

A video introduction is available. View at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_m408md5z

1. Motivate

Who has been an example of personal integrity in your life?

2. Transition

We value those friendships.

- Those were people we could depend on.
- Integrity and contentment in Christ form the foundation for good relationships.

3. Bible Study

3.1 Integrity in Words and Deeds

Listen for how to show respect.

Exodus 20:15-16 (NIV) "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

How does respect for one's property or possessions affect respect for the person who owns them?

Why is theft an affront to the creative intentions of God?

In what settings might the ninth commandment apply?

In Eph 4:28, Paul stated that the best prescription for thievery was to engage in honest labor. Why do you think this is true?

Why is *truth* critical to personal relationships and the fabric of society?

Why is it so important for believers to be people of integrity?

How does a person's conduct reflect their character?

3.2 Contentment in God's Provision

Listen for God's admonition on contentment.

Exodus 20:17 (NIV) "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The definition of "covet" is to wish, long, or crave for (something, especially the property of another person). What did these Bible characters covet?

- David:
- King Ahab:
- Jacob and Esau:
- Abraham:

What are dangers of coveting as illustrated in these stories?

How is coveting not only an offense toward others but an offense toward God?

Why is it difficult in today's world to be content with what God has provided us?

How can we overcome the temptation to covet, to long for what someone else has?

3.3 All We Desire Rests in God

Listen for a challenge to trust God.

Psalm 37:1-6 (NIV) Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; 2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. 3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

What issue is the psalmist addressing in these verses? How would you summarize his challenge?

Why did the psalmist urge those he instructed not to allow the wicked to influence the direction of their lives?

What alternative did he encourage them to take?

What does the psalmist say will result in trusting God.

Application

Check your words.

- Be mindful of your words and actions this week.
- If you are tempted to say or do anything that is not honest and truthful, stop yourself.
- Commit to being a person of integrity.

Memorize.

- Commit to memory 2 Corinthians 9:8: *"And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work."*
- Let this verse continually remind you that you already have all that you need to live fully in Him.

Encourage.

- We could all use some positive affirmation and encouragement in the area of integrity and contentment.
- The things we view on TV or social media can bring us down or cause us to become dissatisfied with our own lives.
- Choose to be a source of encouragement to those who struggle with discontentment.

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Well, Humph! Why are you just sitting there? Get to work. Someone has to find these words, and it isn't going to be me. Humph! I've got book reports to grade. And you better look in all directions for these words ... up, down, right, left, and diagonal, And remember, "Thou shalt not steal" answers from thy neighbor! If you have to go to <https://tinyurl.com/yysdx3de> for help, you owe me another book report.

