

At a Glance

Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't ...Be Truthful

Intention

To experience the affect of saying one thing and doing the opposite. To examine the effects of loss of personal integrity.

toolbox

Principle #3—Law of Mind Action
Truthfulness
Serenity Prayer

Getting Connected (Pre-session)

Continue decorating the toolbox.
See Lesson 1.



OPENING

Opening Prayer

EXPLORATION

Simon Says the Opposite—Game
A Father and His Two Sons—Story and Discussion
Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't—Activity

CLOSING

Serenity Prayer

Copy of Serenity Prayer to post on the wall



Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't ...Be Truthful

Intention

To experience the affect of saying one thing and doing the opposite. To examine the effects of loss of personal integrity.

OPENING

(10–12 minutes)

Ask the teens to silently order themselves according to birth date. They may use sign language, motions, anything but voice or the written word. Then encourage them to sit in this order.

Teacher Tip

The promise is kept simple, such as, "I promise to sit still" or "I promise to let you know when it's ten 'til twelve." The promise should be easy to keep.

Leader: "For our check-in, I would like you to state your name and make one promise that you will keep during this class."

Opening Prayer

Leader: "Divine Spirit, thank you for our time of sharing. Provide us with open hearts and minds so that we may fully experience this moment. Amen."

EXPLORATION

(25–30 minutes)

Leader: "Have you ever said that you are going to do something and then don't do it? What about not doing something that you know you should, like writing thank you notes for birthday gifts? When our words and actions match, we are in integrity. This week we are going to look at what happens to our sense of integrity and wholeness when our actions don't match our words."

Game: Simon Says the Opposite

Invite the teens to stand up to play an opposite version of Simon Says. If Simon says, "Stand up," we all sit down. If Simon says, "Smile," we frown. Play for 2–3 minutes, changing Simons.

- How does this feel?
- Is it easy or hard to do the opposite?
- How does it confuse the issue to say "do the opposite"?

Leader: "Now let's look at a Bible story about a father and his two sons. Who will read this short passage to us?"

Story: A Father and His Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-31

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"

Discussion

- What did the first son say? What did he do?
- What did the second son say? What did he do?
- What did the father want?
- Which son did what the father wanted?
- Describe a situation in your school or church where someone said one thing and did another.
- When have you said one thing and done another, e.g., about your homework? About where you were? About practicing?
- What are the consequences of not keeping your word? How do you feel when someone doesn't keep their word? Will you believe what they say the next time?
- How do you feel when you do keep your word?
- Is it possible to be truthful all the time? What are the benefits and/or consequences?
- What principle is involved? (Law of Mind Action) Explain how you think it applies. How can we illustrate this principle in our toolbox?
- Acknowledge the promises that the teens made. Ask whether or not they kept them.

Leader: "The apostle Paul was writing to the Ephesians when he said, 'And so, putting away false words, let everyone say what is true to his neighbour: for we are parts one of another.' (Ephesians 4:25, The Bible in Basic English) In Unity we believe that we are all connected. So when I am untruthful to you, I hurt myself too. When our words and actions match, when we are in integrity, we are also in a state of wholeness or oneness."



Questions serve as discussion starters. Not all questions need to be answered.

Principle #3

Law of Mind Action

"Thoughts held in mind produce after their kind." Human beings create their experience by the activity of their thinking. Everything in the manifest realm has its beginning in thought.

Virtue - Truthfulness

A truthful person tells the truth, no matter what. They use tact and discernment when speaking. Truthfulness builds bonds of love and trust.

Activity: "Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't"

Divide the class into small groups. (2–3 teens)



Teacher Tip

You can divide the group by counting 1, 2, 3 or by birth months or days.

Leader: "Each group is going to create a song based on 'Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't.' To do this, determine what the message of your song is going to be. Then select a nursery rhyme such as 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' (or any other familiar tune). Write your lyrics and try them out. You will have 5 minutes and then each group will sing their song to the rest of us."

Have each group present their song.



(CLOSING)
(12–15 minutes)



Teacher Tip

Have a large copy of the Serenity Prayer posted on the wall.

Serenity Prayer

Leader: "Let's come together in a circle, holding hands, and say the Serenity Prayer together." *Say prayer.*

Serenity Prayer
God grant me
The serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Leader: "Dear God, help us to remember that when we speak the truth, we honor the Christ spirit in ourselves and in each other. Amen."