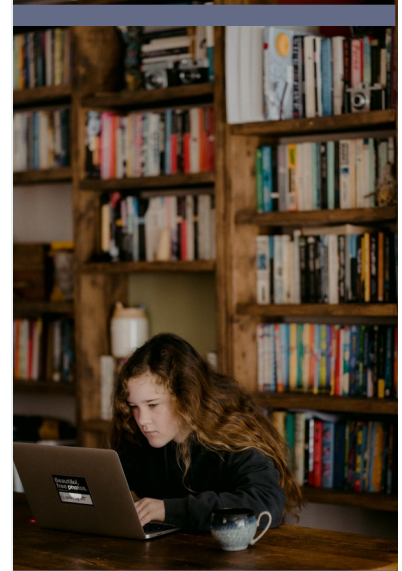


# Habits of Learning



## Diligence

*I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly.*

Dear Parents and Teachers:

The Habits of Learning lessons are meant to be taught over a 5-day period. Lessons are scripted and require little preparation time. Notes to you, the teacher, are given in dark blue. The script is written in black. Before each lesson, gather or print any materials listed. Then, simply read the lesson aloud and follow the blue instructions.

## DAY ONE: INTRODUCTION

I am so glad we are learning together today! I have such wonderful students. We are nearing the end of the Habits of Learning lessons. This week is week nine and we will be learning about Diligence. The mantra is “I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly.” Can you say that with me? [Repeat mantra.](#)

You got it! Nice work. But, what does that really mean? What does it mean to be Diligent? Let’s watch a video together to learn a little bit more! This video is called “What is Diligence?”

[Play the video for your students.](#)

Thanks for watching that. I saw some pretty good listening skills. You must be remembering what we learned about last week!

What did this video teach us about what diligence means?

## MATERIALS BY DAY:

1. Video link to “What is Diligence?” and something to view the video on.
2. Link to *The Hare and the Tortoise* book page; printing this page is suggested. Print the optional coloring sheet, if desired.
3. Link to “Flooded” video and something to view the video on. Print out the beaver poster.
4. Link to Thomas Edison biography and video. Light bulb print outs. Color crayons and pencils.
5. Copywork and the link to video or song, if desired.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING FABLES

Fables are a type of folktale passed down orally through the generations. They generally have animals as characters that act like humans. They teach a moral lesson and are very brief.

They are entertaining and communicate a shared history. Fables play an important part in reinforcing a culture's values and traditions.

Fables are foundational in cultural literacy as they are often references in conversation, text, and media. Furthermore, they hold a young child's attention while teaching valuable lessons.

Fables not only pass on moral lessons, but they have numerous other benefits as well including:

1. Learning about other cultures.
2. Modeling character traits.
3. Appreciating other traditions.
4. Exploring new ways of seeing the world.
5. Discovering a love of stories.

If fables weren't so engaging and important, they would not have stood the test of time! So pick up a book and teach your students with fables!

## DAY ONE: CONTINUED

Look for the following answers:

- Doing my best job ever
- Finish my job in proper way
- Follow instructions
- Concentrate on my work
- Not lazy
- Finish the jobs I start

Remind students of any items they don't remember. Nice work. That video was a fun way for us to learn about diligence. When we are diligent we do the best job that we can. An easy way to check and make sure you are being diligent is to use our mantra list as a checklist.

Is it neat?

Is it complete?

Is it correct?

You can use these questions with school work, housework, or churchwork... any kind of work.

To end, I want to share with you a poem that will help us be diligent. Maybe you can even memorize it by the end of the week. [Read the poem, "Diligence" and display the poem.](#)

Great work. Let's say our mantra one more time. "I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly." Well done!

## DAY TWO: THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

Welcome back to our second day of Habits of Learning: Diligence. Let's get our mind focused by saying our mantra. "I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly."

Today I would like to share with you a short story that will help us learn a little bit more about Diligence. This kind of story is called a fable. A fable is a made up story that has animals acting like humans. These stories are short and teach us important lessons. Fables come from all over the world and from many cultures.

The story I will tell you today is from a collection of fables called Aesop's Fables. These stories are believed to be told by a storyteller (Aesop) in ancient Greece 600 years before Jesus was born!

This fable is called *The Hare and the Tortoise*. [Read the story of \*The Hare and the Tortoise\*. I would suggest printing out the page from \[read.gov\]\(#\) to show the beautiful art work.](#)

I love that story. Who was diligent in that story? Who was lazy? How do you know the tortoise was diligent? How did you know the hare was lazy? What does it mean "The race is not always to the swift?"

