



The Virtues and Character Development Project

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

I Thessalonians 5:24

Integrity – Post-Activity Curriculum

Note – before reading the content in this portion of the module, it is important that the *Integrity Pre-Activity Curriculum* and the *Integrity Activities* have been reviewed and completed.

While it is true that it is necessary to continue working on each virtue after it has become second nature, this is even more important for *integrity* because it serves to connect all the virtues into a whole. For example, there will be many people that one might meet who have outstanding talents, abilities, and skills, and even impressive personalities. These individuals often will stand out in a crowd. They will become leaders in organizations. The impact they have on those around them will be very important to the people in their circles of contact. However, if a study of the failures of leaders is undertaken, it quickly becomes evident that a loss of *integrity* was a key factor to the failure. These individuals did not continue to guard their *integrity* and compromised it in some manner.

Other individuals who have many of the attributes mentioned above fail to utilize them in ways that result in leadership roles. This often is due to a lack of *integrity*. They do not integrate these attributes in a way that fosters confidence in others. They may be very productive in their roles. However, they are unable to move beyond where they are as the various abilities they possess do not work together well. As a result, these people never rise to become leaders.

The role of modeling in virtue formation and character development is fundamental in working with your children. While it is helpful to talk about *integrity*, it is more valuable to demonstrate that in your life. Since there are many instances where the children are not present when you are living out your *integrity*, it might be helpful to talk with them about own day's activities and to give examples that show how *integrity* appears in regular living. You might even ask them to think of ways that you were consistent in your life before them at home or at church. Be aware that they may point out areas where you were not consistent. Apologize for those instances.

Another way to keep *integrity* growing and maturing is to regularly have conversations about the role that *integrity* plays in life. It is important to remind each other that the whole person needs to be considered as one goes through the routine of daily living. Talking about one's day, and how the various activities provided opportunities to live out the various virtues, will provide a framework to discuss how you employed *integrity* in each event. Possibly, the discussion will need to address why *integrity* was not maintained and include suggestions regarding what might be different the next time.

Another approach could be explaining why chores around the house are given to each member of the family, e.g., to teach responsibility, the importance of everyone playing a role in the home. This conversation needs to include that the tasks are expected to be completed as assigned without the need for further prompting. A person of *integrity* will live in such a way that a commitment is completed because a person has made a promise to do the work. While a child might not have chosen a particular task, the assignment needs to be completed to learn the value in doing work

well, even when it is not pleasant or even when no one is watching. These are ways *integrity* is lived out.

Working together as a family becomes an avenue for learning about wholeness (*integrity*). At the end of the day when you talk about how the day went, have everyone create a list of all promises that were made that day. Then, discuss whether those promises were kept, or not kept. Talk about what enabled someone to uphold the promise. Seek explanations for why a promise was not kept. These may enable the children to understand why *integrity* matters so much.

One additional suggestion would be to create an activity that integrates more than one virtue. For example, *humility* and *gratitude* go together well. Create a list of examples where someone in the community (home, school, church) provided help. Then, create thank you messages (cards, emails) that can be given to those individuals. Talk about how the connection between *humility* and *gratitude* is an example of *integrity*.

As life moves forward, it will be helpful to continue to learn about *integrity*. It will be helpful to study places in the Bible where *integrity* is mentioned, either directly or in the form of one of the ways it appears in the life of a Christian (being pure, being sincere, demonstrating self-control, showing courage, speaking the truth). In addition, there are many resources available online (books, papers, webinars) that may be helpful. Having conversations with other families and people in your community who desire to grow in character will give more reminders that a life of *integrity* is important. Some recommendations for activities and resources are available on the project website (<https://www.virtuesandcharacterdevelopment.org/>). Feel free to share with us any other resources that you find helpful. We will add them to the list on the website.