



NORTHVIEW  
**STUDENTS**  
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

**November 12-13, 2022**

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

**What's The Big Deal? – Week 2 (Humility)**

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

**Humility is a big deal!**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

**Luke 18:9-14**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Give any Campus-Specific Announcements**



THE OVERVIEW

# OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

## LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

### "Nailed It or Failed It: Turkey Edition"

Each video will play of a person trying to deep-fry their Thanksgiving turkey. Each video freezes and then you have to decide did they NAIL IT or FAIL IT! Play as individuals or in teams but keep score out of a possible 11 points (the 11th video can act as a Tiebreaker). The highest score wins!

## OPENING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

### ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is your favorite Thanksgiving pie?

- A) Pumpkin
- B) Apple
- C) Sugar Cream
- D) Sweet Potato

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



# LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

## THE MESSAGE

### What's The Big Deal? – Week 2 (Integrity)

November 12-13, 2022

Have any of you ever read a quote by someone, and rather than a person being listed for who said the quote, it just says "Anonymous"? You read it and think, "Hey, that's pretty cool or smart or wise".....annnnnnnd we don't even know who said it. Well, here's one of those anonymous quotes: "Integrity is who you are when no one is watching." I don't know if you've ever heard that quote or something like it before, but the idea is that living your life with integrity isn't just something that's done only when other people are around. It seems to indicate people may change how they behave based on who's around or who's watching.

Students, integrity is a big deal. I've heard it said that wisdom is knowing the right things to do – integrity is actually doing it. Integrity could simply be defined by keeping your word, or doing the right thing, or treating yourself the way you want others to be treated. All of those things are good, but as we are going to discuss today, if integrity is only those things, it feels incomplete. For this "What's The Big Deal?" series, we are filling-in-the-blank with every one of our **THPs Take Home Points** and saying "\_\_\_\_\_ is a big deal." Here is ours for this week.

### Integrity is a big deal!

Do you guys remember that scene in Monsters University where they have the Scare Games? If you haven't seen it, Mike and Sully along with their fraternity, Oozma Kappa, are trying to get into the Scaring Program at Monsters University. They weren't exactly the top team, but somehow, they make it to the final round. Part of the movie focuses on Mike not looking or being very scary. Sully tries to teach him, and he ends up instilling some confidence into Mike. However, Sully is still pretty skeptical. During the final competition, Mike gets the highest score for his team in the scaring competition. However, we soon find out the real reason why.

### (Teacher's Note: Monsters University Cheating Clip)

I'm sure some of you are like, "Seriously...a cartoon? What can we learn from that?" Let's be honest though – how many of you have been in a situation like Sully where you had to choose to do the right thing even though it was hard? Sully could have let Mike use the same settings as everyone else and they could have lost. However, if he cheated and they won, and Mike ends up feeling awesome about being scary, what's the harm in that? Sully had a good heart – he wanted to help Mike, right? Not according to Mike – "You just wanted to help yourself."

# THE MESSAGE

Listen to me – integrity is not just about having a good heart; integrity is the right action combined with the right heart. You can't have one without the other. Some of you might be thinking, "Well, can't you do the right thing even when you don't want to or don't feel like it?" Yes, I think you can. However, just go with me on this idea for the rest of the message because I want to show you that integrity that is rooted in the Gospel and not just doing the right thing is the best way for us to follow Jesus.

Let's jump into our Scripture passage today from the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 8. If you were with us last week, we said that we would be looking at this same passage during each week of our series. The context for these verses is the Israelite people are being addressed by their leader, Moses, after he has this intense encounter with God and God wants Moses to share this message with all of the Israelites. Today, we're going to look at Deuteronomy 8, verse 1 and verse 6. Here it is: *"Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors...Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him."*

Now certainly, there are elements of "do the right thing" in this passage. However, there's a little phrase at the end of that verse that says, *"walking in obedience to him and revering him."* What does it mean to revere someone? If you look at the original Hebrew language of the Old Testament, the word revere means to be afraid or to be awestruck. In other words, Moses is telling the Israelites to obey God, but to also do it with a heart and mind that simply says, "God, you are a perfect God and I am not. I think you are so awesome, and I want to please you." The word revere in this context has this hint of fearing God simply because He is so awesome. God is asking the Israelites to obey Him not for themselves, but as an expression of worship to Him. Right action AND the right heart.

