

Youth Connection - Integrity

pro·bi·ty

'prōbədē/
noun formal

def.

- 1 the quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency.
- 2 adherence to the highest ideals.
- 3 integrity and uprightness

PLAY

Play a round of the game PROBITY as an introduction to the topic of integrity.

1. Print the double sided PROBITY question cards (attached) and put them in a pile in the middle of the table.
2. Give each player some blank PROBITY cards (attached) and a pen.
3. Taking turns, have one person (the reader) pick up a card and read the situation and the two choices.
4. After the card is read, players write down the answer they think the reader will choose. The reader writes his/her answer as well, choosing the honest answer of what they actually might do in that situation.
5. On the count of three, all players reveal their answer.
6. Answers matching the reader's answer score a point.
7. Moving around the circle, select a new reader and repeat.

"Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either." - Albert Einstein

PROBE

Were some of these PROBITY questions hard to answer? What made them difficult? Maybe because some of them were about small issues that seemingly don't have a whole lot of significance, or make a big difference - like a tiny item not scanned at the store, or wearing your sister's shoes for an hour, or being a couple of months shy of 13. What's the big deal?

Well here's the thing: having PROBITY, otherwise known as INTEGRITY, in your life means to have strong moral principles; to be honest in all things; to aim for the highest standard; to make good choices; to do the right thing always - whether it's something big or small, and whether or not anybody sees or could ever know. If anything matters then everything matters.



Having INTEGRITY is incredibly important. Even small choices can have huge impact and consequence - on ourselves, our families, our friendships, our world and our future.

“Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking.” - J.C. Watts

POINT

What does God’s Word have to say about INTEGRITY? In which direction does the Bible point us on this topic? What does God promise to those who choose to live for him with integrity and in righteousness (doing what is right in God’s eyes and according to his Word)?

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

Proverbs 2:20-21 ...walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it.

Proverbs 2:6-8 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

Proverbs 28:6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

Psalms 25:21 May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.

Proverbs 4:25-27 Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

Proverbs 20:7 The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.

Psalms 41:11-12 By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

Proverbs 28:18 Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.

Promises from Proverbs and Psalms:

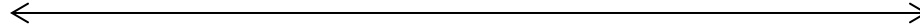
guidance
life
protection
security
surety
blessing
upholding
presence
deliverance

PONDER

Think about your own life and the choices you make every day. Do you uphold God's standard of honesty and integrity at all times, whether the issue is big or small, and whether or not anyone will ever know about it?

Give your INTEGRITY level an honest score on the line below:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



Sometimes it is difficult to know what is the right choice to make in a situation. These are some questions that might help:

What does God's Word say about this?

Is this decision in line with who I say I am, and who God says I should be, as a follower of Jesus?

What are the possible effects or consequences of my actions?

How will this decision affect others?

Would I be proud to tell my family or friends about the choice I made?

God gives us excellent advice in helping us live a life of INTEGRITY. Check out Philippians 4:8.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

How can you better live a life of INTEGRITY?

Is there a specific area where you especially need someone to help hold you accountable to your choices?

Identify that area:

Identify who you will ask to hold you accountable in this area:

Identify one way they can help hold you accountable:

PRAY

Ask God to help you to be honest and consistent in the life you live for him. Trust him to help you know and understand the truth of his Word and to apply it in every situation. Thank him that he promises never to leave you alone and for being right beside you in every situation you could ever find yourself. Ask him to bring others into your life who can help you, encourage you and hold you accountable to the high standard of a life lived for Christ.

PROBITY CARDS

1. You've got a new job at the movie theatre. Your friends from school are bugging you to sneak them in to the new release on Friday.

What would you do?

Sneak them in a back door when nobody's looking or tell them that you need your job and don't want to risk losing it?

2. You've got a part time job at McDonalds. One night you notice the girl on the cash register next to you take a couple of loonies from the register.

What would you do?

Confront her, tell your supervisor or figure it's okay since you know that her family needs the extra money?

3. Math has to be your most difficult subject. During a test you are stuck on a couple of problems and you don't want to fail. The teacher is busy grading papers and has her head down.

What would you do?

Take a quick glance to see what the guy next to you got for an answer or just leave the questions blank?

4. All your friends have Facebook already, but you won't be 13 for another six months, and that's the age Facebook has set for accounts.

What would you do?

Enter the correct year of birth, but change the month and day to today's date so you can get an account, or wait until your actual birthday, even though you'll have to put up with six whole months of your friends making fun of you?

5. Your family buys a piece of used furniture at a thrift store. After you get home, you discover a \$100 bill between the seat cushions.

What would you do?

Keep it (after all, finders keepers, right?) or return the \$100 to the store?

6. You have agreed to volunteer serving the meal at a local soup kitchen tonight because they were short staffed. Just before you are about to leave, a friend calls to tell you they have won a couple of last minute tickets to see your favourite band in concert tonight and invites you to go.

What would you do?

Turn down the tickets or let down the soup kitchen?

7. The grocery store cashier accidentally bagged an item without scanning it.

What would you do?

Let it go unnoticed (after all, groceries are so over priced that you've paid for it in the long run) or tell her so that she can scan it?

8. Your meetings went very late and you're in a rush to get home, but you hit a long red light. It's late at night, and the roads are deserted.

What would you do?

Ignore the red light and hope you don't get caught, or wait it out?

9. You know your sister doesn't like you borrowing her clothes, especially her shoes. But she's got one pair that would be perfect with your outfit today. She's away for the weekend and you can have them back in her closet before she gets home.

What would you do?

Borrow them (she would never even know) or choose a pair of your own shoes even though they don't really match your outfit.

10. While visiting a friend's house, you accidentally spill orange pop on their new white couch. If you just move a cushion over a little you can cover it up.

What would you do?

Move the cushion so nobody will see the stain, or tell someone so they can try and clean it?

11. Your friend shares a secret about another friend that is just too good to keep to yourself.

What would you do?

Just tell one trustworthy friend and make them promise not to say anything, or keep the information to yourself so you won't hurt the person?

12. You are tired and looking forward to a night off laying on the couch watching Netflix. A single mom from your church calls looking for a last minute babysitter - she has to be at work and her regular sitter has come down with the flu. Even on a good day her three kids try your patience...

What would you do?

Tell her your family has plans tonight and you can't babysit, or head over and help her out?