

Five Anchors for a Life of Charity

Designed by Sarah and Grant Odhner

This card game can help us explore various aspects of charity. If we do our best to learn the Lord's will (by reading the Word and reflecting on it) and then use our abilities to live according to His commandments, we will be living a life of charity. But the Lord's Word teaches that there are five kinds of activities which make for a balanced life: daily work, benefactions, duties, signs of charity (or piety), and recreations (see *Doctrine of Charity* 129).

The five talents of the parable symbolize the spiritual enrichment we should seek for our lives. And the five kinds of charitable activities are like five anchors that we should try to have in our lives. If we spend all of our time working and forget to take time for recreation, we will cease to have the energy to be useful. If we spend all of our time recreating, we will eventually be bored and unhappy, because it is a useful life that brings us true happiness. The goal of the game is to acquire one card from each category while learning about the five aspects of a balanced life.

Directions:

1. Print the cards onto card stock (or cover stock) and cut apart.
2. Shuffle the cards.
3. For 2 players, deal 8 cards to each. For more than 2 players, deal 6 cards to each. (Note: If there are more than 5 players, you might wish to print out another set of cards to enlarge the deck.)
4. Put the remaining cards face down to create a draw pile. Take the top card, turn it over, and place it beside the draw pile. This will be the discard pile.
5. The player to the dealer's left starts by choosing a card from either the draw pile or the discard pile. (If desired, have players read aloud the cards they draw.) To finish his turn, he must discard one of his cards.
6. The game continues until one player acquires a complete set of 5 cards, one from each category and lays them down.
7. If desired, continue playing until everyone accumulates five cards representing the five categories.

Daily Work

Going to
school

Daily Work

Doing
housework

Daily Work

Being a
doctor

Daily Work

Homemaking

Daily Work

Photography

Daily Work

Nursing

Daily Work

Being a chef

Daily Work

Teaching

Daily Work

Parenting

Daily Work

Being a
minister

Benefactions

Helping a friend with homework

Benefactions

Walking a friend's dog as a favor

Benefactions

Giving money to good causes

Benefactions

Helping someone change a flat tire

Benefactions

Volunteering at church

Benefactions

Volunteering at school

Benefactions

Opening a door for someone

Benefactions

Taking the time to say a kind word

Benefactions

Helping someone with packages

Benefactions

Volunteering to help needy people (Oxfam, soup kitchen, etc.)

Duties

Cleaning
your room

Duties

Washing
the dishes

Duties

Paying bills

Duties

Mowing
the lawn

Duties

Doing what
you agree to
do (honoring
commitments)

Duties

Hanging up
your towel
after taking a
shower or
bath

Duties

Honoring
(respecting)
your parents

Duties

Taking out
the trash

Duties

Paying taxes
(sales tax,
income tax,
etc.)

Duties

Doing your
homework

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Going to church

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Reading the Word

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Prayers in the morning and evening

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Blessings or prayers at meals

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Discussing spiritual ideas with friends

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Listening to sermons

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Taking Holy Supper

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Reading books about spiritual ideas

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Reflecting on thoughts and intention

*Signs of Charity
(Piety)*

Deciding to avoid bad language and ideas

Recreations

Eating out
with friends

Recreations

Playing video
games on
computer

Recreations

Going
shopping
for fun

Recreations

Playing
sports

Recreations

Going for
a walk

Recreations

Socializing
with friends

Recreations

Talking with
friends
(in person,
phone, or
internet)

Recreations

Reading
newspapers
and
magazines

Recreations

Reading
novels for
fun

Recreations

Watching
movies and
television