

**ASSIGNMENT: The Sayings of Confucius**

Confucius learned about government first-hand during the years he traveled to different feudal courts. He gained a reputation for wisdom and acquired a devoted following of students. The following excerpts from the *Analects* include answers Confucius gave to people who sought advice on government and the right way to act.

**From the *Analects***

Tzu Chang asked Confucius about humanity. Confucius said: "To be able to practice five virtues everywhere in the world constitutes humanity. These virtues are courtesy, unselfishness, good faith, diligence, and kindness. He who is courteous is not humiliated; he who is unselfish wins the multitude; he who is of good faith is trusted by the people; he who is kind can get service from the people.

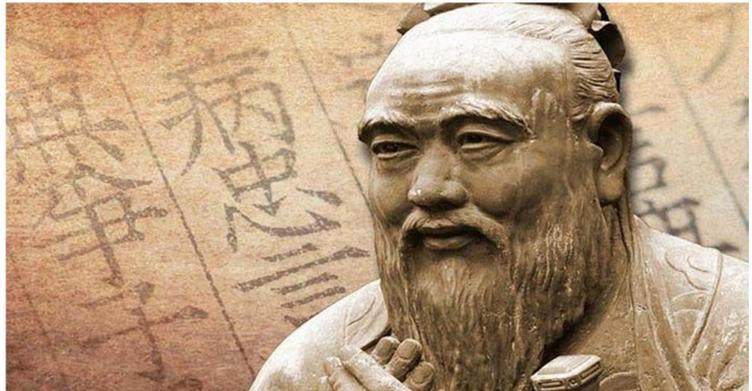
If a ruler himself is upright, all will go well without orders. But if he himself is not upright, even though he gives orders they will not be obeyed.

Lead the people by laws and regulate them by penalties, and the people will try to keep out of jail, but will have no sense of shame. Lead the people by virtue and restrain them by the rules of good taste, and the people will have a sense of shame, and moreover will become good."

Tzu Kung asked about government. Confucius said: "The essentials are sufficient food, sufficient troops, and the confidence of the people. If you are forced to give up one of these three, you should first let go of the troops. If you are forced to give up one of the two remaining, you should let go of the food. For form of old, death has been the lot of all men, but a people without faith cannot survive."

Tzu Kung asked about how people can be encouraged to be good. Confucius said: "Lead the people by laws and regulate them by penalties, and the people will try to keep out of jail, but will have no sense of shame. Lead the people by virtue and restrain them by the rules of decorum [good taste], and the people will have a sense of shame, and moreover will become good."

When Confucius was traveling to Wei, Jan Yu drove him. Confucius observed: "What a dense population!" Jan Yu responded: "The people having grown so numerous, what next should be done for them?" "Enrich them," was Confucius' reply. Jan Yu asked: "And once one has enriched the people. What then?" Confucius said, "Educate them."



**Assignment Purpose:** to gain an understanding for Confucian thought at it relates to ethical behavior and government.

**Procedure**

1). Create a *Google Doc*. Name it Unit\_4\_The\_Sayings\_of\_Confucius. Share the document with your teacher giving them full editing privileges ([rdelainey@lcbi.sk.ca](mailto:rdelainey@lcbi.sk.ca)). Create written answers for each of the questions below. Ensure answers are sufficiently detailed (do not try to pass off any single word answers and always write using complete sentences). Ensure you use the headings and question numbers to organize your answers.

**Responding to the Reading**

1. According to Confucius, what five virtues make up humanity?
2. In your opinion, from Confucius' list of virtues which one is the most important? Explain.

**Critical Thinking.**

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: for a government to succeed it must have the confidence of the people?
2. According to Confucius people are good when their leaders model good behavior. He also says leaders cannot promote goodness in people by focusing on punishing bad behavior. Why do you think Confucius believes modelling good behavior is more effective at promoting goodness in the people than the use of jails or fear of punishment?
3. In your opinion, why does Confucius place such an emphasis on the importance of education?