

Unit B: Qualities of a Good Leader

Lesson 7: Benefits of Character and Integrity

Student Learning Objectives:

Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. Explain the concept of character.
2. Define integrity.
3. List three benefits of character and integrity.

Recommended Teaching Time: 1 hour

List of Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities:

- Writing surface
- PowerPoint Projector
- PowerPoint Slides
- Transparency Masters
- Copies of student worksheets

Terms: The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- Character
- Integrity

Interest Approach:

You will be reading the following passage to your students in a way to make you believe you. It is an activity where they need to make the right decision based upon their character and integrity. After reading the passage, divide the students as evenly as possible. Students should choose someone in the group to record their ideas.

Script for Teacher: *You will never believe what I found on the school grounds today. I found a cell phone with no identification! I wanted you to help me decide what to do with the cell phone. Let's divide the room in half and each side can discuss what they think we should do with the cell phone. Choose someone to write down your ideas.*

Monitor the groups for two minutes. Possible answers include take it to the local police station, place a notice in the local paper or local radio station, replace the SIM card and keep the cell phone, etc.

Script for Teacher: *Take two minutes to decide what you would like to do with the cell phone. You have to have some reasoning behind your answer and be ready to share with the class. The left side of the room will share what they would do with the cell phone first, then the group on my right will share their answers with the group. Ready, discuss.*

Poll the class as to which choices they agree with.

Script for Teacher: *If you agree with the idea of trying to find the rightful owner of the cell phone, please stand. If you agree with the idea of keeping the cell phone and not reporting the cell phone, please stand. Thank you. Please return to your original seats in the next five minutes.*

Count five seconds.

Script for Teacher: *We have a very serious lesson to discuss today. It is a topic that will not only affect the rest of your life, but it will affect every area of your life. We need to take this lesson very seriously and be very honest in our discussion and interaction today. We are discussing you today, your character, and integrity.*

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Explain the concept of character.

Anticipated Problem: What is character?

Activity: WS: 7-1 (PowerPoint Slide 2). Students will receive a slip of paper with the name of a famous person on it. They are to take time to describe that person. The students will then pair up with another student who has received the famous person—it is important to use the same names twice in this activity. If you have an uneven number of students, using a name three times and having students gather in a group of three is the best option.

Script for Teacher: *In a moment, you will receive a slip of paper with the name of a famous person on it. The paper will be facing down. Do not turn over the paper until I say go. You will then have one minute to write in your notebook all the words you can think of that describes that person. What questions do you have?*

Pass out slips of paper.

Script for Teacher: Go.

Monitor the activity for one minute. Ask students to stay quiet during the activity.

Script for Teacher: *When I dismiss you from your seat, you need to find the person in this room who has the same famous person on his or her slip of paper. You need to take your notebook and pen with you. Once you find that person, as a team, find a seat. You have 30 seconds. Go.*

Count 30 seconds.

Script for Teacher: *Now that you have met the person that has the same person that you do, compare your lists. See what descriptors you have that are the same, and come up with a few new ones as a team. You will have two minutes.*

Count two minutes.

Script for Teacher: *In a moment, I will show you a list of the names that your class was given. I would like you to rate these people with one of two phrases: smart cookie or bad apple. The smart cookie response will be for those people that you feel have positive character traits and the bad apple response will be for those people who have negative character traits. We will take a vote together. We will see how many people vote for “smart cookie” or “bad apple” by raising your hand. I will capture your responses on the overhead.*

Answers should include positive descriptors for most names on the list. Two of the names should be obvious bad apples. They should have the negative descriptors.

Script for Teacher: *What information led you to the conclusions that you shared?*

Possible answers include what we have learned about that person, reading about them in the news, seeing them on TV, hearing others talk about this person.

Script for Teacher: *What you are telling me is your descriptive words as well as your conclusions were based on what you have seen or heard about this person, without ever having met the people on this list? What does that tell you about character?*

Possible answers include that others can judge our character just by our actions and what they hear about us.

Script for Teacher: *Character is the measuring stick other people use to evaluate how good of a person you are. It is very important to develop good, solid character. Capture the following thoughts on character in your notebook.*

TM: 7-2 (PowerPoint Slide 3)

- I. The concept of character
 - A. The values and actions that we show, even when no one is watching.
 - B. Can be judged by those who know us best and those who do not know us at all.
 1. Tend to judge character by what we hear about that person.
 2. What we see them doing.
 3. By the people they hang around with.
 - C. Our character helps us earn the trust of others.
 - D. Our character affects our outlook on life.
 - E. Only good character will lead to success.

Script for Teacher: *Based on the outline, what statements about character do you agree with the most? Why? What statement do you disagree with the most? Why? It may not be correct to judge someone on hearsay or appearance alone, but we need to be aware that others are watching and judging us all the time. We want to give them the right idea! We need to strive to be like the "smart cookies" you listed previously. Think of the words you used to describe them in your notebook. Would you like others to think of you in that way? If so, then developing a positive character is the place to start.*

Objective 2: Define integrity.

