



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
STRIVE Mini-Lesson
Integrity

Objectives:

Students will

- reflect on the definition of integrity,
- reflect on their actions in light of integrity
- become aware of what the Bible says about integrity
- become aware of the effects of a lack of integrity and of a life filled with integrity

Procedure:

1. Read one or both stories of integrity in action

Winners and Winners

by Al Covino

As a high school coach, I did all I could to help my boys win their games. I rooted as hard for victory as they did. A dramatic incident, however, following a game in which I officiated as a referee, changed my perspective on victories and defeats. I was refereeing a league championship basketball game in New Rochelle, New York, between New Rochelle and Yonkers High. New Rochelle was coached by Dan'O Brian, Yonkers by Les Beck.

The gym was crowded to capacity, and the volume of noise made it impossible to hear. The game was well played and closely contested. Yonkers was leading by one point as I glanced at the clock and discovered there were but 30 seconds left to play. Yonkers, in possession of the ball, passed off-shot- missed. New Rochelle recovered-pushed the ball up court-shot. The ball rolled tantalizingly around the rim and off. The fans shrieked. New Rochelle, the home team, recovered the ball, and tapped it in for what looked like victory. The tumult was deafening. I glanced at the clock and saw that the game was over. I hadn't heard the final buzzer because of the noise. I checked with the other official, but he could not help me. Still seeking help in this bedlam, I approached the time keeper, a young man of 17 or so. He said, "Mr. Covino, the buzzer went off as the ball rolled off the rim, before the final tap-in was made."

I was in the unenviable position of having to tell Coach O' Brien the sad news. "Dan," I said, "time ran out before the final basket was tapped in. Yonkers won the game." His face clouded over. The young timekeeper came up. He said, "I'm sorry, Dad. The time ran out before the final basket."

Suddenly, like the sun coming out from behind a cloud, Coach O' Brian face lit up. He said, "That's okay, Joe. You did what you had to do. "I'm proud of you."

Turning to me, he said, "Al, I want you to meet my son, Joe." The two of them then walked off the court together, the coach's arm around his son's shoulder.

What You Are Is As Important As What You Do

by Patricia Fripp

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon in Oklahoma City. My friend and proud father Bobby Lewis was taking his two little boys to play miniature golf. He walked up to the fellow at the ticket counter and said, "How much is it to get in?"

The young man replied, "\$3.00 for you and \$3.00 for any kid who is older than six. We let them in free if they are six or younger. How old are they?"

Bobby replied, "The lawyer's three and the doctor is seven, so I guess I owe you \$6.00."

The man at the ticket counter said, "Hey, Mister, did you just win the lottery or something? You could have saved yourself three bucks. You could have told me that the older one was six; I wouldn't have known the difference." Bobby replied, "Yes, that may be true, but the kids would have known the difference."

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Who you are speaks so loudly I can't hear what you're saying." In challenging times when ethics are more important than ever before, make sure you set a good example for everyone you work and live with.

2. Ask students how they would define integrity as illustrated in these (this) story.
3. For the scenarios below (some or all), ask students to reflect on what their initial reaction is and then to discuss what the action with the most integrity is. When is it a grey area? Never? Always? What might be the tipping point?

Scenarios

- As a famous athlete, you are offered a \$500,000 endorsement to promote a product that you dislike and would NEVER use. Do you endorse it?
- You are at a gathering on a Friday night. An acquaintance is leaving and about to drive but you know they have had too much to drink. Do you try to stop them? How far would you go? What if it was a close friend?
- You're a waiter in a restaurant. You see the cook drop a steak on the floor. He cooked it well over a fire. Do you serve it to the customer?
- An acquaintance of a friend has a brand new iPad for sale for really cheap. Though you suspect it may be stolen, do you buy it anyway?
- A classmate asks you to hand in a math assignment for them. You have not finished your work yet. Do you copy their assignment?
- As you are walking down the hall during class, the only other person around is walking in front of you and a \$5 bill falls out of their pocket. They don't notice. Do you stop them and return it or discretely pick it up? What if it was \$20?

- A good friend really needs a job and there is an opening where you work. The problem is that you know they would not be a very good worker. Do you recommend the friend for the job?
 - You're backing into a tight parking space and you accidentally dent someone's car. Nobody has seen you. Do you leave a note taking responsibility?
4. Review the Integrity Handout as a group.
 5. Small group discussion or personal reflections

Are there degrees of honesty, and when is a person considered "dishonest?"

How does your honesty and integrity affect the way you feel about yourself?

Why do people cheat even though they know it's wrong? Why shouldn't you?

What can you do to change how you and your friends act, in terms of integrity?

Why should you change and try to become totally honest?

How can you support a friend who is trying to change and have more integrity?