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# TALK IT OVER

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## A FAITH KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY

James: A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 28

Rick Warren

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

### HOW TO BECOME KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY

*"Above all, my brothers and sisters, don't swear by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Just let your 'Yes' be yes and let your 'No' be no – just say what you mean. Do this so you can't be judged and condemned."* James 5:12

#### **Talk It Over**

*"Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap." 1 Timothy 3:7 (NLT)*

#### **Question 1**

It has been said that 'you may be the only bible someone reads'. If nonbelievers who know you were asked what they think of the Christian faith based on knowing you, what would you like them to say?

#### **1. SPEAK THE TRUTH PLAINLY**

#### **Talk It Over**

*"Am I like the people of the world who say yes when they really mean no? As surely as God is true, I am not that sort of person! My yes means yes - because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, never wavers between yes and no!" 2 Corinthians 1:17-19 (NLT)*

#### **Question 2**

Describe a situation where someone says 'yes' when they really mean 'no.' How could speaking the truth be liberating and show Christ-like character?

## **2. SHARE THE TRUTH COMPLETELY**

### **Talk It Over**

*"Someone who holds back the truth causes trouble." Proverbs 10:10 (TEV)*

### **Question 3**

We can hold back the truth by not saying what we mean or not meaning what we say. Describe a situation where you held back the truth in this way. How is this like lying?

## **3. USE THE TRUTH TACTFULLY**

### **Talk It Over**

*"Speak only what is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29*

### **Question 4**

How is speaking the truth gently, not using it as a club helpful? How do you know when someone is ready to hear the truth?

## **4. LIVE THE TRUTH CONSISTENTLY!**

### **Talk It Over**

*"People who can't be trusted are destroyed by their own dishonesty." Proverbs 11:3 (TEV)*  
*"Let our lives lovingly express the truth in all things - speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly." Ephesians 4:15 (AMP)*

### **Question 5**

What are some ways that people who can't be trusted hurt themselves and others? What do you do to be trusted?

## **DAVID'S COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL INTEGRITY**

### **Talk It Over**

*"This is my song (of commitment) to your love and justice O Lord... I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. I will refuse to look at anything degrading or demeaning. I will refuse to support anything shameful or corrupt. I will not be dishonest and I will have nothing to do with anything evil. I will silence anyone who spreads gossip and slander about others and I will not tolerate anyone who looks down on others. Instead, I'll keep my eyes on the godly of the land and they will be my heroes. Only those with integrity shall minister to me. No one who cheats or lies will ever have a position in my royal court." Psalms 101:1-7*

### Question 6

Read Psalm 101:1-7 aloud as a group. Every sentence offers excellent advice on how to live with integrity and yet there one may resonate more for each reader.

Name two actions in David's commitment that you want to embrace for your future.

### Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*