**Frugality**

Frugality, simply put, it is the economic use of resources. It is the efficiency use of food, time or effort. It is not just an abstract religious concept, but more to it, it is a matter of survival and a matter of management skill.

Our children are our future. We all hope that someday they would be superb leaders of industry, so we should also teach them about moral, ethnics, and virtues. And one of the concept should be frugality. Think of it as an investment strategy. Let them enjoy the feeling of accomplishment and elation that comes from delay gratification. Teaching starts from home. We can start small by teaching them on how to use sparingly on pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, food, clothing all the way down to money. And I am sure some of you have given your children a piggy bank to save up for their dream toy as an learning experience. You can also read further on this by Google the topic *Stanford Marshmallow Experiment*.

If we think further and deeper on this, teaching them about frugality might just help to train them on self-control, will-power, self-regulation and patience. Don't we all want that in our children?

During Victorian times, people practiced Waste Not, Want Not. It means if you don't waste things, you won't run out. On the other hand, it might mean that even if you don't want something, you shouldn't waste it.

The Japanese practices JIT (Just In Time) in their industry, which stems from the concept of frugality to reduce the waste of resources. The JIT inventory system focus is to have the "right material, at the right time, and in the exact amount" - Ryan Grabosky.
One of the great children’s book is the story of *The Ants and the Grasshopper*. You can almost smell the teaching of frugality between the lines. Take some time to discuss and chat with your children after they read it, and even encourage them to discuss with their peers about it.

In this world of excess and decadent, frugality may sometime be view as weakness, but then it drives innovations, just like other constraints do.

Don’t forget we all live on this tiny ellipsoid blue planet, if we don’t work harder on being frugal, we would be knee high in our own toxic waste very soon. The question we should ask ourselves should be even if we can, should we? Just imagine if everyone on Earth throw away an extra plastic bag today, what damage that would cause.

A famous quote from Andrew Johnson is: "Without frugality none can be rich, and with it very few would be poor." Henry David Thoreau expressed a frugal living lifestyle in *Walden* by living in the woods.

Last but not least, remember The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth.

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