



The Virtues and Character Development Project

The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

I Thessalonians 5:24

Integrity – Composite of Activities Curriculum

Note – before reading the content in this module, it is important that the *Integrity Pre-Activity Curriculum* has been reviewed.

The following list provides examples of activities that leaders will be able to do with their students. They are divided into Primary School, Secondary School, and Higher Education.

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Primary School (Kindergarten through 5th grade)

Sheri Nessmith

Teaching integrity to second graders involves engaging, hands-on lessons that focus on honesty, doing the right thing when no one is watching, and taking responsibility.

- Integrity involves honesty, strong values, and practicing good habits. Children learn integrity by discerning between right and wrong and understanding how their actions impact others.
- Integrity makes children better decision-makers, dependable friends, and self-assured individuals.
- Some activities you can try to reinforce integrity include trust exercises, journaling, storytelling, and volunteering.

Play “What If?”

Teaching integrity can be challenging if your child hasn’t yet needed to apply it in real life. Playing “What If” introduces hypothetical situations that encourage children to reflect on their potential responses. You can provide scenarios, such as:

- What if someone asked for too much candy from you? Would you give them all your candy? Why or why not?
- What if someone asked you to play, but you were too tired? What would you say?

- You find a shiny toy on the playground
- You accidentally break a crayon in half and put it back.

Have students role-play or discuss the honest choice versus the dishonest choice.

Create a Kindness Chain

Start a chain where each link represents an act of kindness or *integrity* each child witnessed or performed. Encourage kids to add links with examples of ethical behavior, creating a visual representation of their collective positive actions.

Lesson: The Empty Pot

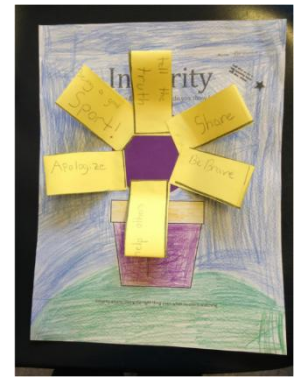
- Introduce the word *integrity*. “Doing the right thing when no one is watching.”
- Read the story of *The Empty Pot* or if you can’t find the book you can watch it on YouTube with this link.

<https://youtu.be/fvRbPr6MqjI?si=nBuNKI-kVEhfXln5>

- Discuss the story:
 - Why did the emperor give the children dead seeds?
 - Why did Ping have an empty pot?

Integrity Flowers

- Brainstorm ways that you can show integrity on strips of colored paper.
- Hand draw lines and copy so that students would know where to write. It looks best if they only write on one half of the strip.
- Glue a circle above the pot.
- Use a die-cut to make circles out of construction paper.
- Using a glue stick, glue the ends of the strips of paper together but do not crease. This helps it stay “fluffy”.
- Use the glue stick to glue around the circle and make the petals. You can have them draw and decorate the pot or have premade pots for them to cut out.
- Let them share what they wrote on their petals around the table.



Role Playing

Here are four specific role-play scripts designed for second graders. They feature simple language, short lines, and clear choices between showing integrity and lacking it.

Script 1: The Playground Litter

- **Focus:** Doing the right thing when no one is looking.
- **Characters:** Sam (Student), Narrator

[Setting: The school playground after recess. Trash cans are nearby.]

Narrator: Recess is over. The bell just rang. Everyone is running to line up. Sam is eating at a snack bar.

Sam: (*Finishes snack, drops the plastic wrapper on the ground*) Whew, I need to hurry so I’m not late!

Narrator: Sam starts to run, but stops. No teachers are looking. No friends are looking.

- **Choice A (Lacks Integrity):**
 - **Sam:** *(Looks around)* Nobody saw me drop it. I'll just leave it there. *(Runs away)*
- **Choice B (Shows Integrity):**
 - **Sam:** *(Looks at the ground, then sighs)* Even if no one saw me, it's my mess. I need to keep our school clean. *(Picks up wrapper, drops it in the trash can, runs to line up)*

Script 2: The Found Pencil

- **Focus:** Being honest about things that do not belong to you.
- **Characters:** **Leo** (Student who finds a pencil), **Maya** (Student who lost it)

[Setting: At the classroom desks before morning work starts.]

Narrator: Leo looks down at the floor between the desks. He sees a brand-new, shiny astronaut pencil. It is exactly the one he wanted.

Leo: *(Picks it up)* Wow! This pencil is so cool!

Maya: *(Searching her desk, sounding worried)* Oh no. Where is my special astronaut pencil? My mom just got it for me.

- **Choice A (Lacks Integrity):**
 - **Leo:** *(Hides the pencil behind his back)* I don't know Maya! I haven't seen it anywhere. *(Whispers to himself)* Finders keepers!
- **Choice B (Shows Integrity):**
 - **Leo:** *(Looks at the pencil, looks at Maya, then taps her shoulder)* Hey Maya, is this yours? I found it on the floor.
 - **Maya:** *(Smiling big)* Yes! Thank you so much for being honest!

