

How do you live with integrity?

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB):

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

How do you live with integrity?

*“I b____ m_ t____, w____, a____
a____ o_ w____ G_ s_ i_ t____.”*

Psalms 51:6 (NASB):

*“B____, Y_ d____ t____ i_ t____
i____ b____,
a_ i_ t_ h____ p____ y____ w____
m____ m_ k____ w____.”*

Winter 2017 CT: I Have Integrity - Progressional

Week 1: December 11-16

Lesson: Introduce Integrity

1. Share these thoughts:

- “We are studying integrity this Winter!”
- “We have a new Character Declaration! Memorizing our declaration helps us become men and women of true character by teaching us true thoughts to think.”
- “God created each of you with a mission! We want to help you build the character you need succeed in that life mission.”
- “Our declaration question this winter is:”

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

i. Repeat declaration together 2x.

- “What does God have to say about integrity? A lot! The bible is God’s words, his message to us. We’re going to memorize this message from God this Winter:”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalm 51:6 (NASB)

i. Repeat verse together 2x.

2. Story

- “We are also going to start our new story today.”
- Listen to story: The Build part 1 (4 mins)

3. Questions

- “What challenge are Marcus and Waldo excited to begin?”
- “Who is the Great Designer?”
- “What is his job?”
 - i. *“to make sure that every structure is built to withstand the violent storms that come each year.”*

4. Wrap Up

- “Our story this winter is about two brothers building houses to live in. But there is more to learn from the story. We’ll be looking at the story as an example of how the brothers build their whole lives. Will they make the choices needed to build strong, secure lives? Strong lives built with integrity?”

5. Optional Q’s:

- i. What do you think the brothers thought about the plans that had been drawn for them?
- ii. How would you like to build your own house? One specifically designed for you? What would it look like?

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Week 2: December 18-30 (*Emeth closed Dec. 23-27 - Thurs & Fri get two Week 2's*)

Lesson: What is Integrity?

1. Review

- "What are we studying this Winter?"
- "Does anyone remember our Character Declaration? Memorizing our declaration helps us become men and women of true character by teaching us true thoughts to think."
 - i. "God created each of you with a mission! We want to help you build the character you need succeed in that life mission."
- "Our declaration question this winter is:"

"How do you live with integrity?"

"I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true."

- "What does God have to say about integrity?"
- We are memorizing this message from God this Winter:"

"Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom."

Psalm 51:6 (NASB)

- "The 'You' in our verse is God".

2. "Let's review Story from last week:"

- Marcus and Waldo live on the island of Zephen, where there are very bad storms.
- They fly to the capitol city to meet the Great Designer and receive plans to build their own houses.
- On Zephen, every 18 year old must build their own house to become a respected member of the community.
- The brothers are excited to begin this challenge!
- What danger do they face? (*the twenty year storm!*)

3. "What is Integrity?"

- "Integrity is building your thoughts and actions on what God says is true!"
- "Our story will help us learn about integrity. Just like Marcus and Waldo building a house to live in, your life is like a house that you are building with each choice you make."
- "Here is a quote 'Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.'"
 - i. "What do you think this quote means?"
- "If you are like one of the brothers in the story, and your life is the house you are building, who do you think is like the Great Designer in real life?" (*God*)
- "Can we have integrity without God? No. We cannot have integrity apart from God because we cannot make up what is true."
- "God the source of truth. God is the creator of the whole universe (Genesis 1:1). He is the one who has all authority. He has defined what is right and wrong. He does not change (Malachi 3:6)."

4. "So what is integrity?"

- "Holding closely to what God says and working hard to match your choices to what he says is right. Integrity is the practice of being 100% honest with and before God."

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5. "What does God's word teach us in the verse we are memorizing?"
 - Repeat verse.
 - "God wants us to store up what is true and accurate inside us, not lies!"
 - "God will make us wise as we store up truth inside our hearts."
 - i. "Wisdom is more than being smart. Wisdom is understanding how relationships work; how to have purpose, meaning and fulfillment in your life, how to be happy and at peace."
 - "What do you think are some common lies we might keep in our hearts?"
 - i. *I'm not valuable; What I want is the most important; a little lie won't hurt anyone;*
6. Wrap Up:
 - "Your integrity matters. It's made out of every little decision you make each day. Are you going to build your thoughts words and actions on what God says is true? You're going to need integrity for the mission God has for your life."
7. Optional Questions/Answers:
 - What happens when we try to define what is right and wrong based on what people think?
 - i. People are very inconsistent in choosing what we think is right & wrong.
 - ii. People have different opinions on what is right and wrong. This eventually creates problems between people, because everyone acts out what they really believe.
 - iii. We need to believe that how God sees things is the perfect way to understand them. Because of our sin, all people have a hard time seeing God and everything else accurately. We have to work hard to understand his message (in the Bible), and get to know him to find out what is really true.

Planning Notes:

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Week 3: January 2-6 (*Emeth closed Jan. 1st - Monday does not get a 'Week 3'*)

Lesson: Build Your Life on What it True

1. Review

- "What are we studying this Winter?"
- "Does anyone remember our Character Declaration?"
- "Our declaration question this winter is:"
"How do you live with integrity?"

"I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true."

- "What does God have to say about integrity?"

"Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom."

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

- "The 'You' in our verse is God".
- "God wants us to store up what is true and accurate inside us, not lies!"
- "God will make us wise as we store up truth inside our hearts."

2. Story

- "We are going to listen to part two of our story today."
- Listen to story: The Build part 2 (3 mins)

3. Questions

- "What is Marcus imagining his house will be like?" (*strong*)
- "What is Waldo dreaming about for his house?" (*high where everyone could see it, breathtaking*)
- What do you think is more important?"
- "What did Marcus do first?"
 - i. *Read carefully through the blueprints*
- "What did Waldo do first?"
 - i. *Went to look for the 'perfect' spot for his house, then afterwards looked at his blueprints.*
- "What blueprints does God give us for building our lives?"
 - i. *The Bible is his words, his message to us on who God is, how to know him, and how to build our lives!*

5. Wrap Up

- "God wants you to have a life that is built on truth so that you are safe and secure. That's integrity, building your life (your house) on what God says is true. You're going to need to know who God is and what he says about life to build with integrity."

6. Optional Q's:

- Where would you choose to build your house?
- Who knows some specific instructions God gives in his Word?
- Does building your life seem complicated? Does the bible seem complicated?
 - All good plans have lots of details that will seem complicated at first. We will always have to learn and study to become expert builders (*in gymnastics, houses, relationship, and life*)
 - Does anyone know the most important instructions the bible gives?
 - Jesus said "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is

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equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." (Mat 22:37-40)

- What does it mean to love God
 - Hint: It is similar to loving other people! (*spend time with him, listen, obey, give him gifts...*)

Planning Notes:

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Week 4: January 8-13

Lesson: God is the source of all truth

1. Review

- "What are we studying this Winter?"
- "Does anyone remember our Character Declaration?"
- "Our declaration question this winter is:"
"How do you live with integrity?"

"I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true."

- "What does God have to say about integrity?"

"Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom."

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. "Let's review Story from last week:"

- Marcus and Waldo set off to start their house building challenge
- Marcus begins by reviewing his blueprints from the Great Designer in detail, and deciding that he wants his house to be the strongest, so it can stand up to any terrible storms that come! He chooses a small field for his house.
- Waldo starts by looking for a spectacular place to build his house. He wants everyone to see how great it will be. After finding a mountaintop that he thinks will show off his house perfectly, he pulls out his plans. He is not certain it will be the safest place, but he knows it is where he wants to build.

3. God is the source of all truth

- "The choice of where Marcus and Waldo are going to build their houses is very important. Why?" (*Their houses should be built in a place where they would not be vulnerable to wind, and be able to survive the great storms*)
- "Who is the one person that knows what kind of location the houses need be built in?" (*The Great Designer*)
- "The Great Designer knew exactly how to build houses that would stand through the worst of storms, including the dreaded Twenty Year Storm. In the same way, God is the one who understands the best way for us to live. God is the Great Designer of life."

