

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Character Development

Lesson 3: Integrity

Lesson Keys

- Quiz
- Definition
- Character Examples
- Applications

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the definition and the various parts of the lesson. Read over the examples of Eric Liddle and Sam Hill and John Nicholson. You will have to tell the story of Eric Liddle in your own words. Pray for clarity since integrity is a term that many kids may not be familiar with.

Supplies

- Definition cards
- Pens
- Chair

Scripture Guide

Psalm 41:12

Psalm 25:21

Introduction

Integrity Quiz:

Hand out the slips of paper and pens to all the kids
Ask the kids to first write their name on the back of the paper
Ask the kids to write their own definition of integrity
After a minute, read the following scriptures to give a hint

Psalm 41:12

12 In my integrity you uphold me
and set me in your presence forever.

Psalm 25:21

21 May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope is in you

After another minute, take up the cards
Read all the cards once, including the correct definition
Then take votes after reading each one again
They can only vote once
The kid that wrote the definition that took the most votes wins a prize
The ones who voted for the correct definition will all get prizes

Definition - Integrity basically means being true and honest to who you are and who you say you are. **Integrity is being exactly who you really are in actions as well as words. Integrity includes doing exactly what you say you are going to do.**

Examples:

Pull out a pen and show it to every one.

Ask the kids:

- What is this?
- What is it used for?
- What was it made for?
- If I hold it in my hand and begin to write, where will the ink go?

However, say I pulled out this pen and began to write, and all the ink

Teaching Coach

In the quiz, encourage the kids to write a definition even if it is purely a guess. Remind them that a prize is at stake, even if they are wrong.

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Be passionate about how frustrating it is when a pen leaks all over your hand. Let the kids feel your emotion when you are dumped by a chair. The more energy you put into this, the more the kids will relate to the frustration of something or someone not being what they are supposed to be.

Add a personal example of how someone showed integrity in your own life. Give an example of when someone didn't.

Read the story of Eric Liddle before the lesson. Recap the story in your own words to the kids.

began to leak out all over my hand. Then I pull out another pen and begin to write and ink goes all over my hand again. I pull out another pen and it happens again.

- How long will I trust pens?
- Will I just pick up pens and begin writing or will I check them out first?

Pull out a chair for everyone to see.

- Ask the kids:
- What is this?
- What was it made to do?

However, say one time I came to sit in the chair and its legs buckled and collapsed and I fell into the floor.

- Will I be more careful the next time I go to sit in a chair?
- Will I check out the chair and test it before putting all my weight in it?

Integrity as it relates to these objects is very simple. When the chair holds you up, it is considered to have integrity. The chair is not really doing anything extraordinary, it is just doing what it is supposed to do. The same is true with the pen. The pen is expected to write and when it does that, it has integrity. In war times, after a torpedo hit the side of a ship, one might say that the integrity of the hull had been compromised. What does that mean? Well the hull is designed to keep the water out and the ship afloat. The torpedo somehow broke the hull stopping it from keeping water out and the ship floating.

It lost it's integrity. It stopped doing what it was supposed to do.

This rule of integrity is the same with people. If I say I am going to do something, yet don't do it, then I have no integrity. If I do something that is different from who I am supposed to be, then I do not have integrity.

Character Examples

Tell the story of Eric Liddle in your own words:

- Born in China to missionary parents
- Became an athlete
- Qualified for the Paris Olympics

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The reasons to run are obvious. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us could come up with valid reason why we could skip this one Sunday to run in the Olympics.

Integrity is in short supply these days. Help the children to see its absence in their own world. They need to feel its absence and be frustrated by the lack of integrity to see the need for it in their lives.

- Refused to run on Sunday, but preached instead
- Won a bronze and gold medal
- Became a missionary
- Died on the mission field

Eric had the chance of a life time to participate in the Olympics. Eric considered himself a strong Christian and did not feel that it was right to run on Sunday.

Reasons to run:

- The country was counting on him
- Running in the Olympics is rare, you can go to church anytime
- This could be the opportunity for fame and fortune

Eric had strong convictions and he did exactly what he believed.

Another Example:

Read the story of Sam Hill and John Nicholson.

Because of the integrity of these two men, people all around the world have been touched and have come to know the Lord. Many people have found comfort and salvation from the Bible in their hotel room. The Gideons was formed from a promise kept... Integrity.

Applications

Without integrity, you really don't have much at all. If you don't have integrity, people will be less likely to trust you.

- Do you know people who often say they will do something yet never do?
- Do you know people who claim to be a Christian yet don't act like one?
- Do you know people who act completely different when no one is watching?

Whether these people realize it or not, they do not have integrity.

A good, short definition of integrity is:

“Integrity is who you are when no one is watching.”

Reflective Questions:

- Are you a Christian?

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The reflective questions will show nearly everyone's lack of integrity. No matter where you are in life, integrity is needed.

Explain to the kids that integrity is not something that we pray for and we get. It is a character that we must develop through practice and experiences. We can pray for God to help us to develop integrity. Ask God to give us opportunities to show integrity. Challenge the kids to pray for this character trait every day this week.

- Do you read your Bible?
- Do you pray?
- Do you love people?
- Do you love those who don't like you?
- Do you tell others about Christ?

These are the things that Christians are supposed to do. Obviously, no one has perfect integrity, that is why we need Christ. However, everyone could use more integrity.

Prayer

Before prayer, ask these questions:

- Is integrity a character that you lack?
- Is integrity something that you want more of?
- Are you willing to work at developing this character?

Pray over the kids. If time allows, have a few kids pray out loud after you pray.