Script 3: The Broken Toy

- **Focus:** Telling the truth after making a mistake.
- **Characters:** **Ben** (Student), **Mr./Ms. Green** (Teacher)

[Setting: The indoor recess toy shelf.]

Narrator: Ben is playing with a toy airplane during indoor recess. He accidentally presses too hard, and the wing snaps right off.

Ben: *(Gasp)* Uh-oh. I broke the class airplane.

Narrator: The teacher is working at their desk across the room and did not see it happen.

- **Choice A (Lacks Integrity):**
 - **Ben:** *(Shoves the broken toy to the back of the shelf)* I'll just hide it under this box. If I don't say anything, the teacher will think someone else did it.
- **Choice B (Shows Integrity):**
 - **Ben:** *(Takes a deep breath, walks over to the teacher holding the toy)* Teacher, I made a mistake. I was playing with the airplane, and it broke. I am sorry.
Teacher: Thank you for telling me the truth, Ben. Accidents happen, but your honesty makes me trust you.

Script 4: The Forgotten Homework

- **Focus:** Being accountable instead of making up excuses.
- **Characters:** Chloe (Student), Mr./Ms. Green (Teacher)

[Setting: Morning check-in time at the teacher's desk.]

Teacher: Okay class, please pass your reading logs to the front.

Chloe: (*Frantically digging through her backpack*) Oh no! My reading log is sitting right on my kitchen table. I forgot to put it in my folder!

Narrator: The teacher walks up to Chloe's desk.

Teacher: Chloe, do you have your reading log today?

- **Choice A (Lacks Integrity):**
 - **Chloe:** (*Looking scared*) Um... my dog ate it! Well, my baby brother ripped it up and threw it away!
- **Choice B (Shows Integrity):**
 - **Chloe:** (*Looking the teacher in the eye*) No, I don't have it. I did the reading, but I accidentally left the paper on my kitchen table. I will bring it tomorrow.
 - **Teacher:** Thank you for being responsible and telling the truth, Chloe. Write a reminder note in your planner.

The Teachers Pay Teachers website contains activities you can purchase:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/>

Here are some examples of what is available. There are many others.



These can provide students with real-world examples and non-examples of integrity and honesty.

- Ask them to analyze the example scenarios, deciding whether each one is:
 - An example of acting with integrity
 - An example of NOT acting with integrity

These scenarios reinforce what honesty and *integrity* looks like in action and highlights examples where *integrity* could have or should have been used. This activity is powerful in providing a clear distinction between **positive choices that align with integrity** and those **behaviors that do not reflect honesty or fairness**.

As a follow-up to this lesson, ask students to brainstorm examples of integrity both at school and at home. This reflective activity allows them to connect the lesson to more personal situations where they can practice integrity in their own decisions and actions.

Once you have completed this portion of our learning about integrity and students have developed a better understanding of what integrity is, ask them to reflect on their own integrity with these prompts:

- Specific instances when they made an honest choice even when it was difficult,
- When they stood up for what was right,
- A time when they showed kindness and respect to others,
- When they made a choice that they later regretted,
- When they did **not** stand up for what they believed in, and
- A time when they could have been more kind or more respectful

Secondary School (6th through 12th grades – Middle School and High School)

Middle School

Use Bible characters to talk about *integrity*

- Examples of failures
 - Abraham lied about Sarah
 - Isaac lied about Rebekah
 - King David killed to get Bathsheba
 - Peter denied knowing Jesus
 - Discuss how these people compromised their *integrity*
- Examples of successes
 - Job
 - King David's repentance
 - Peter and John before Sanhedrin
 - Paul before King Agrippa, Festus
 - Discuss how these people maintained their *integrity*

High School

Examples of failures in integrity in the Christian community

- Do an online search to find examples of failures by church leaders. Here are some examples:
 - **Jim Bakker** —misrepresented financial matters involving the ministry
 - **Jimmy Swaggart** —sexual misconduct in 1988
 - **Ted Haggard** —allegations involving drugs and sexual misconduct
 - **Mark Driscoll** —abusive leadership practices and a domineering organizational culture
 - **Ravi Zacharias** —extensive sexual misconduct
- Discuss how these leaders failed when they compromised their *integrity*

Higher Education (College and Professional School)

Examples of failures in integrity

- Do an online search to find examples of failures by business leaders. Here are some examples:
 - **Elizabeth Holmes – Theranos:** misrepresented capabilities of the company’s blood-testing technology
 - **Jeff Skilling – Enron:** accounting practices that concealed the company’s financial problems
 - **Bernie Ebbers – WorldCom:** company fraud inflated reported earnings
 - **Adam Neumann – WeWork:** criticism over governance and conflicts of interest
 - **John Stumpf – Wells Fargo:** unauthorized-accounts scandal
- Discuss how these leaders failed when they compromised their *integrity*

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