

Loop Teaching: Shaping Integrity

Teaching Focus: Practice integrity by letting your choices match what is right, even when no one is watching.

Scripture: Colossians 3:17 NIV (read the full verse from an NIV Bible)

1. **Opening & Prayer**

“Today we will watch a Loop video about integrity. Think about the difference between looking like you are doing the right thing and choosing what is right when nobody is checking. Watch for how God helps shape both our words and our actions.”

Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You that You care about who we are on the inside. Help us listen carefully today. Show us how to be honest, keep our word, and make choices that honor Jesus, even when no one else is watching. Please help us grow with Your strength. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

2. **Video Lesson on Jellyfin**

Play the Shaping Integrity Teaching Segment on Jellyfin.

3. **Discussion**

“In the video, the hosts played impostor games. Someone tried to look as though they had the same thing as everyone else, even when they did not. The video used that idea to ask a bigger question: Do our actions match what we say we believe? Integrity means we can be trusted to do what is right and keep our word, including when no one else will find out.”

“The video also reminds us that good character grows from the inside. We need Jesus and the Holy Spirit to guide us. When we get something wrong, integrity includes telling the truth, asking forgiveness, and making it right.”

“Colossians 3:17 is the verse the video asks us to remember. Listen for what it says about our words, our actions, Jesus, and gratitude as I read it from the NIV Bible.”

Open an NIV Bible to Colossians 3:17 and read the full verse aloud. Then read it again phrase by phrase, pausing for the children to repeat each phrase as the video did. Include the final phrase about giving thanks to God through Jesus.

- “What does integrity mean in your own words? How could someone show it when no adult or friend is watching?”

(Examples: telling the truth, keeping a promise, admitting a mistake, following a family rule, or doing their own work.)

- “In the video, a speaker had to decide whether to watch a movie she knew she was not allowed to watch. What could she say and do to keep her words and actions honest?”

(She could explain her limit and ask her parent or caregiver to pick her up instead of hiding it.)

- “What should we do after we make a choice that was not honest?”

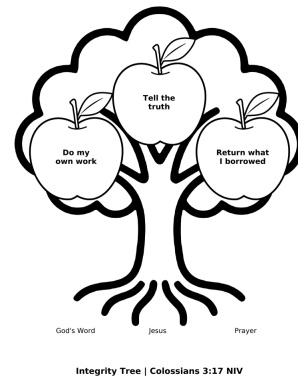
(Tell the truth, ask God and the person affected for forgiveness, and take a practical step to make it right. Ask a trusted adult for help when needed.)

“Integrity is not pretending to be perfect. We can ask Jesus for help, tell the truth when we mess up, and let our words and actions match what is right. Remember our teaching focus: Practice integrity by letting your choices match what is right, even when no one is watching.”

4. Integrity Apple Tree Craft

What You Need:

- ☐ Integrity Apple Tree printed on white cardstock, one per child
- ☐ Integrity Apple Tree- apple page printed on white paper, one per child
- ☐ One completed sample
- ☐ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- ☐ Child-safe scissors, one per child or pair
- ☐ Glue sticks, one per child or pair



What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print one tree page on white cardstock and one three-apple page on white paper for each child. Keep the apple page whole so the children can cut out their own apples.
- Make a sample. Write or draw Jesus, God's Word, and prayer in the open space beside the roots at the base of the tree. On three cut-out apples, write short choices such as "tell the truth," "keep my word," and "make it right." Color them and glue them inside the treetop.
- Set out the tree and apple pages, coloring supplies, child-safe scissors, and glue sticks.

During the Activity:

- Show the sample. Point to the roots flowing from the trunk and the apples in the treetop. Explain that Jesus helps our character grow on the inside, while honest words and actions are the fruit others can see.
- Give each child a tree page and an apple page. Invite them to write or draw three things that help them grow close to Jesus in the open space beside the roots. Examples include Jesus, God's Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit's help.
- Invite children to write or draw one specific integrity choice on each of the three apples. Offer examples: tell the truth; admit a mistake; keep my promise; do my own work; return what I borrowed; give someone else credit; be honest about a game score; follow a rule when no one is watching; apologize and make it right.
- Invite children to color and decorate the tree and apples. Have them cut around each apple's outline and glue the three apples inside the treetop. They may draw leaves or add details. Invite them to mark one apple they want to practice this week.