Anticipated Problem: What is integrity?

Script for Teacher: *We have a difficult challenge ahead of us, and I need everyone's full cooperation and participation to make it through. Can we agree to that? Great! Let me explain what the challenge is. We need to define the word integrity. It is a hard concept to figure out, so I have some resources for you that will make it simpler.*

Divide the class into four groups.

Script for Teacher: *Now let's take a look at what you discovered about the word integrity. I will count you off one to four. Now that everyone has their number, you have fifteen seconds to get into your groups.*

Count fifteen seconds.

Script for Teacher: *Now, each group should choose one word to describe integrity. Once you have chosen your word, you will choose one representative to add your word to the list on the writing surface. When I say write, I need your group representative to come to the board. What questions do you have? Write.*

Time for activity is one to two minutes. Possible answers include morals, values, right, and trustworthy.

Script for Teacher: *These are some wonderful responses. Let's grasp a clear definition of integrity by transferring it into our notebooks.*

TM: 7-3 (PowerPoint Slide 4)

- II. Integrity is doing what is right, even when no one is holding you accountable.
 - A. How can I build my integrity?
 1. Be honest.
 2. Keep your promises.
 3. Do the right thing in every situation, even when no one is watching.
 4. Allow your actions to reflect your character and integrity.

Script for Teacher: *I suppose you all know that being a good person is expected of you, but are you wondering if the good guys really win? Let's discuss the benefits of character and integrity.*

Objective 3: List three benefits of character and integrity.

Anticipated Problem: What are three benefits of character and integrity?

Script for Teacher: *You will have the opportunity to be news reporters. You will write a 15 second segment on character to be used on the nightly news broadcast. Recall the benefits of character and integrity that we have discussed today. You will have a total of 90 seconds per group of three to complete the activity. What questions do you have? Count off one through three. Action.*

Script for Teacher: *Your groups will volunteer to share their three benefits of character and integrity. Who would like to go first?*

Capture the main ideas from each group on the writing surface. Possible answers include to build relationships, develop friendships, have a good job, and able to serve others.

Script for Teacher: *These are great ideas. I have an activity for you to complete that gives you the opportunity to have a better understanding of the benefits of character and integrity as well as the chance to put some of your own ideas on paper. I will grade these, but they will be returned to you so that you can use them to continue to build your character.*

Review/Summary: Pass out WS: 7-2 for the students to complete. This can be used as an in class assignment or as homework, depending on the time remaining at the close of the lesson. Use the questions on PowerPoint Slide 5 as a final review of this lesson.

Application: Exhibit character and integrity in class by making wise decisions, being truthful and showing respect towards their peers.

Evaluation: Evaluation should focus on student achievement of the objectives for the lesson. A sample test is included. Students will complete a character credo. This is to be a commitment by the student to develop the characteristics of character and integrity as discussed in this lesson. They should include the descriptions of character and integrity that are found in the outlines for each objective, as well as their own thoughts on the topic. This should be about one paragraph, typed and signed by the student.

Answers to Sample Test:

Students need to have four of the answers listed below.

Values and actions we show, even when no one is watching.
Anyone can judge our character, even if they do not know us!
Character is judged by our words, actions or friends with whom we associate.
Character helps us earn the trust of others.
Character affects our outlook on life.
Good character leads to success.

Sample Test

Name: _____

The Benefits of Character and Integrity

List four concepts of character.

1.

2.

3.

4.

TM: 7-1

Names of Famous People With Positive or Negative Behavior

Ahmad Zahir

Mollah Omar

Mulalai Joya

Genghis Khan

Rohullah Nikpai

Mohammad Daud Khan

Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani

THE CONCEPT OF CHARACTER

- The values and actions that we show, even when no one is watching.
- Can be judged by those who know us best and those who do not know us at all!
 - Tend to judge character by what we hear about that person
 - What we see them doing
 - By the people they hang around with
- Our character helps us earn the trust of others
- Our character affects our outlook on life
- Only good character will lead to success

INTEGRITY

Integrity is doing what is right, even when no one is holding you accountable.

- How can I build my integrity?
 - Be honest
 - Keep your promises
 - Do the right thing in every situation, even when no one is watching
 - Allow your actions to reflect your character and integrity

WS: 7-1

Names of Famous People With Positive or Negative Behavior

<Insert names of famous people. Be sure there are some negative character people and some with positive character.>

WS: 7-2

THE BENEFITS OF CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY

Directions: Please complete the following information honestly and to the best of your ability.

1. During the group activity, we had the opportunity to share what we felt were three benefits of character and integrity. The three I shared were:

2. Some ways I will continuously work on my character development are: