Integrity

Teen Challenge Core Value #1

1. **What is integrity?**  *(John 3:5 “I tell you the truth”)*
   1. Consistently choosing to do what is **right.**
   2. **Always** choosing to do right no matter what happens.
   3. Wholeness, completeness, honesty, **trustworthiness**, and holding on to moral principles.

*Illustration airplane structural integrity p. 10 Our Core Values by Jerry Nance*

1. **What does integrity look like in your life?** 
   1. **Integrity is a consistent choice to trust in God.** *No matter the circumstances.* **Example Job**

(Job 2:3, 9, 10) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

JOB 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

JOB 2:10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Job trusted God in spite of losing everything. He struggled but he trusted God just like he did before losing everything.

* 1. **Integrity is a consistent choice to confess sin.** *No matter your position or the consequences*. **Ex. David**

(Psalm 41:4, 12) *David confessed his sin even though he was king, and his enemies would criticize him*.

PS 41:4 I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you.

PS 41:12 “In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.”

*Integrity is doing what is right after you have done what is wrong.*

* 1. **Integrity is choice to consistently live by the Word of God**. *In spite of what other people think*. **Ex. Jesus.**

Jesus was trustworthy because He taught the truth about God no matter what others said. Mark 12:14 “Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.”

*Even when Jesus’ enemies were trying to trap Him, they had to admit He was truthful no matter what.*

* 1. **Integrity is the choice to be consistently trustworthy.** (Daniel 6:4) *No matter what others do*. Example: **Daniel**  *He is our primary example for this core value.*

“At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.” *Daniel was honest and consistently did the right thing. His coworkers searched and couldn’t find anything he had done wrong in any area. Unless there was a direct conflict with God’s laws, Daniel was always willing to do what his authorities required of him. He prayed even when he knew the consequences. Those who don’t have integrity often are in conflict with those who do.*

1. **Why is integrity so important?** 
   1. **Integrity pleases God.** (1 Chronicles 29:17) “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent.” *God is pleased with faith, repentance, faithfulness to His Word, and honesty.*
   2. **Integrity protects you.** (Proverbs 10:9) “The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.” KJV “uprightly”

*If you are faithful to God and His standard of integrity, He will protect you. There is great security in always doing what is right.*

* 1. **Integrity gives you direction** even in difficult circumstances**.**

(Proverbs 11:3) “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

*If you have integrity, you will trust God no matter what happens.*

*If you sin or do wrong, you will repent. You will live by what you know the Word of God teaches in spite of some popular Bible teachers who seem to twist the Bible to please people. You will be honest and do a good job even when other people are jealous and try to make your life difficult.*

1. **How do I develop integrity? It takes courage.**
   1. Realize integrity is a **choice.**
   2. Focus on the **four** aspects of Biblical integrity: trusting, confessing, living by the Word, and being trustworthy**.**
   3. **Trust** God to teach you the right thing to do.
   4. **Consistently follow the principles of God’s Word.**

Even when it is inconvenient or costly In Acts 4, Peter and the disciples were committed to obeying Jesus’ command to preach the gospel no matter what happened.

* 1. **Always be honest, and admit when you fail.**
  2. **Complete your commitments** - be trustworthy. *And your promises*
  3. **Treat people with respect.**

1. **How do students with a background of addiction view integrity?** Allow for response
   1. **Don’t expose others’ wrongs.** *Don’t be a snitch.* N*eed to stand up for righteousness.*
   2. **Do cover up my wrongs**. *Cover my back.* *Don’t admit my wrongs to anyone.*
   3. **Don’t trust anyone** including God**.** *No one would trust me if they knew the truth.*
   4. **Always do what is right for me.** *Me first. Whatever I think is what is right.*
   5. **Real integrity is impossible.** *It is impossible to always be honest and to admit your wrongs. Don’t live by any rules but mine. Only be honest when it is to my clear advantage.*
2. **How can you help your students develop integrity?** 
   1. **Encourage them to listen to the Holy Spirit and the Bible.**
   2. **Urge them to confess their sin.**
   3. **Show them ways they can choose integrity now.** *Honesty in work applications Zac Jurs*
   4. **Help them trust God in difficult circumstances. Trust God for court situations.**
   5. **Be an example of integrity.** *The students need to see staff members who are examples of integrity. Most students have not seen someone who is consistently honest, admits his wrongs, trusts God no matter what happens, and is influenced by God and His Word instead of the people around him.*

**My example: Walmart – meat got covered by store ad flyer and I didn’t discover it until I was outside. I took it back in and paid for it.**

* 1. **What examples of integrity have you seen in the lives of others?**

**Bob Schmidgall confessed pornography sin to all the ministers in IL and resigned as AG executive presbyter and IL assistant superintendent.**

**What are some examples of opportunities to choose integrity in a Teen Challenge setting?**

* 1. Staff wants students to like them. Break rules by giving candy during class or letting them call on their cell phone
  2. Staff is under pressure to make the program look more successful. They use old statistics they may not be current.
  3. Staff is expected to be constant role model of perfect Christin
  4. Saying something to make your ministry look good even though it is not completely true.
  5. Staff is under pressure to saying or do something to keep the ministry from looking bad.

1. **Which area of integrity choices do you need to focus on?**
2. Consistently trusting God like Job
3. Consistently confessing sin like David
4. Consistently living by the Bible like Jesus
5. Consistently being trustworthy like Daniel (our key example*)\*

**Write down at least one idea.**

**Integrity: Choosing to do what is right no matter what.**