



ACTIONS = WORDS

AN EDGE ISSUE NIGHT ON INTEGRITY EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

CATECHISM

2338 - 2342

2273

2284

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 25:18 -21

Psalms 26:0

Psalms 101:0

Proverbs 2:21

Proverbs 28:6

Proverbs 28:18

Matthew 15:18

Romans 6:12 -14

Romans 12:1 -3

1 John 2:6

Genesis 0:0

KEY CONCEPTS

GOAL OF THIS NIGHT

The goal of this Edge Night is to show the youth the importance of having personal integrity as a part of their Christian lifestyle and mission.

ABOUT THIS NIGHT

Integrity can best be described as the way one lives his life, not based off of one's personal code, but based on the life and example of Jesus Christ. We learn about our moral life from reading the Gospels (what is right and wrong). However, we are faced with choices each day that require us to act with integrity. The dictionary defines integrity as: "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness." Our integrity comes from a Christ-centered life that gives us the freedom to choose what is right.

As the youth enter the room, they will get a sense that they have entered the cafeteria right after lunch. To help the youth focus on the topic for the night, there will be a "silent" skit to gather their attention. The Proclaim will help the youth understand what integrity is, followed by a witness from one of the teen Core Members. In small group, the youth will have time to personally reflect on their own integrity and develop their own silent skit. The night closes with a Lectio Divina.

Before The Night

Create a video of people answering the question: "What is the definition of the word integrity?" Ask people from around the church office, the priest(s), people in the community and some middle school youth to answer the question. If you have difficulty finding correct answers, you may need to give the definition to a few people so the youth can hear the meaning of the word. Record their responses and edit them together to show during the Edge Night.

PARENTAL NOTICE

Tonight's Edge Night was about integrity. We discussed with your child that integrity is about being honest and acting as Jesus acted. Integrity is about conforming our lives to Jesus so we can make good decisions. Our actions speak much louder than words, and our actions should also match our words. Acting with integrity takes time to develop, but is necessary in following Jesus.

1. Here are some questions for the ride home:
2. What was your skit scenario tonight in small group? How did you show integrity in the skit?
3. Are there ways you struggle to act with integrity at home, school, or with friends? How can we help you?

ENVIRONMENT

Set the front of the stage like the school cafeteria. Have some tables that are messy with trash and

leftover food that was not picked up. Have something resembling a cash register on one side and a display case with a few bags of chips easy to reach. If needed, make some signs that have the name or names of the local school(s) and the word “Cafeteria” so the youth understand the environment.

GATHER

OPENING MUSIC

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See song suggestions in Media Suggestions sidebar.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Welcome and introduce new youth.

Recognize and celebrate any youth or Core celebrating a birthday by singing “Happy Birthday.”

Present a brief overview of the session.

OPENING PRAYER

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This prayer should be based on the overview of the session. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding about the theme/topic for the night.

INTEGRITY ANSWERS

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Show the video you prepared prior to the night with people answering the question: “What is the definition of the word integrity?” As soon as the video concludes, have a Core Member on stage ready to begin the skit.

INTEGRITY 101

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The opening skits will be done in a “silent film” style. You will need one Core Member to act in the skit and another to hold the two poster boards. Be sure the Core Member doing the acting has exaggerated movements since there will be no talking during the skit.

Scene 1: The Core Member (CM) walks into the cafeteria and notices there is trash everywhere. He/she looks disappointed and sorts through some of the trash to see what the group has left behind. CM looks sad and overwhelmed at the big mess. CM notices that there is no one around and starts to head

for the door very slowly. At the same time, the Poster Holder (PH) holds up the sign that says “BOOOOOO!” and encourages the youth in the room to boo loudly in disapproval. The CM suddenly seems to change his/her mind and goes to the tables and begins to clean. The PH holds up the “CLAP AND CHEER” sign and silently encourages the youth to clap and cheer for the CM who is doing the right thing.

Scene 2: After a few moments of cleaning, the CM is heading toward the trashcan nearest the cash register and notices a \$20 bill on the group. CM gets a huge smile on his/her face and bends down to pick it up. CM unfolds the bill and holds it up to the light with great joy. CM looks around to see if anyone is looking and begins to place the \$20 bill in his/her pocket. PH holds up the “BOOOOOO!” sign to have the youth begin to show their disapproval. CM thinks about it again, looks at the cash register and then places the \$20 bill by the register to be found. PH holds up the “CLAP AND CHEER” sign so the youth can show their approval.

