

Learning the life skill of Accountability

By Dave Batty

Teacher Notes—Answer Key for participant notesheet

The Basics of Accountability¹

If possible, before teaching this workshop, have those attending this workshop read the article *“Learning the life skill of Accountability,”* by Dave Batty. See note on bottom of page 3.

A. Your past experiences with accountability

In pairs or a small group of three, share your experiences related to accountability in your life before coming to Teen Challenge.

B. Definition of Accountability

Accountability is not controlling the decisions another person makes.

God will hold us accountable for our life on earth. Hebrews 9:27

C. The Benefits of Accountability

1. It helps us develop self control
2. It helps us to grow
3. It opens doors to responsible living
4. It helps us become better at making decisions

D. How do I get started?

1. I must say, “I want to be accountable.”
2. Choose the person to whom you will be accountable.
3. Determine to be **honest**.
4. Set **boundaries** for accountability.

Exactly what do you want to be held accountable for?
This needs to be specific enough that you can measure your progress.

Create accountability questions to use

5. Determine meeting schedule.

Leadership and Accountability

We often think of accountability where students should be accountable to the staff, and staff should be accountable to their leaders. And this is true. However, what is the place accountability has in the life of each leader in this ministry? Specifically, as we consider what it means to be a servant leader, how does accountability fit into your life?

As a leader in your ministry, how do you want to be held accountable by the students in your program and their family members?

Let's look at this issue from three different stages of the time the person is connecting with Teen Challenge.

1. Before entering the Teen Challenge Program—the intake process
2. While the student is in the Teen Challenge Program
3. After the student leaves the program—either as a graduate or a drop-out

At each stage, Teen Challenge staff need to have a clear understanding of the right relationships they should have with both the student and the family of the student.

Problem issues:

1. Romantic relationships with students or family members of students.
2. Issues of racial prejudice.
3. Staff borrowing money from students.
4. Staff seeing themselves as a substitute parent to a student (Students calling a staff “Mom” or “Dad”)

Questions

Notes

¹ For more information on the basics of accountability see the article, ***“Learning the life skill of Accountability,”*** by Dave Batty. Source: www.iTeenChallenge.org in the Resources or Ministry Tools section.