

Hey ClubE!

Happy October!

Integrity means that you do the right thing, even if no one is watching. That might seem a lot easier than it is! We all want to live truthfully, and we have to live in a way that helps us stay truthful. Sometimes we mess up on accident, sometimes we make the wrong choice on purpose, so what happens when we mess up? Let's take a look at what the Bible says about this!

1. Sharing time. Our question today: How was your week this week?
2. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
3. Pray together as a family.
4. Optional: Do activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Showing integrity can be hard, especially when you mess up and do the wrong thing...even if it's not on purpose! There was something that happened to me when I was younger, a time when I messed up and I had to figure out how to show integrity.

I am one of five kids in my family-- there's Alex, Andrew, me, Tess, and David. When I was in third grade, my brothers and I LOVED playing Nerf guns and having battles. Every day after school, we would transform our living room and dining room into a full course set up for us to battle against each other. One evening, we got the idea that we could` take over the entire main floor and set up an ultimate course. We asked our parents for permission and they told us that we could as long as we were careful in the kitchen.

You see, in the kitchen there were more fragile things and there was a pair of salt and pepper shakers. These two fragile items were always on a shelf in our kitchen and were full of special memories and irreplaceable. We always knew we had to be careful and they were put in a special place that was safe from all activities that my siblings and I would play. My parents asked me and my brothers to put those salt and pepper shakers away in a drawer and be careful in that area. We happily agreed.

Oh, we were so excited to get started on our mega Nerf War. We planned, we plotted, we made a sketch of what our course would look like, we even came up with new rules, we

couldn't wait and thought we had every detail taken care of. Our ultimate Nerf battle was going to take place on Friday night.

Oh, Friday couldn't have come sooner! The whole day on Friday at school, I was buzzing with excitement. I told my friends and I remember math class at the end of the day taking a lot longer than I had remembered. But finally, it was time. My brothers and I hopped off the bus and began preparing our perfectly laid out plan. Pillow cushions were tossed, blankets strung, and Nerf guns divided. We did it, we had remembered everything...or so we had thought.

The battle had begun and it was as incredible as I had imagined. We played for hours and had no plans to stop any time soon. I was losing, but I knew my time was coming to get my chance at winning. We switched up materials and starting places. I had my Nerf gun ready and took my best shot at my brother Alex and missed. I could feel it, I was going to get him. I soon had him cornered in the kitchen. I ducked under the kitchen island, ready to pop up and finally get the victory I had so desperately wanted! As I went to pop up, I shot my Nerf gun and my brother dodged it. I watched from behind the island as my brother moved, but my dart kept going. It went full speed without stopping and I realized that it was heading towards those salt and pepper shakers that I had forgotten to put away.

I screamed as the Nerf bullet went barreling towards the salt and pepper shakers and knocked them right into each other and crashed down. They were broken. There was no way they would be repaired.

I quickly looked at my brothers and we all had the same thought. Let's try and glue them back together, so that no one would know. We made quick work, getting glue and trying to get them back in the same shape they were in. But as soon we started to try covering up our mistake, we heard footsteps. Our dad was coming downstairs and we quickly shoved the broken pieces to the side.

Our mess was hidden, but our bad choice had not changed. We continued to make poor choices and told our dad that everything was fine, but he knew it wasn't. We didn't show integrity, and the salt and pepper shakers were still broken. Later that evening, my brothers and I went to our parents and told them what had happened. Of course they were sad about the salt and pepper shakers, but they were more sad by the fact that we had tried to cover it up and not tell the truth right away. They forgave us and told us that they loved us, even when we did mess up.

Here's the really great news. It's like that with God, too. When we mess up, we don't have to be afraid to tell Him what we've done wrong. I mean, He's God. He already knows! He wants us to talk to Him about everything—even when we mess up. We don't have to try to hide. Here's how I know that for SURE. Listen to these words from the book of 1 John, chapter 1, verse 9. "God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure. (NlrV)

Did you hear that? He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. Even when we mess up, we can tell Him the truth because we know He loves us. He will ALWAYS forgive us. Unfortunately, messing up is part of life. But we can live with integrity when we own up to our mistakes and choose to tell the truth. God will forgive us and make us pure. Don't get me wrong. When we do something we're not supposed to, we do have to face the consequences. We might still get in trouble. In my case, there was no way I could put salt and pepper shakers back

together again . . . and I was really sad about that. But I never had to worry about whether my mom and dad loved me. We never have to worry about whether GOD loves us, either. He does! No matter what.

Let's talk about it!

- What happened in the story today that you thought was interesting?
- Have you ever messed up like me? What happened when you did?
- There are consequences for when we mess up, I could never change the fact that the salt and pepper shakers were broken. Share why you think we have consequences for our actions?
- God LOVES you and forgives us over and over again no matter how big or small we mess up. That's pretty cool.

Pray

“God, we want to live with integrity. We want to be truthful with our words and actions so we can stay close to You. Please help us live that way every day. When we mess up, please give us the courage to be truthful with You—and with the people around us. Thank You for loving us and ALWAYS forgiving us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

Game Time!

[Pepper and Soap Experiment!](#)

In 1 John 1:9, John wrote that, God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure (NIV). What this verse means is that when you're honest with God about the things you've done wrong, and you ask Him to forgive you, He will! God loves you, and He wants to be close to you. And being truthful with God keeps you close to Him. So, when you do something wrong, talk to God and tell Him the truth. Tell Him you're sorry. And remember that being truthful with God keeps you close to Him!

1. Watch the video (and you can try the experiment yourself!)
2. Imagine the water in the bowl as your life. God wants to be close with us! We want you to know Him and be in relationship with him! As you drag your finger through the water, the pepper can stick to your finger.

3. What happened when the soap mixed with the pepper? It went away from it! Imagine that soap as sin in your life, it keeps us away from God.
4. I'm thankful that God forgives us for our sin and we can ask for forgiveness. God loves you and wants you to know him!