[Discuss the answers to these questions.](#)

[If you are doing this lesson for the second time, you can use the fable \*The Ants and the Grasshopper\*. The link to this story is also on the blog.](#)

Thank you for studying that fable with me. [If you have time a coloring page has been included that goes along with this fable.](#)

Let's wrap up now and say our mantra one more time: "I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly."





## DAY THREE: LEARNING FROM NATURE

I had fun yesterday learning about *The Hare and the Tortoise*. Today we are going to learn about some more animals! Let's get ready by saying our Diligence mantra: "I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly." Well said!

Today, I want to tell you about the beaver. The beaver is a very diligent animal. Sometimes when we have a big job to do, it can be overwhelming. We may not want to do our handwriting practice neatly. Or maybe, we don't want to figure out a long math problem correctly. Sometimes, we just want to stuff our toys under the bed instead of completely cleaning up our room. It is hard to be diligent! But, guess what, it is worth it!

From the beaver, we can learn about how working hard and getting things done right is the best choice.

Let's watch a short show about the beaver. As we watch, look for ways that the beaver is diligent. [Show the short video on beaver lodge building: \*Flooded\*](#).

You might comment during the video on things like: Did you hear that, a beaver can move 10 times its body weight in one day! They can build 5 feet of dam a day, wow! Can you believe that one little beaver can build a dam 300 feet long! They can chop down 200 trees a year, that's a lot of chopping! Beavers are so smart to store food for the winter.

Wow, beavers are pretty cool! Let's make a list together on how beavers show diligence. [Make a list on the beaver post](#). Your list might include: hard worker, plans ahead, neatly makes his home, completely finishes his home before the winter starts, correctly make the dam so he stays safe from predators. Etc.

Great list. Our world is full of examples of diligence. Let's all try to be like the beaver! [If you have time for \(or this is your second time through these lessons\) you might want to look at the counter example of a sloth. A video link is available on the website to aid in this comparison.](#)

Let's leave this poster up here to remind us how to be diligent like a beaver! Now, what is our mantra for diligence? "I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly." Excellent!

## PRACTICAL WAYS TO TEACH DILIGENCE IN THE HOME

1. Study the scriptures together daily. The habits of daily scripture study not only models diligence but the text itself teaches diligence.
2. Do chores. One of the best ways to teach diligence is to require good, old fashioned hard work! Requiring regularly completed, well-done chores will instill diligence in child.
3. Learn about diligence role-models. Whether you choose Thomas Edison, Florence Chadwick, or Joan of Arc, learning about diligent heroes can go a long way in modeling positive character to your student.
4. Model diligent living. get dressed every day, eat healthy food, complete your work, attend your meetings, go to church as a family, live up to your commitments. Show your children that you are diligent, then they will be too!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ROLE MODELS

Positive role models influence our actions and motivate us to do better. Having a positive role model encourages us to make the most out of our life.

Role models can give a stronger sense of direction in life. Additionally, it will help grow confidence and self-reliance.

But, who makes a good role model?

- ⇒ Hard working
- ⇒ Strong moral character
- ⇒ Good communicator
- ⇒ Excellent listener
- ⇒ Solid personal relationships
- ⇒ Demonstrates compassion and understanding
- ⇒ Shows willingness to take time for others
- ⇒ Perceives challenges as opportunities

Helping your student find a positive role model can be a life changing opportunity. Whether they be current or historical, the positive influence of a role model will serve all students well.

## DAY FOUR: THOMAS EDISON

We have learned about a lot of diligent animals the past two days, now it is time to learn about a diligent person!

Before we begin, who can remember our mantra? [Repeat mantra.](#)

“I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly?”

Perfect. I would like to tell you a little bit about Thomas Edson. He is an amazing role-model that was very diligent despite some big challenges.

[Read the short life biography linked on the blog.](#)

Wow! Mr. Edison really knew how to be diligent! What are some ways Mr. Edison was diligent?

Would you like to watch a short video about Thomas Edison working on the light bulb?

[Show video, link on the blog.](#)

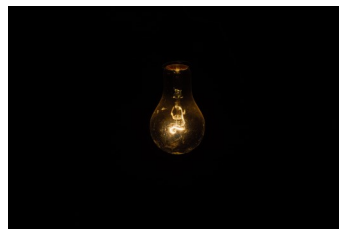
I love how Mr. Edison stayed so positive as he worked with such diligence

on hard problems.

