

WB: Thomas

Nugget of Wisdom: Character opens doors that money, education, and opportunity alone never will.

SOP: As you sit together this evening, reflect on the story and the role that character plays in both giving and receiving trust. You may not have a story that matches this exactly, and that's okay. It may come from childhood, family, a neighbor, or any moment in your life. The point is to tell your story. We are not looking for the substance of the story, but your feelings, your emotions, and how your personality responds. Do not try to compete or impress. Be honest. Listen carefully, share openly, and seek to understand how trust is built and earned.

Questions:

1. Do you believe your current character would cause someone to trust you in a time of need? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever had someone extend trust or help to you when you did not fully deserve it? How did it affect you?
3. How do you respond when someone depends on you—do you rise to it or feel pressure to avoid it?
4. What traits in Thomas stood out most to you, and do you see those traits in yourself?
5. What is one area of your life where you can strengthen your character so others can rely on you more?

Reflection: There are times when one of my granddaughters has said, "Grandpa, I need to tell you something, but you've got to promise never to tell anybody." Can you truly make that covenant? Do you understand the depth of that promise, or do you find yourself sharing it later because it didn't seem that important? The point is simple—you gave them your word. Talk about that. Talk about what your word really means, and whether it is absolute.

Mission: This week, together choose a young person—someone in your family, a neighbor, or someone you know—and extend a small loan that you can afford. It may be \$5, \$10, \$20, or whatever is reasonable for you. Encourage them to use it for something meaningful, whether saving, investing, or purchasing something with purpose. Make it clear that their responsibility is to pay it back by a specific date and to acknowledge it with gratitude. No interest, just trust. Explain to them that you are doing this because you believe in their character and want to help them grow. If the situation fits better with an adult, you may choose that instead, but the goal is the same: to place trust in someone and allow that trust to shape their sense of responsibility.

Closing: As you leave tonight, remember that character is built in

small moments of trust, both given and received.

Closing Thought: If you are not sure how to pray, you can use a simple line like this. Father, help me to be a person of character, someone others can trust, and someone who honors the opportunities placed before me.