4. "The bible tells us this in John 14:6: "Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

- "This verse tells us that truth is not just an idea. Truth is a person. Jesus is the truth."
- "The whole universe, including you and me, are held together by his power." (Col 1:17)
- The way Jesus (God) sees our lives is what matters most. His perspective is truth.

5. Wrap Up:

- "Remember the verse we are learning teaches us that God wants us to have what is true and accurate in our hearts. Here are a few things God tells us he wants us to know:"
 - i. "God created you to show off how great of a designer he is."
 - ii. "You need God, you were made to have a relationship with him"
 - iii. "You've done things that are wrong that deserve eternal punishment."
 - iv. "God sent Jesus to take the punishment you deserve, so that you can have the *free gift* of eternal life instead."

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6. Optional Questions/Answers:

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Week 5: January 15-20

Lesson: Integrity Is A Commitment

1. Review

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. Story

- “We are going to listen to part three of our story today.”
- Listen to story: The Build part 3 (3 mins)

3. Questions

- “What struggles did Marcus face when he was digging his foundation?” (*difficult machine, digging taking a very long time*)
- “Did Waldo have any struggles when he dug?” (*it didn’t seem like it*)
- “Do you think it will matter if Waldo’s foundation is not perfectly dug?”
- “Who had an easier time working today?” (*Waldo!*)

4. “Doing the right thing is not always the easier choice - it usually takes more work now, and pays off later.”

- “Having integrity means that we commit to doing what is right and true ahead of time, and then have the guts to follow through with our promise. Integrity is a commitment to be honest and true.”

5. “What is integrity in your gymnastics? Here are some examples:”

- “Not lying in conditioning. If everyone else says they are done, and you know they cheated, you still complete your full amount.”
- “Keeping *small* promises. If you told your coach you would do something, do it instead of talking to your friends or getting distracted or lazy.”
- “Doing a good, thorough, complete job of following instructions. Obeying and giving your best effort.”
 - i. “Putting effort into cleaning your room when mom or dad tells you to.”
 - ii. “Being 100% honest with your mom and dad when they ask you questions.”
 - iii. “When your coach tells you to do a skill, do it *well, with 100% effort*. Don’t give half your effort.”

6. Wrap Up

- “Integrity will cost you something, perhaps a lot. Are you ready for that? Do you want to build a strong and secure life?”

Planning Notes:

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Week 6: January 22-27

Lesson: I ask “What does God say?” when I make decisions

1. Review

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. “Let’s review Story from last week:”

- “Marcus and Waldo started building their houses. They begin with the foundations (an important part!)
- Marcus struggles to use the machine to dig. It is hard to control and he can’t seem to get deep enough. He ends up working very late into the night to complete his work, and is so tired at the end that he sleeps near his foundation hole he has dug.
- Waldo enjoys his digging thoroughly. It goes so well that he decides to celebrate and heads to the city early to meet his friends. When he reviews his blueprints on the way to the city, he realizes he did not check his work very carefully. He is anxious to meet up with his friends, and figures his work must have been close enough, so he moves decides to forget about it.

3. I ask “What does God say” when I make decisions

- “Marcus and Waldo are supposed to follow the Great Designer’s blueprint for how they built their houses, so they will stand up to storms, and give them safe, secure places to live.”
 - “How are they doing so far?”
- “God has given us “blueprints” for building our lives. We can choose to follow his instructions and design, or make up our own way and hope it works out.”
 - “Example: In Gymnastics what gives you the highest chances of success: Trying to figure out skills on your own, or listening to your coaches and going through the steps they give you to learn the skills?”
 - “Why does listening to the coach give the the greatest odds for success?” (*they understand gymnastics better than you*)
- “Where are God’s blueprints for your life?” (*the Bible*)
- “The Bible is God’s Words and message to us. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) says:”
 - “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”
- “Are you paying close attention to God’s design for your life?”
 - “Do you know what the bible says? Have you ever read it for yourself?”
- “How often do you ask: ‘What does God say about this?’”
 - “What does God say about the kind of friends you choose?” (1 Cor 15:33)
 - “What does God say about the kind of words you use?” (Eph 4:29)
 - “What does God say about what things you think about?” (Phil 4:8)
 - “What does God say about what you do with your body?” (1 Cor 6:19-20)

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4. Wrap Up:

- “God has a design for your life! He has a good plan! He made you and loves you and wants the best for you. He wants you to study the plan he has for your life and get to know him so that he can help you find a purposeful and fulfilling life that will last forever.”

