



6

Integrity

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**WHEN HAVE
YOU WRESTLED
WITH A
CHOICE WHERE
INTEGRITY
WAS ON
THE LINE?**

The POINT ➤

**Be the same Christ-centered person
at all times.**

➤ 1 PETER 3:8-17

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For

“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Today, cruise ships have any food we could possibly imagine. In the 1800s, however, ships didn't have modern refrigeration, so live cows were kept on board to be able to serve passengers milk.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, He remained altogether free from sin.

For our senior class trip, my classmates and I took a cruise to Mexico. Most of the recent graduates on the trip were good kids, and many were regularly involved in church. But many of their choices on the trip weren't in line with what they'd claimed before leaving. Throughout the trip, I was casually invited (and even pressured) to engage in behavior that was unbecoming for a follower of Jesus. I kept to myself for large amounts of time during the trip, but because I tend to be introverted and am happy to keep to myself, I still had a great time! On the last day of the cruise, two guys in my class asked me how I'd refused to give in to the pressure to engage in bad behavior. In fact, they didn't need me to tell them, because they already knew the answer—it was because I took my faith seriously. These two friends shared how much they respected me, and they wished they had been more consistent in their own actions.

Integrity means “unbroken” or “undivided.” Sadly, many professing Christians today live in ways that don't line up with their claims. The truth is that I'm desperately far from perfect. It's also true that I do my best to follow Jesus, and there was no way I was going to ruin my testimony by doing a bunch of dumb stuff in Mexico. For the Christ follower, integrity is not an option. We are called to be the same person—one who follows Jesus—no matter the situation.

1 PETER 3:8-12

1 Where do you see persecution toward Christians in our culture today?

2 What are practical ways we can display our character when we are mistreated?

1 PETER 3:13-14

3 In your own words, what is hurt versus harm?

4 What did Peter mean when he said no one can harm us when we're devoted to doing good?

5 How are we truly blessed when we suffer for doing right?

Blessing is not about our happiness and pleasure but about God being pleased with us. #BSFLCharacterCounts

1 PETER 3:15-17

6 In your own words, what is integrity?

7 How had Peter demonstrated a lack of integrity during his life? Where do you see a lack of integrity in your own life?

8 What is the connection between integrity and sharing our faith?





LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, He remained altogether free from sin.

Jesus is fully God. He is also fully man, and when He came to earth, He took on Himself our humanity with all its weaknesses and limitations. Still, Jesus did what no other human could, and He lived a perfectly righteous and sinless life. Jesus was consistent in all His ways, and this is the example we are to follow.

> CHRIST

As Christians, we are sometimes tempted to compartmentalize our lives by living for Jesus in certain areas but behaving in ways that aren't in line with God's standards in other areas.

9 Describe how your faith influences the ways you live in the following areas:

> Church:

> School:

> Home:

> Entertainment:

> Free time:

> Other areas:



>COMMUNITY

Sometimes living with integrity can lead to rejection.

10 Who do you know who has experienced rejection or criticism because of choosing to live with integrity?

11 Write a note or send a text of encouragement to this person.

>CULTURE

The effectiveness of our testimony among non-believers is directly tied to the integrity we display.

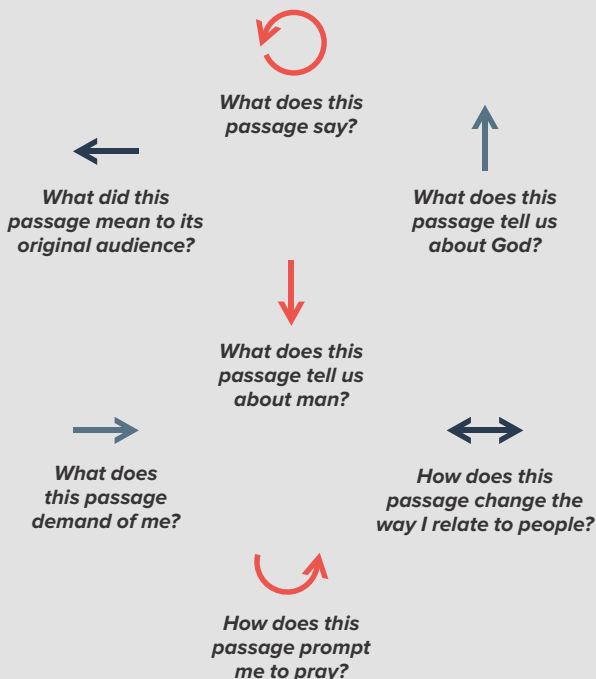
12 What do non-believers see in your life in terms of integrity? Answer honestly.

