

Small Group Lesson: Integrity

General Discussion

ICEBREAKER: “Who am I”

Preparation: On index cards / small pieces of paper (post its don't work) write a name of a famous person on each card. It can be living, dead or fictitious. Make enough cards so that you have one per person. ATTACH a card to the back of each person with a piece of tape.

The Game: Each person that has a card on his / her back must go around to the other people in the group and ask YES or NO question to guess the character. You get 3 questions per person and then you have to find another person to talk too. Once the character is guessed that person sits and watches the others have fun! Remember to encourage the last two people standing!

This game only works if the answers given are honest. [What happens if somebody gives false answers?](#)

Q. Have you ever gotten caught in a lie? (share from your life)

Q How did you feel?

READ: NEHEMIAH 6:15 - 7:3 (Some background: They had just completed restoring the wall and fending off the opposition of Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem the Arab. Something that had lay in ruins for over 140 years had been rebuilt in 52 days. Knowing that it could all be destroyed in one day; Nehemiah needs a reliable person to entrust the newly established Jerusalem and Hananiah was the man.

Nehemiah recognizes Hananiah because the bible says that he is a man of integrity and fears God more than most men do.

Q. What do you think it means to be a man or woman on integrity?

Q. Why is integrity so important?

Q. What challenges our integrity?

C. Nehemiah chooses a man of integrity to protect the city, preserve the build and **complete the goal** of restoring Jerusalem. The wall itself represents physical integrity and sound structure, Nehemiah adds Hananiah to preserve the spiritual integrity.

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Q. Why do you think integrity and honesty are important in reaching your personal goals?

i.e. Taking shortcuts, lying to get ahead doesn't pay, all hard work pays off,

Dr. Henry Cloud in his book entitled "Integrity"¹ defines integrity / honesty as the ability and courage to meet the demands of reality. The reality is that our integrity will be tested in many different ways.

Q. What are some of the challenges of reality?

Q. Why does integrity take courage?

READ: Proverbs 10:9-9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

¹Q. This scripture reminds us that there are rewards and consequences for having or not having integrity.

Q. What are the consequences of not having integrity?

Q. What are the rewards?

Q. How do you think we can grow in our integrity / honesty?

MEMORIZE: Psalm 15:1-2

1 LORD , who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?

2 He whose walk is blameless
and who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from his heart...

¹ Cloud, Dr. Henry A. (2006) Integrity. New York, NY Harper Collins