Scene 3: CM rubs his/her stomach to show that he/she is hungry. CM is thinking of all the food he/she just threw away and looks around the cafeteria for more food. CM sees the chips and runs over, quickly grabs the chips and acts as if to run for the door. PH holds up the “BOOOOOO!” sign and the youth show their disapproval. CM realizes that he/she did not pay, so he/she rushes back to the register to pay. PH holds up the “CLAP AND CHEER” for the youth to show their approval. However, as the CM gets to the register, he/she sees the \$20 bill again. As CM reaches for the money, the PH walks over to him/her, hits him/her in the head with the “BOOOOOO!” sign, and shows him/her what it says. CM remembers the lesson and takes money out of his/her own pocket and places it by the register. After the CM is gone, PH stands up and holds the sign “CLAP AND CHEER” for the youth to applaud the skit.

PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION

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Psalm 26

If you have a musician who can help with the Edge Night, have him/her write an arrangement for the Psalm. Use one verse to be the Response line and the other verses used to create the verses. Invite the youth to sing the Response line and to listen attentively to the verses. This should remind them of the Psalm they hear at Mass. We hear the Psalm being sung or proclaimed and we respond with our voices to what we have heard.

PROCLAIM TALK

Real Integrity

We have heard on the video what other people believe the word “integrity” means. It is not an easy word to try and define or describe. Let’s take a look at our opening skit. Although there were no words, it was clear what was happening through the main characters actions. Integrity has a lot to do with our actions and the way we treat others. The main character, however, faced some situations with no one around to watch. Yes, we were there to either cheer or jeer, but did you notice how he/she looked around to see if anyone was watching? There was something important about the first scene in particular. Did anyone notice what it was? (Gather some responses here from the youth.) The important thing is that the person who did the cleaning did it without anyone knowing he/she did it and will never receive a “thank you” from anyone. Now that is integrity.

Integrity, by definition, means a person who is honest and has strong moral values. Integrity is about doing the right thing whether or not someone can see what you are doing. It means to do what is right and try our best all of the time, in everything that we do. Listen to this Scripture verse from 1 John 2:5-6: “But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him. This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as [Jesus] lived.”

Integrity of our Behavior

Everyday we make choices that affect our integrity. Maybe whether or not we tie our shoes with one loop or two is not a big deal, but whether or not we study for the upcoming test is a big deal. As we choose to study and prepare for the test, we can walk into the classroom with confidence and not feel the need to cheat. There is another statement here to be made about integrity. Our relationship with Jesus Christ also means we are held to a higher standard in our behavior. Our choices should match what we say we believe.

In middle school, it is difficult to see how any of your choices will affect you in the future. Most of the time, we only see the here and now. However, not only do our choices affect us now and in the future, but the way we make decisions affects our ability to develop a good sense of right and wrong. For instance, let’s say you want to go to the mall, but you have no money. You see your mom’s wallet on the counter and think, even for a split-second, it would be easy to

simply take her money, rather than asking or working for it.

Choosing to do the right thing helps you to develop a sense of integrity and honesty. In the future, when you are faced with similar decisions, you have already made the choice to act honestly once and will be able to act honestly again and again.

Having integrity also means owning your actions (good or bad) and accepting the consequences. Has this ever happened to you: You are sitting in class, telling your friend something, when suddenly your teacher tells you to stop talking. Your immediate response is, “but I wasn’t talking.” Rather than owning up to the fact that you were talking, you become defensive and deny what you have done. Integrity means owning up to your behavior and working to correct it when you are wrong.

Integrity means to have Christ-like behavior. In the verse we heard just a few minutes ago, John says we out to live as Jesus lived. Integrity is not based on what we believe to be right or wrong, but to measure our actions against Jesus. Trying to live as Jesus did will have a positive affect on our habits, our attitudes, and our actions. As we walk as Jesus walked, we will help others to know the love of Jesus through our actions, as well as our words. Our very lives will be a witness of Jesus.

Integrity is...

