



# INTEGRITY

## KEY VERSE

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Matthew 5:8

## BIBLICAL BASIS

Genesis 39:1-23; Psalm 78:72; Proverbs 2:1-15,20-22; 10:9; 28:18; Daniel 6:1-24; Matthew 5:8; Luke 6:31; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:18,19; Colossians 3:9,10; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 1:6

## THE BIG IDEA

God desires us to become people who are trustworthy, honest and wise. A lifestyle of integrity leads to a fulfilled and happy life.

## AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine biblical stories of a life of integrity;
- Discover the principles of a life of integrity;

- Implement a lifestyle of integrity, purity and honesty in their faith and actions.

## WARM UP

### TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE—

Students learn the truth about each other.

## TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### TO TELL THE TRUTH—

A game show that deals with telling the truth.

## TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

### STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH—

Students discuss what they think integrity is.

## IN THE WORD

### THE INTEGRITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—

A Bible study on two men of integrity.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about what it means to be a person of integrity.

## PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss honesty, purity and wisdom.



## LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

**“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them” (Psalm 78:72).**

Ky is one of the students in the high school ministry at my church. One day Ky and Todd, the high school pastor, were talking and Todd asked Ky what his dad did for work.

“Oh, he’s a lawyer,” Ky replied.

“What kind of lawyer?” Todd responded.

Ky looked Todd in the face and declared, “The kind that’s never home.”

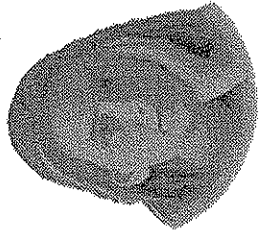
Ky’s family lives in the most expensive area in town. They have a huge home with carpet so thick it feels like you’re walking on soft pillows. Ky has a nice truck, a drumset and all sorts of other fun toys, but that stuff doesn’t really matter to him. Ky doesn’t care what his dad does for work; all he wishes for is a dad to spend time with him. Just a normal relationship with his dad—that’s all Ky really wants.

Young people today are looking for adults to lead them with integrity. Teenagers know integrity when they see it and they know it when they don’t. Absent parents, broken promises, lies and hypocritical ways of living are the thin masks students see right through to adults who claim to be something they’re not. Young people can smell hypocrisy from a mile away. What they want are people of integrity and adults who really care about them.

The Bible says that David shepherded his people with integrity of heart and led them with skillful hands. Integrity of heart is living according to God’s principles in everything you do. It’s living on the outside who God is making you to be on the inside. That’s the demonstration of godly living young people are searching for. They want a demonstration of the gospel first, then an explanation. You may not be able to give your students everything they want, but by living a life of integrity, you’ll be giving them an authentic, godly example of following Christ. And that’s something they really need! (Written by Joey O’Connor.)

**“Integrity is living on the outside who you are on the inside.”**





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## THE BIG IDEA

God desires us to become people who are trustworthy, honest and wise. A lifestyle of integrity leads to a fulfilled and happy life.

## WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

### TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Have each person tell two truths and one lie about him- or herself. When each member has finished, have the group guess which were the lies.

## TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### TO TELL THE TRUTH

- Before class, choose three contestants. Make sure one has an unusual or humorous personal account to tell.
- Only one of the contestants will be telling the truth. Then choose two others who will lie. For example: First person: Hi, I'm Jim Burns, and I threw up on my first date. Next person: Hi, I'm Gary Lenhart, and I threw up on my first date. Next person: Hi, I'm Luchi Bierbower, and I threw up on my first date.
- Have students ask each contestant any question they want. After a few minutes they have

Fold

### How to Improve It

- Characteristic
1. ....
  2. ....
  3. ....
  4. ....
  5. ....

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 113 after or as a part of "In the Word."
- 1. Write out your own definition of integrity, and share ways you can develop more integrity in your own life.

2. Why is it difficult to find people of integrity?

3. Read 1 John 1:6. Would you consider this type of person a person of integrity? Why or why not?

## PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

to guess who was lying and who was telling the truth. Then say as the TV show said, "Will the real person who threw up on his or her first date please stand up?"

- Then ask these questions:
  1. Is there such a thing as a white lie?
  2. Is dishonesty ever justifiable?
  3. Give an example of dishonesty in school, family, church and government.

## TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH

- Create a "Strongly Agree" sign, an "Agree" sign, an "Undecided" sign, a "Disagree" sign and a "Strongly Disagree" sign. Place the five signs at different locations throughout the room.
- After each of the following statements are read, the students can move to whatever sign most clearly represents what they believe. Then let each section tell why they voted the way they did.
  1. God wants us to always tell the truth.
  2. The majority of people are mainly people of integrity.
  3. Pastors have more integrity than politicians.
  4. If a store clerk gives you back too much change and you are already at home, you should always go back to the store and give the extra money to the clerk.

### 1 ON THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

#### THE INTEGRITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
  - Give each student a copy of "The Integrity of God's People" on pages 109-111 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
  - Students complete the Bible study.
- One of the greatest compliments you could ever receive is to be called a woman or man of integrity. People of integrity can be trusted. People of integrity are honest. People of integrity have pure motives. Let's meet two people in the Old Testament who were men of integrity.

Daniel

Read Daniel 6:1-24 and answer the following questions about this story. As you get better acquainted with Daniel, you'll see why he was a man of integrity.

Verse 3: Why was Daniel distinguished above all the other leaders?

Verse 4: What happened when Daniel's fellow leaders tried to find fault in him?

Verse 10: What did Daniel do after King Darius signed the document?

Verse 14: Why do you think the king was distressed when he heard from the other leaders that Daniel had remained faithful to his God?

Verses 16-18: What was the king's desire concerning Daniel's life in the lions' den?

Verses 19-24: What were the results of Daniel's integrity and faithfulness to God?

Joseph

For another look at a man of integrity, take some time in the next few days to read about Joseph, Genesis 37-50. In Joseph we see a person who was betrayed by his very own brothers. Yet, in the end, Joseph saved his family from starvation.

Time after time in this story we see God abundantly blessing Joseph because of his honesty and integrity.

Let's look at one episode in the life of Joseph. Read Genesis 39:1-23.

Verses 1-6: Why did Potiphar leave Joseph in charge of everything in his house and field?

Verses 7-10: What was Joseph's response to the plea of his master's wife?

Verses 11,12: What did Joseph do when Potiphar's wife cornered him in the house?

Verses 13-18: Why do you suppose Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph?

Verses 19-23: How did Joseph act in prison?

Verse 21: What was God's response to Joseph's integrity?

### SO WHAT?

Take a personal-integrity inventory. List the issues and characteristics in your life that are lacking integrity. Then beside each one, make a note of how you can improve this quality in your life.

**I** IN THE WORD

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**So WHAT?**

Take a personal-integrity inventory. List the issues and characteristics in your life that are lacking integrity. Then beside each one, make a note of how you can improve this quality in your life.

Characteristic	How to Improve It
1. ....	.....
2. ....	.....
3. ....	.....
4. ....	.....
5. ....	.....



**T**HINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Write out your own definition of integrity, and share ways you can develop more integrity in your own life.

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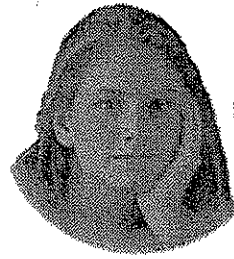
2. Why is it difficult to find people of integrity?

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3. Read 1 John 1:6. Would you consider this type of person a person of integrity? Why or why not?

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PARENT PAGE



INTEGRITY

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest and 1 being the lowest, how would you rate yourself in these traits of integrity?

- ..... Honesty
- ..... Purity
- ..... Wisdom

**Honesty**

According to Colossians 3:9,10, why should we not lie to one another?

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How does Luke 6:31 reflect the idea of living honestly?

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Read Hebrews 4:13. Why is it useless to try to deceive God?

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**Purity**

What does Jesus say about the pure in heart in Matthew 5:8?

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How did Paul describe those who practice impurity in Ephesians 4:18,19?

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What suggestions does Paul give us in these verses on how to live a pure life?

Galatians 5:16

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2 Timothy 2:22

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INTEGRITY

**Wisdom**

Read Proverbs 2:1-15. List a few of the rewards for seeking wisdom.

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What can you personally do to develop the characteristic of wisdom in your life?

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The book of Proverbs is said to be "words to the wise." Read these verses and then write what they have to say about integrity.  
Proverbs 2:20-22

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Proverbs 10:9

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Proverbs 28:18

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How can we as a family become more of a family of integrity?

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Session 7 "Integrity"

Date.....