



Demonstrate Godly Integrity

Best Use

Teach your kids the importance of having honesty and integrity—both in their words and in their actions.

Value

. . . living a life of moral and sexual purity and reflecting consistency between belief and behavior, private and public life, words and deeds, and promises made and kept.
(Matthew 5:31-42; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 12:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; Matthew 6:1-8)

Advance Preparation

None

Gather Your Family—Have them sit in a circle around the table or on the floor. You will need to take turns. One at a time, have each person (including parents) tell two things that are true and one thing that is not true. It is up to the rest of your family members to guess which is the lie. When everyone has been given a turn, talk about how lying can feel like a game and might seem fun, but in real life, God expects us to have integrity, which includes being fully truthful in all things at all times.

Defining Integrity—Ask your children to describe what “integrity” means.

- A suggested definition is: Integrity generally means being honest and trustworthy, or, stated differently, who you are when nobody is watching. Examples of integrity include our actions matching our words, doing the right thing even when no one is watching, and treating people fairly and honestly.
- In the game we just played, a person with integrity always tells the truth; the person who tells a lie (is not fully truthful in some way) is a person who does not have integrity.

Living with Integrity—Here are some passages and questions to help you and your children discuss what God means about having integrity and how integrity (or a lack of integrity) can bring blessings and consequences.

- *Integrity is giving your word and keeping it.* Read Exodus 8:28-32. Who kept his word—Moses or Pharaoh? How does keeping your word demonstrate integrity?
- *Integrity is treating people fairly and honestly.* Read Leviticus 19:35-36 and Proverbs 11:1 and 20:10. With what is God displeased with in these passages? How does this relate to how we treat others today?
- *Having integrity positions us for God’s blessings.* Read 1 Kings 9:4-5; Psalm 41:11-12; Proverbs 20:7. What was God’s promise to Solomon? How does having integrity benefit us?
- *Having integrity sets an example for others.* Read Titus 2:7. Who do you know whom you would describe as a person of integrity? What is it that sets this person apart from others of the same age and position?

Praying for Integrity—If you have an example of this principle from your own life, close by sharing it with your family. Otherwise, close by praying that God would help each of you to live each moment of each day with integrity. Pray for any specific areas where any of you is struggling with having integrity.

For more great ideas on how to teach integrity to your children, check out the resources available from Faith Path at the Faith@Home center. Specifically check out the milestones called “Blessing,” “Launch,” “Purity,” “Preparing for Adolescence,” and “Right of Passage.”