



Little Choices Create Character

Speaker encourages juniors to ask questions and to keep building character.

Self-dubbed as the speaker and writer for the ADD (attention deficit disorder) generation, Justin Lookadoo entertained participants of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo., July 6, 2013, in an event sponsored by the Angus Foundation titled “Saturday Night Live with Justin Lookadoo.”

An award-winning and best-selling author worldwide, Lookadoo gave humorous examples of his childhood and the lessons he learned.

“Everything you do is going to leave an impression. You get to choose what kind of impression you leave,” he said.

He said he’s often asked to speak to schools about big issues like drugs, violence, bullying and more, but he asserted that the big issues are not big issues at all. People don’t wake up one day and decide to become a drug addict. They don’t just decide to get pregnant and drop out of school. They don’t just decide to go to prison. How do so many end up making those choices?

Those choices get made by smaller choices that lead to the big ones. He gave an example of pretending to be the *Rifleman* when he was very young. In an attempt to beat the bad guys, he shot out the windshield of his dad’s car with a BB gun. His dad explained that each BB didn’t destroy the windshield, but they each created weak spots. That seventh BB finally caused it to break. The BB’s were likened to instances that damage a person’s character.

If you make the right choices on seemingly small decisions, he said, that builds a strong character instead of making weak spots. Those small decisions — like whether to cheat on a test — won’t destroy your life, but if you choose wrongly, they will weaken your character.

Lookadoo said he enjoys the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) because it involves the whole family, often several generations. He also commended its leadership-building activities that build character in junior members.

He encouraged juniors to always ask questions of those who have more experience and of those who are successful. He noted, “The moment you stop asking questions is the moment you stop learning. The moment you stop learning is the moment you stop growing. The moment you stop growing is the moment you start dying.”

— Kasey Brown, associate editor



► Junior members asked questions of Zoetis interns at the genomics workshop Monday afternoon.



► Justin Lookadoo visited with junior members and their families as he signed copies of his books after his presentation Saturday night.



► Juniors exhibited 1,066 entries in the cattle show that began Monday with the bred-and-owned heifers and concluded Thursday with the owned show. Sweepstakes winners, Premier Breeders and Silver Pitcher winners were announced along with the owned best five head at the conclusion of the cattle show.



► Bob Cervera and Crystal Albers record an episode of *The Angus Report* during the National Junior Angus Show.

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