of any type—crisis resolution, humorous situation, everyday experience. In a different hat put paper slips on which you've written everyone's name. Select one name. That individual is to pick a role play. Then select more names out of the hat to fit whatever other roles are needed for the play.

All the people involved in the role play are to look over their list of character traits and select three that they will use during the role play.

Allow about three minutes for the kids to perform the role play. As they watch the role play, the rest of the group members must attempt to determine (privately) which traits each of the role players is dramatizing. After time is called, the small groups confer to decide which traits were being acted out.

Do several rounds of role playing similarly. The object is to figure out what personality types are most acceptable to the group and to act that way.

**Follow up with a discussion using these questions:**

1. Which are the most desirable character or personality traits? Why?
2. How can a person develop these traits?
3. Why are these traits so important to your friends?
4. Which coincide with biblical values? Which contradict biblical values?
5. What happens to the kids who go against the flow of their peers' opinions?

### Character Traits

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical, fault finding                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Energetic                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inquisitive                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Melodramatic                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gullible                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Verbose, wordy, talkative          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spineless                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Indecisive                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picky, fussy, over-concerned about details | <input type="checkbox"/> Big shot                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daydreaming                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Accusing, blaming                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selfish                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank, outspoken, blunt            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Insensitive, unloving              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vain, conceited                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grateful                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scheming, conniving, devious               | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly, cordial                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Apathetic, indifferent             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confident                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stubborn, inflexible, intolerant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-critical, self-abasing        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compromising                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pushy                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courteous                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Loud                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flattering                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Respectful                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisive                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mocking                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inflexible, one-track mind                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cool                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funny, joking                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive, touchy, easily offended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient                                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive                                 |   |