After the Activity:

- Invite children to show a partner one apple choice if they are comfortable. They do not need to share a private mistake.
- Remind them to take the tree home as a reminder that Jesus helps their words and actions match what is right.
- Collect scissors and other supplies. Allow the glued apples to dry before the children take their trees home.

What You Say:**Before the Activity:**

"The video compared good character to a healthy tree that bears good fruit. We cannot grow integrity by pretending to look good. Jesus helps us grow on the inside, and our honest words and actions are fruit others can see."

During the Activity:

"The roots grow from the trunk. In the open space beside them, write or draw three things that help you grow close to Jesus. You could choose Jesus, God's Word, and prayer. On each apple, add one honest thing you could say or do, even when no one is checking. You might write 'do my own work,' 'return what I borrowed,' or 'admit my mistake.' Color your tree and apples, cut out the apples along their outlines, and glue them inside the treetop. Mark one choice you want to practice this week."

After the Activity:

"Colossians 3:17 reminds us that both our words and actions can honor Jesus. Ask Him to help you practice the honest choice you marked. If you make a mistake, tell the truth and make it right."

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Let children draw their choices or dictate short labels to a leader.
- Help children cut out the apples if fine motor work is difficult. A leader can pre-cut the apples for any child who needs it.
- Offer a simpler goal of one or two apples when more time is needed.
- Avoid requiring a child to describe a personal mistake in front of the group.

5. Optional Game: Say It and Do It**What You Need:**

- ☐ Bible marked at Colossians 3:17, one for the leader
- ☐ Paper, one sheet per pair
- ☐ Pencils, one per child
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker

What You Do:**Before the Activity:**

- Write two prompts on the whiteboard: "What would you SAY?" and "What would you DO?"
- Read through the six situations below. Keep this lesson open so you can read them aloud. No separate cards are required.
- Place paper and pencils where pairs can reach them. Children do not need to write their names or share personal experiences.

During the Activity:

- Pair the children. Explain that each round asks them to choose honest words and a matching action. Their answers should show integrity even when no one is watching.

- Read one situation aloud. Give pairs about 45 seconds to write one thing they could say and one thing they could do on a new line of their paper. Children may draw or tell a partner their ideas instead of writing.
- Invite two or three pairs to share. Ask, “Do the words and the action match?” Affirm more than one wise response when appropriate. If a response needs work, invite the group to improve it without criticizing the pair.
- Give each pair one point for truthful words and one point for an action that matches those words. Do not award points for speed. Play as many of the six rounds as time allows, then celebrate the group for practicing integrity.

Situations:

- You promised to help clean up after church, but your friends start a game just as cleanup begins.
- A teacher steps out of the room. Someone opens the answer key, and no one seems to notice.
- You accidentally break a shared classroom supply. Nobody saw what happened.
- A friend asks to copy your homework and says, “I will only use it this once.”
- You tell a parent or caregiver that a chore is finished, then realize you skipped part of it.
- A group chat makes fun of a classmate. Your friends expect you to join in.

After the Activity:

- Choose one situation and ask: “If you already made the wrong choice, how could you make it right?” Give children a chance to name a truthful response and a practical repair.
- Ask: “Why does it matter that what we say and what we do match?”
- Remind the children that God helps us grow in integrity. We can ask for help before a hard choice and tell the truth after a mistake.
- Collect the paper and pencils.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

“Colossians 3:17 talks about what we do in word and deed. That means what we say and what we do both matter. I will read a situation. With your partner, write one honest thing you could say and one action that matches it. You do not need to tell us about a real situation from your own life.”

During the Activity:

“Pause and think about your choice, even if no one else would find out. What could you say truthfully? What would you actually do? If you are unsure, you can ask God and a trusted adult for help.”

After the Activity:

“Some choices feel harder when friends are watching, and others feel harder when nobody is. Integrity means letting our words and actions match what is right in both situations. If we mess up, we can tell the truth and make it right. Jesus can help shape our character from the inside.”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Let a child give an answer aloud, point to a choice, or draw a simple response instead of writing.
- Give extra thinking time and read each situation again for children who need it.
- Allow a leader or buddy to write a child’s dictated response without changing the child’s idea.

- Avoid asking children to disclose a private mistake in front of the group. Use the fictional situations instead.
- If a child shares an unsafe situation or serious concern, follow Grace Kidz safety procedures and involve the Grace Kidz Director.