

BEING A MAN

1. BEING A MAN OF INTEGRITY

<p>1. Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<p>Today we will start our series called 'Good Real Men'. We will learn over the next 6 weeks how our lives can change in different ways so that we become a good man and a real man at the same time.</p> <p>We will also learn how men can support each other, like faithful brothers, so we do not feel isolated and without help</p> <p>Today we will look at what the Bible says about being a Man of Integrity</p>
<p>2. What is Integrity?</p> <p>7 MINUTES</p>	<p>Here are some dictionary definitions of integrity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. adherence to moral and ethical principles; <i>soundness of moral character; honesty.</i>2. the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished: for example some may say "we need to preserve the integrity of the nation"3. a <u>sound</u>, unimpaired, or perfect condition: <i>as in "the integrity of a ship's hull".</i> <p>The Bible gives much teaching on integrity</p> <p>1 Kings 9:3-5 The LORD said to Solomon:...if you walk before me faithfully with <i>integrity of heart</i> and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father.</p> <p>Many verses show the different results of Integrity and lack of integrity</p> <p>Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in <i>integrity</i> walks securely, whoever takes crooked paths will be found out</p> <p>Proverbs 11:3 The <i>integrity</i> of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity</p> <p>Proverbs 13:6 Righteousness guards the person of <i>integrity</i>, but wickedness overthrows the sinner</p> <p>The New Testament gives an example of a Man of Integrity - the man God wants us to be.</p> <p>1 Tim 3 v 1-7 Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be <u>above reproach</u>, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, <u>respectable</u>, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, <u>not a lover of money</u>. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also <u>have a good reputation with outsiders</u> so that he will <u>not fall into disgrace</u> and into the devil's trap</p> <p>This scripture describes what a man who cares for the church should be like. We can use it as a standard of what all men should seek to be, because God wants us all to care for each other Not all of the behaviours are about integrity - the underlined ones are, but if someone is a man of integrity they will find it much easier to fulfil all the other good behaviours.</p> <p>They will become a person people can watch and trust and be glad to have as a friend.</p>

<p>3. Group Discussion</p> <p>12 MINUTES</p>	<p><i>Leaders - break up the participants into small groups to discuss the following aspects of integrity taken from the scripture we have just read (Note : the meanings of these aspects of integrity are in (...).Do not read these meanings out before the discussion but in the feedback time try to ensure that these meanings come out and are understood)</i></p> <p><i>The following underlined aspects should be displayed during the discussion.</i></p> <p><u>above reproach</u>, (their life gives no reason for accusation, their deeds and motives can be examined and found to be good)</p> <p><u>respectable</u>, (they are sensible, well behaved and lead a disciplined life – they do what they promise and keep their word)</p> <p><u>not a lover of money</u>, (they do not let money rule their lives or try to get money by wrong methods)</p> <p><u>a good reputation with outsiders</u>, (even unbelievers will say they are honest, trustworthy and fair in word and deed)</p> <p><u>not fall into disgrace</u> (they have no secret sins that can be revealed that will shame them)</p> <p><i>Leaders - Ask the groups to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ do you understand these aspects of integrity? ○ why are they important? ○ can you think of practical examples in daily life, or people you know who show or don't show these? For example someone whom no-one trusts because of dishonesty (no names please!) ○ how hard are they to achieve – and why is this so? <p><i>After about 8 minutes ask for feedback in a relaxed way – don't ask <u>every</u> group to feedback on <u>every</u> example unless you are sure you have time for this</i></p>
<p>4. Testimony (Optional) 6 MINUTES</p>	<p>If the group has a participant who can give a testimony of integrity and its benefits - ask them to describe what happened briefly and clearly</p> <p><i>Leaders - Ask for 2 or 3 comments from any who are willing to comment – allow any resulting conversation or questions to continue for a few minutes if helpful.</i></p>
<p>5. The Answer from the Bible</p>	<p>How does the Bible say we can become Good Real Men of Integrity?</p> <p>In Matt 22 v 37-39 Jesus says “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it;”Love your neighbour as yourself” <u>Out of respect and love for God, a Man of Integrity will seek to do the right thing. Also he will respect others and treat them as he wants to be treated himself.</u></p> <p>This is impossible to achieve in our own strength, and we are not just telling you to try harder! We all need to <u>understand</u> the Good Real life of God, but we also need God's power to <u>live</u> it.</p> <p>How do men receive God's power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ King David sinned and realised he needed God to change him. He cried out in Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me”. ○ In Jeremiah 31:33 God promised “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” ○ In Ezekiel 36:26-27 God promised ”I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees....

<p>5 MINUTES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God promised to change us inside so that we are able to love and obey Him. This is what Jesus came to accomplish. When Jesus came, John the Baptist said that He would not only take away our sins but also baptise or fill us with the Holy Spirit. ○ In John 14:17 Jesus said “the Holy Spirit...lives with you and will be in you.” ○ In Acts 5:32 Peter says “the Holy Spirit is given by God to those who obey Him”. ○ This was not only for some disciples to do miracles. God intends that <u>all</u> of us receive his Holy Spirit. He will enable us to understand what Jesus wants and help us to do it. ○ If you have never received the Holy Spirit why not ask Jesus to give Him to you? <p>Jesus said in John 5:32 “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” The new life of God’s Spirit inside you loves the truth and His power will enable you to obey it. As you obey God and choose to be a Man of Integrity you will grow stronger. You will become more free and more able to say “No” to temptation and sin. This will give you a clean conscience and help you to become a Real Good Man all of the time.</p>
<p>6. Practical Application</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take time each day to thank God for His new life and ask him to keep filling you with his Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for God’s help to know how to have integrity at all times; at work, at home, in church <input type="checkbox"/> Expect God to warn you in your heart if your integrity is being attacked and obey what He shows you. For example; you may be offered stolen goods and told it’s OK – and God warns you to refuse. <input type="checkbox"/> Find a trusted friend who can help you and whom you can help, by confidentially talking and praying about successes and difficulties, encouraging and advising each other. <input type="checkbox"/> Why not meet every 2 weeks at a convenient time, maybe in a coffee shop, or at home if you live near each other. It need not take much time. <p>These simple steps will make it possible to become a Good & Real Man of Integrity and your love for the Lord will grow more and more and be seen in your actions as well as your words.</p>
<p>7. Short Summary</p> <p>1 MINUTE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All men are called to have Integrity in each area of their lives. <input type="checkbox"/> Think about each area of your life and how it could have more Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Tell God sincerely that you want his Spirit to create the Life of Integrity inside you <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss this with a friend that you trust, and regularly support each other
<p>8. Prayer and Close the meeting</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<p>Dear God, Thank you that you have made me a man. Thank you that you want to live in me by your Spirit. You want my body to be a temple of your Spirit, whom You have sent to enable me to live like You. Please help me to become a man of greater Integrity that I am at the moment. I want to serve you in all my words, actions and thoughts. I cannot do this in my own strength but I trust You to enable me to do this. Please guide me and help me to kindly give support to my friends and humbly receive support from my friends in this also. Amen</p>