We have discussed that integrity is about being honest and making good moral decisions based on the life of Jesus Christ – walking as He walked. There is an old saying, however, that “integrity is about doing the right thing when no one is watching.” Most of the time we think about doing the right thing when someone is watching us. Ask the Core Members how they feel when they suddenly see a cop on the side of the road with a radar gun. We all quickly look at how fast/slow we were going and adjust our speed. Integrity is doing the right thing, even if the cop is not watching us. Integrity is doing the right thing in class, even if the teacher is not watching. It is cleaning up the trash even if no one is there to say, “thank you.” Be a young man or woman of integrity so that you can be an example of Jesus to others.

TEEN WITNESS

Have one of your teen Core Members share his/her experience of acting with integrity in a specific situation. Share the difficulty of the situation, explain the possible choices, and how he/she made the right decision. Also share any consequences he/she experienced as

a result of acting with integrity. Be sure that the teen gives his/her witness to the youth minister prior to the night to ensure proper content and timing.

BREAK

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

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As your small group begins, say a prayer for the group and the activities for that session.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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In your small group discuss the following questions:

Ask the youth to share one important event from their lives during the previous week.
How would you define integrity?

What do they mean by “integrity is how you act when no one is around”?

When have you experienced a situation when you had to have integrity? Was it an easy or hard to make the choice?

How do our actions help others to see Jesus in us?

INTEGRITY

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Give each youth a copy of “Integrity” (Handout A on page 90) and a pen/pencil. Allow the youth time to prayerfully reflect and answer each of the questions on the handout. As time permits, have the youth share their responses with the small group.

SILENT SKITS

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At the beginning of the night, the youth saw a silent skit to show them examples of what it means to act with integrity. It is now your small groups turn to create a silent skit. As a group, choose a scenario and develop the scene to be acted out. The scene should have the character(s) acting with and without integrity. Every member of the small group must have a role in the skit. The “BOOOOO!” and “CLAP AND CHEER” signs from the beginning of the night will be available for the groups to use when doing their skit.

SEND

LARGE GROUP SKITS

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Allow groups to share their silent skits about integrity. Have the “BOOOOO!” and “CLAP AND CHEER” signs available for the groups to use to cue the audience. After each skit, have the large group clap in affirmation.

CLOSING PRAYER: LECTIO DIVINA

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Tonight we are going to close by using Lectio Divina to meditate on a Scripture verse. One way to read Scripture is to take a small section (one or two verses) and meditate on them. Meditation is not just about sitting on the floor, crossing your legs and clearing your mind. In fact, when we meditate, we should never clear our minds completely. We want to quiet our minds of distractions so we can better hear God. With Lectio Divina, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to open the Scriptures for us. Tonight, we want to focus on our integrity and walking as Jesus walked. (After reading the verse, be sure to pause before moving on to the next phase.)

Let's start.

Step 1: Lectio

Begin by quieting yourself. Ask God to open the eyes and ears of your heart to truly hear the Scripture verse. Do not rush through it, but listen to every word. The first time we read the Scripture verse, we want to read and hear the words. Listen to the words.

1 John 2:5b-6: “This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as [Jesus] lived.”

Step 2: Meditatio

We are going to hear the verse again and have another chance to reflect. See if a word or phrase stands out to you.

1 John 2:5b-6: “This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as [Jesus] lived.”

What word or phrase really stood out to you in this passage? What does this mean for you to help you better understand integrity?

Step 3: Oratio/Prayer

During the third reading of the Scripture verse, have a conversation with God (prayer) about what you have heard. Ask for guidance on something you do not understand and how you can live this out in

your life.

1 John 2:5b-6: “This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as [Jesus] lived.”

Step 4: Contemplatio

The final step is to hear the verse again and then be silent. You do not have to ask any questions, simply sit and be a child of God. Allow God to speak to your heart.

1 John 2:5b-6: “This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as [Jesus] lived.”

Summary Challenge

Before the middle school youth are sent home they will be challenged to remember:

Integrity means to be honest and make good moral decisions.

Our behavior should reflect how Jesus lived His life so we can be a witness to others.

Remember, integrity is not only about doing the right then when others are watching; it is about doing the right thing even if no one is watching.

This week, examine a way you can act with more integrity with your parents, your siblings, your friends, at school, or in the community.

CONCLUSION

ADAPTING THIS NIGHT

If you are unable to create a video of people's responses to "What is the definition of integrity?" then ask youth and Core Members as they enter for the night. Write down their responses and read them during the segment where the video is to be shown.

In place of the opening skit, you could show the video clips mentioned in the Media Suggestions and allow the small groups to create their own "What would you do?" skit.

GOING DEEPER