5. Optional Questions/Answers:

Planning Notes:

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Week 7: January 29-February 3

Lesson: Don't Cover it Up

1. Review

"How do you live with integrity?"

"I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true."

- "What does God have to say about integrity?"

"Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom."

Psalm 51:6 (NASB)

2. Story

- "We are going to listen to part four of our story today."
- Listen to story: The Build part 4 (3.5 mins)

3. Questions

- "Who showed more integrity this week?" (*Marcus*)
- "Where in his building process did Waldo compromise (or cheat)?" (*not following the plans for digging deep enough*)
- "When did this mistake becomes evident?" (*Later, when pouring the concrete*)
- "Why does Waldo not want to go back and fix his mistake?" (*It would be difficult now, and slow him down a lot, too much work*)
- "How do you think Waldo's choice to cover it up will affect him in his building?"

4. "The Bible tells us in James 4:17 **"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."** Integrity is not just avoiding lying or wrong, it is doing what you know is right!"

5. Wrap Up

- "God wants us to do what is right, to have integrity by building our lives on what he says is true. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again to save us and we obey him, he promises us the safety of eternal life with him. If we do not do what we know is right, he calls that sin!"

6. Optional Q's:

- What caused Waldo to choose the easier route?
- Who do you think Waldo's choice to compromise (or cheat) will effect?
- In what areas of your gymnastics do you find yourself compromising?
- When you compromise who does it affect?
- How does it affect you?
- How does it affect others?

Planning Notes:

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Week 8: February 5-10

Lesson: Being honest in the small stuff

1. Review

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. “Let’s review Story from last week:”

- “Marcus and Waldo poured the concrete for their new homes’ foundations.”
- “Waldo runs into problems because he didn’t do his digging thoroughly enough. When asked about it he gets irritated.”
- “Waldo gets very nervous when he hears that his work is going to be inspected. He does some quick but poor work to cover up his mistakes and even tries to distract the inspector from looking closely at his work. He manages to pass the inspection.”
- “Marcus is excited to continue building. He looks forward to his work being inspected to so can continue with his house. When the inspector tells him it looks good, he feels proud of the extra work he has done to build things right.”

3. “What does it mean to have integrity? One part of integrity is being honest in the small details of our lives.”

- The bible tells us in Proverbs 12:22 that, “The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”
 - i. “What does this verse mean?”
 - ii. “God wants us to be 100% honest. In our words *and* actions.”
- “Did Waldo lie?” (*This may or may not be clear to some students. It is easy to try to justify ourselves.*)
- “Was he honest?” (*He was not honest.*)
- “Did Waldo have integrity?”
 - i. *“Absolutely not. Integrity is not just what we say or don’t say. It is if our actions, words, & thoughts are built on God’s truth. It is if we build our lives on God’s design, just like Waldo and Marcus were told to build their houses according to the Great Designer’s plan.”*

4. “How do you know if you have integrity?”

- “Ask yourself these questions:”

Am I hiding anything? If my coach could see every detail of what I am doing, would I be nervous? Do I tell myself, “It’s no big deal,” “Everyone is doing it,” “I don’t know why this detail matters anyways”	Do I have peace? Am I proud of all the details of my work?
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- “What is an area of your life you want your integrity to grow in, by being honest with small things?”

5. Wrap Up:

- “God wants us to ask him what he thinks about our choices. He wants us to be honest in all the little and big things in our lives. That’s integrity.”

6. Optional Questions/Answers:

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Week 9: February 12-17

Lesson: What Is Important To You?