**(Teacher's Note: Share an experience from your childhood or recently where you did the right thing but with the wrong attitude)**

In order for us to have the right action and right heart to live our lives with integrity, we have to root our integrity in something that gives us the strength to do it, but also something that gives us the right heart to do it – even when we don't always get it right. What on earth could that be? I believe the Gospel, the good news of Jesus that we are saved by grace (undeserved love) and not by our good behavior, is exactly what we need to live lives of integrity. The best thing about the Gospel is that it's not a thing, but a person. You see, Jesus lived a perfect life of integrity. He lived up to and lived out the verses we read in Deuteronomy 8 by following all of God's commands. That's why we need Him. Jesus lived the life we can't live. None of us are perfect, so we need to root our integrity in Jesus and not ourselves.

In the New Testament, Jesus encourages his disciples in John 15:9-11 by saying this: *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."* Jesus tells his disciples the way that they can keep God's commands is to remain in Him. The word "remain" in that passage literally means "to stay or abide." In other words, remaining in Jesus means staying focused on the fact that we can't live with integrity without Him. At some point, either our actions or our heart won't be matched up.

# THE MESSAGE

A few years ago, a documentary was released on YouTube called "The Boy Band Con." It follows the story of a man named Lou Pearlman who discovered popular boy band groups in the 90s, mainly The Backstreet Boys and N'Sync. Lou did everything for these guys. He paid for their dance lessons, their vocal lessons, he bought them fancy dinners, flew them to and from events in private jets, he was super nice to their families...he totally went out of his way to make sure these guys became famous in the music industry. They were selling millions and millions of albums. There was just one problem – the boys weren't getting paid. All of those things Lou was buying for them...it was actually THEIR money. They realized they were getting scammed by him. It turns out that Lou had been asking people all over the country to invest their life savings and retirement money in his airline company. Lou then TOOK that money for himself.

That's not the worst of it – it turns out that the airline company was fake. It never existed. In fact, Lou would show his investors a picture of one of the airplanes from his airline and say it was this top-of-the-line airplane and his airline was the next big thing. He would say, "I also discovered the Backstreet Boys and N'Sync. Your money is safe with me and I can make you rich." Here's the crazy thing, that plane in the photo wasn't even real. A friend of his named Alan loved to build model airplanes and he had this model airplane collection. Lou took one of the model airplanes, drove to nearest airport and then held it at the tail while someone took a picture to make it LOOK like it was a real airplane. Everything was a lie. All lies.

The interesting thing about the documentary is a recording they played from Lou Pearlman while he was in jail. He was in complete denial about the crimes he committed. He said things like, "I discovered N'Sync and Backstreet Boys. They would be nothing without me. I gave them all this stuff and they never repaid me. This whole idea of me being in jail for stealing money; it's all made up. The truth is going to come out...you wait and see!"

Why am I sharing this example? This is what happens when integrity is left up to the individual person – sometimes it's the right action with the wrong heart, or the wrong action with the right heart. They are hardly ever aligned. It's just up to the person to decide if THEY think it has integrity or not.

Here's the **THP (Take Home Point)** one last time as we wrap up today: **Integrity is a big deal!** How would you evaluate the way you're living your life right now? Are you living with integrity? Are you doing the right thing with the right heart or is one of those things off in some way? Thankfully, if you root your integrity in the Gospel and not your own abilities, you can trust in Jesus's integrity and not your own. Integrity comes from a place of surrendering to God and not just living with good behavior. As we move into the discussion questions, I would love for you to discuss this idea of integrity with your life group.

Be challenged this week to live your life with integrity because there is no substitute for it. Either you live with integrity or you don't – so root your integrity in Jesus, the only source of true integrity. Let me pray for you. **(Teacher's Note: Close in prayer and then wrap up).**

# CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## CLOSING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

\*\*\*Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

How was the word "integrity" defined in the message? Has there ever been a time where you did the right thing but with the wrong heart? What happened? How would you handle that situation differently?

Let's read Deuteronomy 8:1, 6 from the Old Testament and John 15:9-11 from the New Testament. After doing so, answer this question: What is God trying to teach us about integrity in these passages?

*Deuteronomy 8:1, 6 – "Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors...Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him."*

*John 15:9-11 – "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."*

It was shared in the message that our integrity should be rooted in the Gospel and surrendering to God; not in our good behavior. Why do you think that's important vs. just doing your best to do the right thing as often as you can?

How can we as a group help each other live lives of Integrity

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Don't forget about Breaksgiving next time our group meets! Be sure to wear your pajamas and come hungry!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



# PREP NEEDS

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## SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

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## LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game slides and/or videos
- Message script
- Message slides

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## AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister