

Hearers and Doers

Name: _____

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” —James 1:22

We all have specific roles that help make us who we are. Examples of roles include being a student, a friend, an athlete, or a musician. How deeply each role becomes a part of who we are depends upon our actions. We might call a person who actively participates in a role “a doer.” A doer makes a particular role an important part of his or her life. Because of this, the role becomes a deeper part of who he or she is.

For example, each person in a class has the role of “student.” But there is a big difference between a student who pays attention, takes good notes, asks for help, and completes the homework and a student who sits passively in class and barely does any work. The first student is a doer. The second is not. An athlete who pushes her limits in practice is a doer. An athlete who skips workouts and does not listen to her coach’s instruction is not. A person who regularly checks in on his friends and takes time to see how they are doing is a doer in his role as a friend. A person who mostly talks about himself and his own life and does not listen to the needs and concerns of his friends is not.

Aside from “student,” identify four roles that you have in your life. For each role, describe some actions you perform in this role. Then, based on your overall level of activity, decide whether you would consider yourself a doer in that role. Write “doer” or “not doer” in the third column.

Role	Actions You Do in This Role	Doer or Not?
1. Student		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		

Identify one of the roles in which you consider yourself a “doer.” Suppose you were to stop being a doer in this role. What would happen?

Answers may vary.

Do your current actions reflect who you want to be? Why or why not?

Answers may vary.

Pick a role that you would like to improve on in your life. What are two good habits that might help you improve in that role? For each good habit, what are three specific practices that might help you form that good habit?

Answers may vary.

A Virtuous Character

Name: _____

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In this chapter, you have learned about different virtues and the importance of putting these virtues into practice. Growing in the virtues forms our character. Character refers to the way our habits and choices make us a certain kind of person. A person who has a strong moral character consistently makes good moral choices. A person who has a resilient character has bounced back from failures and challenging situations. A person’s character is not easily changed because it is based on actions, habits, and attitudes displayed over time.

When writers create roles that are portrayed in video games, movies, or books, they reveal a person’s character by how they act and interact with the people around them. Suppose you have been hired to create a role for a game, movie, or book that personifies one of the cardinal virtues. Describe this person in the space below. Some questions you should think about include:

- **What does your person do?**
- **What setting is he or she in?**
- **Who are your character’s closest friends? How do the character’s friends act?**
- **What challenges does your character face? How does he or she respond?**
- **What are some daily habits of your character?**

What cardinal virtue does your character personify?

Answers may vary.

Write a description of your character:

Answers may vary.

Questions for Reflection:

- **How would a friend describe *you*?**

- **What virtues would a friend say that *you* have?**
