

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION INTRODUCTION TO VALUES

Everyone has his/her own set of personal values. These will vary from person to person, family to family, and country to country. But everyone has values. Values are anything in life that is important to us.

There are two types of values: tangible and intangible. Tangible values are the material things in our life--things that cost money to obtain. Intangible values are the non-material things in our life--they don't cost any money. Intangible values are the most important values because they are lasting and are free--anyone can obtain or them whether or not they have money.

Our values determine how we live. When a person lives within his/her own set of values, he/she generally feels good about himself/herself; he/she feels at peace with his/her surroundings, and interacts in a positive manner with the people he/she comes in contact with.

On the other hand, a person who acts against his/her value system will begin to feel guilt or remorse, lose self-esteem, and will generally be uneasy with his/her surroundings and interact in a negative manner with other people.

Because we are human, we have a basic need for some common intangible values. Some of these are:

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| 1- LOVE | Giving love and being loved, feeling compassion, helping others; kindness, caring, understanding, etc. |
| 2- JUSTICE | Being honest, trusting, being treated fairly ,etc. |
| 3- RESPECT | Caring about self, life, property, other people, and their rights |
| 4- KNOWLEDGE | Continue learning and developing |
| 5- ACCOMPLISHMENT | Creating, achieving |
| 6- POWER | Feeling in control of one's life and destiny |

Discuss values as a class, giving examples and directing the thought process regarding tangible and intangible values.