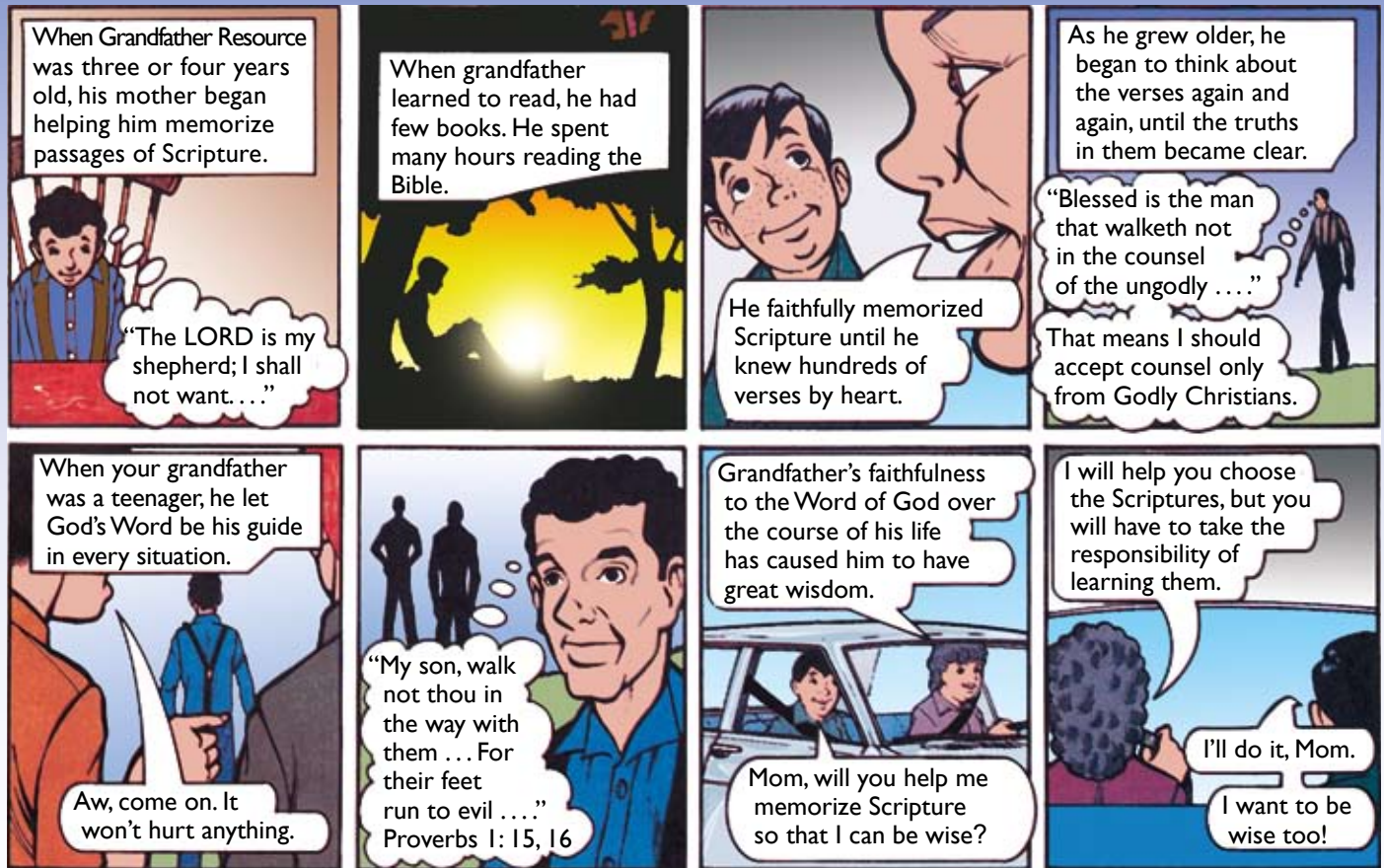


Character Counts!

It Pays to be FAITHFUL



I Corinthians 4:2 states, *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* A.C.E. defines faithful as, "Manifesting a true spirit to a person to whom one is bound by a promise, a pledge, honor, or love." A steward is one that has been entrusted with responsibility. Every person has been entrusted with certain responsibilities, but the Christian has been given even greater responsibilities in that he has experienced the life-changing miracle of the new birth. We also read, . . . *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.* . . . (Luke 12:48) The greatest requirement of a Christian steward is that he be found FAITHFUL!

One way we can show faithfulness is illustrated in the Christian character strip above. Pudge has learned from his mother that his grandfather faithfully read and memorized God's Word, the Bible. It was the Scripture read, memorized, and hidden in his heart that helped Pudge's grandfather avoid sinful things and guided him in every situation. God's Word gave Grandfather Resource great wisdom.

Pudge is challenged by his grandfather's example of faithfulness to the Scriptures. He desires to emulate

his grandfather in regard to wisdom. When he asks his mother to help, she promises to do her part by helping Pudge select appropriate Scripture verses. However, Pudge will have to take personal responsibility to FAITHFULLY memorize those verses. Pudge vows to do so because he desires to follow his grandfather's faithful example. Simple though the illustration may be, each of us is reminded of the value of memorizing Scripture as well.

As Christian educators, we must realize that our students are influenced by our example on a daily basis. Are we being faithful to Scriptural admonition? May we daily read His Word (I Timothy 4:13); memorize His Word (Psalm 119:11); study His Word (II Timothy 2:15); live a clean and holy life (Romans 12:1, 2); and tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19, 20).

May we labor diligently in the calling God has placed upon our lives so that we may one day hear the glorious words of our Lord and Saviour, . . . *Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.* (Matthew 25:21)