



INTEGRITY | WEEK 3 | OCTOBER 15, 2023

Elementary Lesson

Keeping the Faith

Monthly Virtue: Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

Bible Story: Keeping the Faith (Daniel's Integrity with Food) • *Daniel 1*

Key Question: When is it hard to do what's right?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Memory Verse: Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. *Proverbs 10:9 (NirV)*

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

God is always good. Since the very beginning, God has been faithful and true. If God makes a promise, God keeps that promise. We are created in God's image . . . and when we live with integrity, we reflect God's integrity. When Jesus lived on earth, He lived a perfect life and showed integrity in ways we can't because of our sin. Jesus makes it possible for us to live as new creations. Through the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed into people of integrity. Who we are in private should match who we are in public. When we trust in God, we can make the wise choice and be truthful in whatever we say and do.

Key Question: When is it hard to do what's right? It can be important for preteens to think through when difficult moments might happen, so that they can plan how they'll respond. We open up with this question for kids to think generally about times when it might be more difficult to make the wise choice and demonstrate integrity. We pray that the discussion that follows will lead to some great ideas for kids to put into practice when those difficult moments arise.

In week three, we head to **Daniel 1**. When Daniel and his friends were captured by Babylonian officials, no one would have known (or possibly even cared) if they continued following God's laws while they were in captivity. However, in their hearts, Daniel and his friends knew what was right. They decided to stay true to their faith by asking not to eat the king's food, and God rewarded them for it.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors
Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group
Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group
Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) “What holiday is coming at the end of this month? That’s right, 5th Sunday Funday! Oh, and it also happens to be Halloween...but that means that you and a friend get to come to church in your costume! If you’re really cool, you and your friend will have coordinating costumes. Like Batman and Robin or Snow White and the Seven Dwarves! Whatever you come up with, please no full face masks, props, or scary costumes. I get frightened easily! MOST importantly of all, you need to invite your friend to church! That’s what 5th Sunday is all about!

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (4 Min)

BANANA FOR SCALE

(Banana – optional, Blank Papers, Markers)

“I’m so happy to see all of you here today. We have a high-octane thrill ride of a day planned for you here at KidCity. We’re talking about how we should be DRIVEN by our relationship with Jesus. And that means we should be driven by integrity.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

“Integrity is really important, because God made us to live in a truthful way. Often, people only look at what’s on the outside of a person. But God knows that what’s inside matters most! And when we’re truthful on the IN-side, we’ll be able to live like Jesus by showing love and kindness on the OUT-side.

“Are you guys ready to play a TOTALLY BANANAS game??”

(SLIDE: BANANA FOR SCALE)
(SLIDES: #'s1-7)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **SPLIT UP:** *(If you lead in 4th/5th, you can break kids up into smaller groups)*
Get everyone into small groups. Give every group a piece of paper and a marker.
- **PLAY:** If you have a banana, hold it up so everyone can get a good look at it. You can even hold it up next to you so kids can see how big it is compared to you. Explain that they are going to see some objects or people on the screen. They have 10 seconds to guess how many bananas tall that item is. At the end of 10 seconds have groups hold up their guess and go to the next slide to reveal the answer. There is no winner so don't bother seeing who got the closest.
- **NOTE:** There are 7 slides, but feel free to cut some for the sake of time.

“That was so fun to watch! Now, let's all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing.”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)
(VIDEO: BURN, WAVEWALKER)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)
(No Supplies)

“Ok, I've got a question for you and I want you to shout out your answers. What is your favorite road trip snack? *(Pause for responses. The majority of them are probably going to be junk food.)* Those are some great options! I know that when I'm going on a long road trip I like to snack on___(unhealthy snack)___.

“It's interesting that most of the snacks are unhealthy food preferences like chips, chocolate, and candy! The road trip food you prefer is very similar to the road trip food I loved growing up!”

“Although junk food is awesome, why don't many of us choose a healthy snack when we hit the road and travel? Everyone here knows healthy food is the responsible choice. So why do we defer to candy and chips? Most of us probably do this for two reasons. First, it's delicious! Second, it's easier and faster to stop at a convenience store overflowing with junk food rather than stopping at a grocery store with vast fruit and veggie selections.

“Not sure about you, but if I'm honest, I often find myself guilty of repeatedly ignoring what's best for me. Obviously, this is bigger than junk food on a road trip. Sometimes I sit a little longer in front of the TV instead of going for a walk or jog. Or rather than waking up on time to read and study my Bible, I might sleep a little longer and skip time with God. Other times I get distracted by a sports app on my phone instead of having a conversation with the people around me.

"I've got a sneaking suspicion I'm not the only one who does this! When you've got to wake up early the next morning, why do you choose to stay up way too late reading or gaming? When you've got a spelling test the next day, why do you opt to eat popcorn and watch a movie instead of studying? If given the choice, why don't we always choose what's best for us? Why do we choose the metaphorical 'junk food' of life?

"These are some important questions. One that at some point in our life, we should try and answer. What's one of the best places to start when you have a big question? *(Get response.)* That's right! The Bible. The people who wrote the Bible actually have a lot to say about making wise choices that honor God with our lives. Let's check out one of those moments today!"

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY – 6 MIN)

"Like Daniel and his friends, every day we're faced with choices. Maybe we're not having to choose food off a royal table, but we will have to make a choice between what's easy and what's right. With our words and actions, we can choose to honor God or not!