13 How is God calling you to grow in integrity so that your life would be used to draw people to Jesus?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **PSALM 86:8**

The Psalms are a collection of prayers, poetry, and songs intended to focus the worshiper's heart and mind on the nature of God. The Psalms deal with a broad range of subjects, and Psalm 86 is a song of lament, or mourning. David opens with a request for God to give him grace because David felt poor and helpless and may have been experiencing an immediate threat on his life. The way David dealt with this grief was to focus on the nature and goodness of God. If he'd focused on all that was going wrong, David could have fallen into despair and hopelessness. However, as we see in these verses, David set his mind on the power of God. People worship all kinds of things, but there's no one and no thing that can provide for our needs as God can. When we're tempted to be afraid or feel overwhelmed by life's challenges, let's remember that we serve a God who is infinite in power and knowledge. And He loves us!

➤ **When have you felt helpless or afraid?**

➤ **Why is it important to focus on the goodness of God when we face difficult circumstances?**

Day Two

PSALM 86:9



When we take a look around, it might seem like the world is headed in the wrong direction. Movies, music, and TV shows contain all kinds of filth; the news reports violence and brokenness all around the world; social media is filled with unhealthy interactions; and even in our schools, we commonly see people behaving in ways that are less than uplifting. Thankfully, things aren't all bad, and there are many people who are kind and strive to do right. However, what the Bible teaches is true—the world is opposed to God and fallen people will live selfishly. Though we might not see it now, the world is moving toward a time when all people will bow before Jesus. We are called to pray and work for Jesus's kingdom to come to earth. At any given moment, it might not seem like we're making a big difference. Nevertheless, let's press on in obedience. The day is coming when all will recognize Jesus as King!

- **Where do you most clearly see people in rebellion against God? Where do you see people striving to do good?**
- **Why is it important to remember that, one day, all people will bow before Jesus?**

Day Three

PSALM 86:10

When Jesus was on earth, He performed many signs and wonders (Acts 2:22). He turned water to wine and healed the diseased. He fed thousands with only a few pieces of food, walked on water, and raised the dead. Jesus didn't do these things to prove He is God. Instead, Jesus performed wonders to help people overcome their struggles to believe. We serve a God of wonders who demonstrates His power so that we would believe and our belief would move us to worship. As David wrestled with the challenges of life and the associated emotional struggles, he intentionally remembered the wonders God had done on behalf of His people. Today, we live in an age where we might not see signs and wonders like those performed by Jesus or the apostles. Still, we serve a God of wonders who is infinite in power and who ministers supernaturally to His people. When you feel overwhelmed with life's struggles, commit to right living, take time to pray, and trust the great God of wonders.

- **When have you experienced God's supernatural power in your life?**
- **Why is it important to remember that God does wonders, especially when we're struggling?**

Day Four

PSALM 86:11a

It's one thing to know the truth. It's something altogether different to live it out. A lot of churches operate as if discipleship is defined by knowing more and more of the Bible. Let's be clear—knowing the truth of Scripture is foundationally important in the lives of Christ followers. However, knowledge is not the goal. True discipleship is marked by knowing that leads to doing. As Christians, we are called to follow Jesus. We are called to have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5), which means we are to understand life, faith, and reality in ways that reflect the understanding of Jesus. Further, we are to see others with the same grace and compassion that Jesus did. However, following Jesus applies to more than our understanding. We are to follow Jesus in all the ways we live. We are, in all we say and do, to live as Jesus lived. Remember, David wrote this psalm when he was in a desperately tough situation. Even in this place, he prayed that God would reveal the truth, and David committed to following wherever God might lead. Where God leads might not always be comfortable and easy. Still, we are called to follow Him. It's always the best way to live.

- **How would you describe true discipleship?**
- **Why is it important to not only know the truth but also to live by it?**

Day Five

PSALM 86:11b



In today's world, many people have divided loyalties—even Christians. It can be easy for us to come to church, to sing and pray, to hear the Scriptures taught, and to commit our lives to Jesus but also be tempted to love the things of the world. David, in a sense, confessed this kind of division in his life. Given the challenges he faced, he may have been tempted to take matters into his own hands or to respond in ways that didn't reflect the nature of his God. Because of his devotion to God, David didn't want this kind of division in his heart, and he knew that the only way to experience the kind of internal unity he desired was for God to supernaturally align his desires. Today, we are all likely divided in different ways. Let us pursue consistency and congruence in every area of life, and let's pray that God would shape us to be whole-heartedly devoted to Jesus.

- **In what areas of your life do you need to pursue greater unity or alignment?**
- **Why must we depend on God to create alignment in our hearts?**