I have some light bulbs here. Would you draw a pictures or write some words about how you can be diligent like Mr. Edison? We will put these up around the room after our lesson today.

[Give students enough time to complete the assignment. Then come back together as a group.](#)

I love how your light bulbs turned out. We can be diligent like Mr. Edison! Even when things get hard we can still... [point to the mantra...](#) “do our work neatly, completely, and correctly.”



“Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life.”

*Charlotte Mason*

## DAY FIVE: WISE MAN AND FOLISH MAN

Thanks for joining me for our last day of the Habits of Learning: Diligence. Can you say the mantra without my help? [Repeat mantra.](#) “I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly.” Wonderful, you got it!

Today we are going to learn about a parable that Jesus told called The Wise Man and Foolish Man.

[You may choose how you present this parable. You can read from the Bible in Matthew 7: 24—27. You may sing the song or watch a video of the story. A video link for the song and animated story are included on the blog.](#)

Who was diligent in this story? [Wait for answers.](#) Yes, the wise man was diligent. He built his house neatly, completely, and correctly.

We can do the same thing in our life when we are diligent. When we do what Jesus wants us to do, with diligence, our life will be built on the study foundation of Jesus Christ.

[If you are teaching in a secular environment, you could talk about other good things to build you life on like the love of your family, a good education, or a solid role model.](#)

## DAY FIVE: CONTINUED

In the bible, one of my favorite verses is: “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” – Colossians 3:23 Working heartily means to with commitment, industry and diligence. I have prepared a copywork paper with this scripture written on it. I hope this can remind each of us to be diligent.

Give the students time to complete the copywork. If you are in a secular environment, you could use the mantra copywork or one of the included quotes.

Good work. I have enjoyed learning about Diligence with you. Let’s say our mantra one more time. “I can do my work neatly, completely, and correctly.”



## EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- ⇒ Copywork pages
- ⇒ Quote memorization (or complete as copywork)
- ⇒ Scripture memorization (or complete as copywork)
- ⇒ Memorize the included poem
- ⇒ Read and then narrate from one of the books on the reading list
- ⇒ Complete the Hymn Study for “More Diligence Give Me”

Detailed instructions and needed worksheets for each exploration activity are given in the resource packet.

### Matthew 7: 24–27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

[ Abigail Adams ]

“ Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.”

## A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

The Habits of Learning © program was inspired by the formation of *A One-Room Schoolhouse: A Hybrid Homeschool Academy*. As the Schoolhouse program took shape, the founder, Genevieve Peterson, knew the program needed a proactive habit training curriculum to help shape her children and those that would join them. Her desire to instill fundamental, lifelong learning habits with simple, daily instruction and practice inspired The Habits of Learning © program.

Follow our journey on Facebook & Instagram @aoneroomschool

Genevieve blogs weekly at [www.aoneroomschoolhouse.com](http://www.aoneroomschoolhouse.com)

**A One-Room Schoolhouse**  
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*Building Faith, Knowledge and Character*

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# HABITS OF LEARNING ©

Education is more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. Although a basic understanding of curricular objectives is important, it is also imperative to develop the lifelong habits needed to learn. In order to continue education beyond the classroom habits of learning must be developed and maintained.

This curriculum has two parts: direct, scripted lessons of ten Habits of Learning to be used in the home or classroom and a progress monitoring grid of these ten habits. The lessons are “open-and-go” with little preparation and few materials. They are designed for ease of use with high efficacy in implementation. The lessons can be taught over a ten-week period, but are designed to be repeated as often as needed. A nondenominational, Christian view is intertwined throughout the lessons. All scripture references are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. Lessons and activities are designed to be used in a multi-age classroom setting but can also be done one-on-one.

The progress monitoring grid is used to help students and teachers/parents reflect on the child’s habits of learning. Stages of habit development are given with specific criteria to monitor growth. Students first learn, then explore the habit. Then after practicing the habit, move on to become motivated in that area of growth. Finally, the student moves to mastery of the habit. Once mastery has been accomplished, the student is encouraged to become a mentor to others to promote mastery in all students.

This program of personal development is based on the most current research in behavior intervention, historical wisdom of great educators, and years of practical experience in both the educational and therapeutic settings of the author. Specifically, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) heavily influenced this work as it provides a process to understand and develop positive behavior in students that is based on both values and empirical research. Both the model of classical education and the work of Charlotte Mason are melded together when considering teaching methods and behavioral development. Finally, the author’s years of professional experience as a school physiologist, education director, and special education teacher honed this curriculum.

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