

Character Education

Rebecca Tilakdharry

May 17th 2021

Life events shape our overall mindset, personality, morals and ethical beliefs. As we age, we also reflect on the significance of events that shaped our lives. Life is a roller coaster and has taught me that choosing what to respond to has the biggest impact on how I see myself. As a Christian educator, I will use my own ethical and moral history to fulfill God's plan according to his will.

My family, specifically my mother has been a primary influence in my life and taught me how to have a relationship with God. She is my best friend and our relationship is extremely important to me. She took my sister and I to church on Sundays which served as a foundation for the woman of God I am today. As a child I went to church because I had to, now as an adult I look for opportunities to seek God daily and try to start each day with thanking and praising him. I see that every trial and triumph molded me into the person God destined me to be. A highlight of my childhood was listening to my mom sing me to sleep to bible hymns, and to this day, when I'm going through a hard time, words from the hymns come to mind. Therefore, attending church as a child has molded my **belief** and over time, I have seen what believing in myself and others can accomplish. As a Christian, I believe in **helping others**. This can be done with prayers, words of encouragement, charity, and being available for those in need. Helping others is part of my morals because of my faith in God.

I also value the power of **community**. When people feel like a part of something, they gain a sense of belonging, trust and teamwork. Building a community within a school is essential to student success because it encourages parents, students, teachers and faculty members to play an active role in learning. Community also serves as a foundation for socioemotional learning. Another virtue that holds moral character in my life is **empathy**. Empathy is being able to understand someone else's feelings. My faith and teaching experience has allowed me to not only understand others' feelings, but also helps me to understand different perspectives. Having empathy also helps me to support students with their personal lives by giving advice and being the support system they need. Empathy gives me the grace to educate scholars not only academically, but socioemotionally as well.

Determination is a virtue that is needed to navigate through the challenges of life. There have been many times when determination and **motivation** were stepping stones to further my career and become a better person. Motivation encourages positive behavior, leaning from mistakes, and engages learning. This comes into play when scholars are learning new content, they must be motivated to do so.

Teaching by Example holds great value as a primary influence in my life, it supports with teaching students both in and out of the classroom. Teaching by example is an instructional strategy used to support conceptual understanding. As an educator, I'm also a role model that students look up to. Doing the right thing, trying your best, having integrity and kindness is what I model to my students.

Friendship is another primary influence in my life. I've never been one to have many friends and growing up I thought having a lot of friends would have helped me through being

bullied at school. As an adult, I've learned that quality over quantity is what matters in a friendship. I have two close friends which encourage me to grow as a woman of God. They motivate me to be a good friend to them in return as we navigate through life.

Giving back is also important to me and is one of the reasons I decided to become a teacher. As an educator from the Bronx, I want to contribute to my community by sharing knowledge and resources that will instill change and motivation for students living in poverty. It also gives me a sense of purpose because I am fulfilling God's plan. Being generous goes hand in hand with giving back. **Generosity** can consist of time, care, attention, listening ect and can change someone's life.

Recently, **mindfulness** has become an impact in my life. I try to meditate at least twice a week to improve my focus and sleep and it has been making a difference. It also reduces stress and should be implemented in schools as a coping strategy for students. Also, taking the time to practice **self-care** is an essential part to being productive and avoiding burn out.

My values and morals led to receiving my master's degree. Even though I faced some setbacks, I was still motivated to receive a master's in education because teaching is my passion. I have always wanted to be a teacher and receiving my master's validates that I am on the right path. My students motivate to be a life-long learner and helped me to discover my purpose as an educator.

I am grateful for my life experiences because they molded me into the person that I am today. Above all others, Jesus has been the primary influence in my life, all along. Therefore, I will continue to use his teaching as a guiding light to fulfill God's plan for my life.

