

How to use your Character Chart...

Keep track of your child's daily behavior by drawing hearts, check marks, and stars inside the daily boxes of the calendar as follows:



Your child can earn an unlimited number of hearts! They can earn these when they display integrity and the fruits of the Spirit.

The point of these is to foster a desire to do good works because of the love in their hearts, not to receive an immediate reward. So

I recommend only giving these out when your child does the right thing when they don't know anyone is looking and do not come to seek attention from you for it. This one is hard at first for most children, but it teaches such a valuable Biblical principal to be generous when no one is watching for your Father in Heaven sees and will reward you. My husband and I keep notes on our phones about the different "heart" moments we witnessed in our children throughout the week, and when we pray with them at night, we share with them the stories we saw from earlier in the week that earned them a heart.



I recommend giving your child a check mark if they willfully disobey you after you've warned them. For example, "John, do not climb up on the table again. If you do, you'll be getting a check mark for the day." Or if it's a long established rule, you may feel that they have been sufficiently warned and the offense is simply an immediate check mark. Decide upon a stricter disciplinary action should your child be given more check marks throughout the day. Be sure to measure what's in your child's hearts regarding their behavior by asking questions like "do you know what you did wrong?" and "do you know why it was wrong?" After disciplining them, remind your child that God's mercy is new every morning, and discuss with them all the ways they can avoid checkmarks tomorrow.



A single star is earned on the days your child does NOT receive a check mark! You can never earn more than one star in a day. The stars represent self-control and an ability to obey, so your child will be motivated to obey every time so as not to lose their only opportunity at earning a star for the day.

You know your child best. Make adjustments as you see fit. If you need to reward stars more often than one per day to encourage positive change in your child's behavior as you begin this new system, do so! This character chart is designed to be a platform for you to start from.

Rewards!

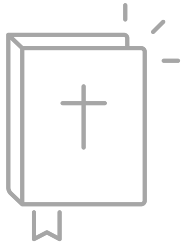


You can set up a variety of reward systems with the hearts and stars. Get creative and have fun! Here are some examples:

- When your child has earned a combined* total of 10 hearts or stars, they could receive an immediate reward like a small toy from dollar store, a page of stickers, a new package of crayons, novelties and such.*
- When they earn a combined* total of 30 hearts or stars, they receive a bigger reward like a special outing to enjoy a treat with the parent of their choice (no siblings if you can!), or gifting them a larger toy like a good book, card game, or something to expand their favorite toy, like legos, cars, doll clothes, etc..*

This could be 10 hearts, 10 stars, or a combination of the two i.e. 4 stars and 6 hearts

- When an individual child has earned 30, we start over and then have a larger prize that our children work together to earn (described below). If you're only using this chart with one child, you can simply keep counting the hearts/stars until they hit a higher goal of your choice.*
- When all of your children together have earned a combined total of 100 hearts or stars, take the time to make it a big celebration like taking them to the zoo, a trampoline park, or doing a family slumber party where you all stay up late together eating their favorite foods and playing games and watching a movie.*
- That last one is important to us in particular - it helps teach our children to spur one another on to do good works, rather than to tattle and judge. They really encourage one another to do the right thing when they remember that they are all working together on that big reward.*
- At the end of each month, tally the total number of hearts and stars your child earned and write that number at the top of the next month's page on the line provided so you can keep track of their individual hearts and stars across the months. This is especially important for your child to see that number to visualize their goal each month. Encourage your child to hit their goal! We don't keep track of check marks, because God's mercy is new every morning, and when we repent, He is faithful to forgive and He remembers our sins no more.*



Bible Verses

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

-Matthew 6:1-4

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

-Matthew 6:19-21

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reprov'd by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives."*

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

-Hebrews 12:5-11

Character Chart

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against
such things there is no law.
-Galatians 5:22-23*

NAME _____

MONTH _____

HEARTS & STARS FROM PREVIOUS MONTH _____

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY
