

**The Attack on Your Integrity  
Discussion Guide  
11/12/17**

Open in prayer

Ice Breaker: What is the best compliment or advice you've ever received?

- What is a choice or decision you've made that has shaped your life?
- What comes to mind when you think of integrity? How would you explain it?

**The Big Idea:** Integrity is a personal choice to hold yourself consistent with your beliefs and moral principles. It is who you are when no one else is looking. In our culture of shifting values, your integrity will come under attack. It is important to pre-determine your values before you face the temptation to compromise.

**Background:** The nation of Israel had drifted away from God and were worshipping idols. As an act of warning and judgement, God allowed them to be conquered. In 586 BC God allowed the most powerful empire of the time, the Babylonian Empire led by King Nebuchadnezzar to invade the Nation of Israel. They destroyed the capital city of Jerusalem and took approximately 25% of the population back to Babylon as prisoners of war. Many died in Babylon never being allowed to return to their homeland. Among those captured as a prisoner of war are Daniel and his friends.

Read Daniel 1:8-21

**4 responses when your integrity is under attack...**

1. Purpose in your heart that you will not compromise biblical convictions.
2. Interact in a changing culture with humility and kindness.
3. Ask God for wisdom in difficult situations.
4. Trust that God will honor your faithfulness.

**1. Purpose in your heart that you will not compromise biblical convictions.**

*"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..." (Daniel 1:8 NIV)*

*Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..."*

- Pastor Loren said, *"You have two choices in life. You'll be conformed, or you'll be transformed. You'll be conformed to the world. Or, you'll be transformed by God."* How do the two positions look different?

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- What does it take to be transformed by God? How have you been transformed by God? In what ways would you still like to be transformed by God?
- How should Christians come to their core convictions?

*“If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.”*

- What is the relationship between adversity and our true convictions?
- What can you do to protect your integrity before temptation or adversity arrives?

Somebody said people are like tea bags. You don’t know what’s in them until you drop them in hot water.

**2. Interact in a changing culture with humility and kindness.**

- How is integrity important in our interactions with people who are not Christians?
- Jesus reserved his harshest criticism for those he called hypocrites. Why is this?
- What is the relationship between sin, repentance, and hypocrisy? How do we avoid hypocrisy?
- Pastor Loren said, *“Our goal in knowing our core convictions is not to create an ‘us v. them’ mentality.”* What is the purpose of our convictions? How should our convictions lead us to interact with others?

Colossians 3:12 - “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

Colossians 4:5-6 - "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone,"

*Knowing what we believe and why we believe it is foundational to our ability to be people of influence for Jesus. You don’t have to be like people to reach them.*

**3. Ask God for wisdom in difficult situations.**

James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”



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**Quote:** Tony Dungy - "Integrity is the choice between what is convenient and what is right."

**4. Trust that God will honor your faithfulness.**

- How have you experienced God's blessing in response to your faithfulness in some area of your life?

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."