1. Review

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. Story

- “We are going to listen to part 5 of our story today.”
- Listen to story: The Build part 5 (5 mins)

3. Questions

- “What choice did Waldo face as he tried to decide what roof and siding materials to buy?”
(*Whether to go with what the Great Designer’s blueprints instructed, or with what he preferred*)
- “What ended up being most important to Waldo?” (*How his house would look, so he chose the better looking, weaker materials*)
- “Why do you think Waldo made this choice? What has he been focused on during the building of his house?”
 - i. *He made this choice because it would end up making his house look nicer from the outside.*
 - ii. *Waldo has been focused on building a house that will wow people and be magnificent looking.*

4. Wrap Up

- “Marcus and Waldo’s houses are becoming more and more different. Waldo seems to be focused almost totally on how his house will look, and doesn’t care to make it strong. Marcus, on the other hand has gone out of his way to make his house strong and follow through with the instructions he was given by the Great Designer. If you want to be a man or woman of integrity, you need to choose now that you will do what it takes to build your life on what God says is true!”

5. Optional Q’s:

- How many compromises have you made in your workouts today, this week?
 - i. A compromise is doing anything less than what’s been asked or set for you to do.

Planning Notes:

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Week 10: February 19-24

Lesson: The cost and the value of integrity

1. "Let's review Story from last week:"
 - Waldo's project is coming along nicely. He is nearly finished with his house!
 - Waldo is confronted with the choice to purchase strong roof and siding materials meant for storm conditions, or less expensive options that look nicer to him. He chooses the less expensive items, even after a warning from the salesman, and goes out to dinner with friends with his extra money.
 - Marcus has hit another slow down. Even after doing his foundation work very carefully, he manages to crack his concrete, and is told he must cut out and repour a section. He begins to worry he will not have his house done in time for storm season, but chooses to follow the instructions and redo his work.
 - When Marcus arrives to buy his roof and siding materials, he realizes that Waldo has made a poor choice of weaker materials. Worried, he calls Waldo and challenges him to follow the blueprints. Waldo is not interested and hangs up on Marcus.
2. "If you choose to have integrity, what will it cost you?"
 - *Student answers*
 - *"Integrity will cost you effort. You will have to try harder than others who choose the easy way."*
 - *"Integrity will cost you your pride. You will have to admit mistakes and failures when others hide."*
 - *"Integrity will cost you comfort and popularity. You will have to stand up and stick out when others choose wrong."*
3. "What value does integrity have? Why would you want it if it costs so much?"
 - *Student answers*
4. "Let's read what the Bible says in Psalm 15"
 - *"Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who [walk with integrity] and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent.*
 - ***Such people will stand firm forever."***
 - "Most of Psalm 15 talks about what it costs to have integrity. The last line tells us the value."
 - i. *"Such people will stand firm forever."*
 - "What does that mean? If we choose to live our lives according to God's commands and what he says is true, we are choosing to trust him as our foundation."
 - "We can build our lives (just like a house) with confidence on God. Why?"
 - i. *"He is the creator of the whole universe" (Gen 1; Acts 17:25-26)*
 - ii. *"He is your creator. He knows you better than your do." (Ps 139)*
 - iii. *"He loves you. Enough that he died for you." (John 3:17)*
5. Wrap Up
 - "Integrity costs a lot, but it is worth a lot. Think about it. If we never lie, we can be free from the fear being found out. We will have the honor & integrity of our word. Good people will want to be around us."

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- “If we build our lives on what is true, testing every decision with God’s blueprints (the bible), we can be confident and unafraid of what will happen. God will give us peace.”
- “God wants you to have integrity. He wants you to stand firm and secure no matter what happens, because you have built your life on what he says is true.”

6. Optional Notes

- “Jesus said this : “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33”
 - i. “How does that message from God relate to what we’re learning about integrity?”
- What does integrity in your conditioning cost you?
 - i. What value does it have?