"You might be at your friend's house and they want to hop on a website you know isn't safe. It might be super easy to just 'go with the flow,' or you can make the wise choice and suggest another activity. Your group of friends might be talking badly about someone behind their backs. And you can choose to nod in agreement, which would be easy. Or you could choose to stand up for the person they're hating on, which would be so much harder. Decisions like this can be SO difficult—to choose not to do what others are doing when we know it's not right! Sometimes the hardest things, the most difficult choices in life, are really what's best for us.

"Remember this...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.'

"Doing what's right is not always easy. But do you know what's awesome about God? When you follow Jesus, you don't make tough decisions alone. You have the Holy Spirit with you! If you are struggling to do what's right or even to know what's right, you can always call on God for help! God doesn't abandon us when life gets hard. God can help you make a wise choice!

"I love the fact that Daniel and his buddies didn't try to FIT IN. Rather, they did what was right and stood up and stood out! In the process, they demonstrated a better way—God's way. As we get ready to head to groups today, let's answer this question.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) 'When is it hard to do what's right?'

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great ideas floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray and dismiss.

“Dear God, thank You for this amazing story of Daniel and his friends. Thank You for showing us how they chose to handle a pretty tough situation. Give us the courage to do the right thing, like they did, wherever we are. Help us to be truthful in everything we say and do. Show us how to live with integrity! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Monthly Virtue: Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

Bible Story: Keeping the Faith (Daniel's Integrity with Food) • *Daniel 1*

Key Question: When is it hard to do what's right?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Memory Verse: Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. *Proverbs 10:9 (NirV)*

Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

KEY QUESTION (K-5th)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers, but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: When is it hard to do what's right? (*Answers will vary: When I'm alone, when I'm with friends, when I don't think people will see, when I might lose something - like a friendship - if I do the right thing, etc.*)

ASK: "What might we gain if we do the right thing even when it's hard?"

BOO BAGS (K-5th)

("Boo Bag" Invite Stickers, Boo Bag, Boo Bag supplies)

What You Do:

- **NOTE:** *The execution of this activity will look different per campus so refer to your campus coordinator. Be sure to know the plan before small group time.*
- Gather kids together and ask them what is coming up at the end of the month (5th Sunday Funday!)
- **Say:**
 - "5th Sunday Funday is especially designed to be a place where you can invite a friend to church knowing that it's going to be TOTALLY AWESOME! They will also get to hear about how much God loves them and wants to have a right relationship with them. But how will they know about it if no one invites them?? That's where YOU come in. We want to help you know how to invite a friend to come to church with you.
 - "Here are some things that you can say...
 - 'I go to church to learn more about Jesus. Do you want to hear what I'm learning right now?'
 - 'On Sundays I go to church with _____. (My family, my grandma, my dad, etc.) Do you want to come with me next time?'

- '5th Sunday Funday is awesome! My favorite part is _____. Do you want to come with me to the next one? It's on October 29!'
- *Do:*
 - Encourage kids to think of someone they know that doesn't go to Hope and that they want to invite to 5th Sunday Funday.
 - Pass out the 'Boo Bag Invite Stickers' and have them write that person's name down. They will need to hold on to it!
 - Create a 'boo bag' and explain that it is a way to invite their friend to come to church. They fill the bag with goodies and the information cards and give it to their friend. If they want, they can even sneakily leave it on their friend's door!
 - *NOTE: This part may look different. Some campuses may have every kid make a bag right then, and some may have parents help kids build one later. Regardless, that invite sticker will go on their bag.*
 - Emphasize that the goodies in this bag are *not* for them, it's for their friend that they will be inviting. 😊

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION: (K-5th)

("Race Car" Activity Page – 1 per kid [precut for K-1st], Glue Sticks/Tape, Markers)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to take turns rolling a die.
- Ask the kid a review question about today's story after they roll the die.
- If they answer correctly, give them one of the parts they need to build a car.
- Instruct them not to build the car until all of the questions have been asked and answered.
 - Numbers on the dice correspond with parts they will need.
 - If a number is rolled more than once, kids will already have that part, but they will still answer a question.
- The different numbers on the dice correspond to these car parts:
 - Roll a 1: two wheels from the "Race Car" Activity Page
 - Roll a 2: glue stick and roll of tape
 - Roll a 3: two wheels from the "Race Car" Activity Page
 - Roll a 4: car template from the "Race Car" Activity Page
 - Roll a 5: Scissors (to share, but if you need the activity to go faster, have them choose an item that they are missing)
 - Roll a 6: markers

Review Questions

1. What were Daniel and his friends being trained to do? (*serve the king*)
2. Integrity is . . . (*choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.*)
3. Why didn't Daniel want to eat food from the king's table? (*eating the king's food would dishonor God*)
4. What happened when Daniel and his friends only ate vegetables for 10 days? (*They looked healthy and well fed—they looked better than the men who ate the king's food.*)
5. Daniel and his friends never stopped . . . (*making the right choice, honoring God in everything they said and did*).
6. What is one thing you learned from this story about Daniel and his friends?
7. Name a situation when it might be hard for kids to do what's right.

8. What was your favorite part of this story?
9. How would you describe Daniel?
10. Daniel's friends loved God the same way he did. In what ways can friends help you do what's right?
11. What are some ways friends can tempt you to do something you know is wrong?
12. What helps us stand strong when we're tempted to make a bad choice?

- If some of the car parts are still needed after all the questions have been asked, invite the kids to take turns rolling the die until the missing parts have been obtained.
- Lead the kids in building their cars.
- ASSEMBLY OF CAR:
 - o Use markers to color your "Race Car" Activity Page.
 - o Roll the car into the size and shape of a toilet paper tube then tape/glue it in place.
 - o Gently glue on each wheel.



PRAY

"God, we pray that you give us the boldness to invite our friends to church and that we will remember to live with integrity. Amen."