

✘ Integrity ✘

YOUNG PERSON ACTS ON CONVICTIONS AND STANDS UP FOR HER OR HIS BELIEFS.

By Leah Welter

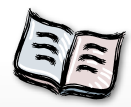
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Micah 6:8 – He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.



- *According to the presentations, what are characteristics of integrity?*
- *What are other important characteristics of integrity?*
- *Divide participants into three groups and have each group read one of the following verses. Report back the other groups characteristics each verse has to say about integrity. –Micah 6:8 –Proverbs 11:3 –Titus 2:6*
- *As a group, how would you define integrity?*
- *What is the difference, if any, between self-integrity and integrity of a group?*
- *How do you view the integrity of Christianity when observing others speech and action?*
- *Did Jesus have integrity? Give examples.*
- *Why is it hard for you to live with integrity?*
- *In what areas of your life do you most struggle with integrity?*
- *Who do you know personally who is a good example of integrity? Why?*
- *What happens when we mess up, or do something we know is not right, diminishing our integrity?*



EXPLORE

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 ...stand firm and hold to the teachings...
 Psalm 41:11,12 ...In my integrity you uphold me...
 Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright upholds them...
 1 Chronicles 29:17 ...you test the heart and are pleased with integrity...
 Nehemiah 7:2 ...he was a man of integrity and feared God...
 Job 2:3 ...a man who fears God and shuns evil.

So What?

Each person writes:

- An area of life lived with integrity.
- An area of life lacking full integrity.
- An area of integrity growth.



Candle Time

With a partner, pray using the responses from the "So What?" section as your prayer outline.

Thanksgiving –area of life lived with integrity.
 Confession –area of life lacking full integrity.
 Supplication (asking) –area of integrity growth.



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Discuss what it means to have integrity and brainstorm ways to live it.

Background

Integrity is thoughtful care in conduct. It is an internal asset that brings together a person's values, reputation, wisdom and trustworthiness. Integrity is often measured against what we say and our actions. As Christians, we remember that the integrity of the Christian faith will be viewed negatively or positively based on what people see in us. So there is our own self-integrity, but also, we give or take away the integrity of those we represent.

Micah 6:8: "Justice to others, the cultivation of loyal and unflinching love to God and to others, and a life lived in humble but informed dependence on God (walking with him) are appropriate and acceptable responses to his mercy" (Dunn, 706). In this verse God has given us a way in which to live our lives, a way to live with integrity. There are expectations set before us as to how we are to live our lives, but we are not expected to do it on our own. We walk humbly with our God.

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." –Samuel Johnson

Motivate

Before the session search magazines, newspapers, or the Internet for pictures of celebrities, political leaders, civil rights activists, or even cartoon characters; a variety of people kids will recognize. Choose people who are widely known to be "characters" who are not commonly known for their integrity. (I would not suggest Hitler, or a serial murderer, but perhaps celebrities who are known for their colorful rather than hurtful behavior). Have the participants break into pairs, each pair with a picture.

Their job is to convince the rest of the group that the person in their picture is one of integrity. Give them a few minutes to prepare. Participants define what integrity is will as they prepare their presentations. It is okay to use humor!

Option

Read Genesis 39:6-12 as a group.
How did Joseph act with integrity in this story?
Now read Genesis 41:15-16, 22-25.
How did Joseph act with integrity in these passages?



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