Planning Notes:

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Week 11: February 26-March 3

Lesson: Build Your Life on What it True

1. Story
 - “We are going to listen to the last part of our Winter story today!”
 - Listen to story: The Build part 6 (4.5 mins)
2. Questions
 - “Can you imagine what it would be like to watch your house actually fall apart while you are in it?”
 - “What do you think Waldo felt like while the house that he had built to protect him from the storms was falling apart?”
 - “What was Marcus worried about during the storm?” (*If Waldo was safe in his poorly built house*)
 - “Waldo was most interested in how his house looked from the beginning. Whose house looks better now?” (*Marcus’ house, it’s still in one piece!*)
3. Wrap Up
 - “Just like Marcus and Waldo had to live through a storm in our story, our lives are going to have difficulties and challenges. Bad things will happen to us, and the truth about what we think, say and do will come out.”
 - “Are you living your life focused on how good you ‘look’ to others? Are you thinking mostly about if you ‘fit in’ with popular people?”
 - “Do you think each day about how you can please God? How you and live your life based on what is true?”
4. “Let’s review our declaration.”

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalm 51:6 (NASB)

5. Optional Q’s:
 - a. What compromises did Waldo make that ended up costing him dearly?
 - i. *Not digging his foundation right, which cause him to not anchor his walls on the South side, which resulted in the whole south end being torn up.*
 - ii. *His choice of siding and roofing*
 - b. How could Waldo have easily avoided the utter destruction of his house?

Planning Notes:

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Week 12: March 5-10

Lesson: Integrity Review

1. Review

“How do you live with integrity?”

“I build my thoughts, words, and actions on what God says is true.”

- “What does God have to say about integrity?”

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:6 (NASB)

2. “Let’s review our Winter story, ‘The Build.’”

- Marcus and Waldo must build their own houses to become respected citizens of Zephen.
- The Great Designer gives them specific plans and instructions on how to build a house that will withstand the intense storms of their island.
- Marcus and Waldo both have very different desires for their houses. Marcus decides what he wants most is a strong, secure house. Waldo wants to build a place that will make him look good to his friends.
- As the brothers go through the story they are challenged constantly with the choice to compromise (cheat) or have integrity. With each choice and test, the brothers and their houses become more different.
- Waldo is not thorough in following the instructions, not willing to fix problems that come up, and actually works to hide his mistakes from others so that he does not have to look bad or put in extra effort.
- Marcus is careful to start with the blueprints from the Great Designer from the beginning, and when he runs into trouble, he does the work to make things right, even though it costs him extra effort. His house ends up less magnificent looking than Waldo’s, but he is confident that it is strong.
- The great storm that comes to Zephen tests each brother’s house. Waldo’s house is totally destroyed because of the trail of small compromises he has made. Marcus’ house stands strong, so that the only thing Marcus is worried about is Waldo!

3. Application Questions:

- “Just like Marcus and Waldo’s houses were tested by a storm, you and I will stand before God one day and be tested. We will pass or fail based on if we followed God’s blueprints.”
- “We all have a problem though. No person who has ever lived has followed God’s commands perfectly, and that is what God requires. We will either be rewarded for our perfection, or punished for our sin!”
- “There is only one way we can escape punishment from God. God sent his son Jesus to be perfect for us, and pay for our sin. Here’s what God tells us in the bible:
 - “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- “God gave us the bible and told us exactly how we can live forever with him.”
 - “Romans 10:9-10 says **“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.”**

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- “John 8:31 says: “Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.”

- “God loves us so much he made a way to save us from our own mistakes and evil.”
- “God clearly tells us that we can spend eternity in heaven with him if we make Jesus the one in charge of our lives, and obey his commands.”
- “If we trust God and obey him, he says that he will give us the power to stop sinning, and live lives full of integrity.”

4. Wrap Up:

- “Do you want to live safely with Jesus forever? Do you want to make him in charge of your life? We would love to give you a Bible (God’s blueprints for your life) and pray with you.”
- “Are you excited to build your thoughts, words and actions on what God says is true?”

5. Optional Questions/Answers:

- “What do you need to change in your life to have more integrity?”

Planning Notes:
