

# Family Viewing Guide

## Character and Life Skills: Integrity

### Grade Level: 3-5

#### The Facts

1. A study published by *The Economist* reports:
  - Integrity is the #1 attribute employees look for in their leaders.
  - Integrity is the #1 attribute leaders look for in their employers.
2. The research shows that people who show integrity are:
  - Trustworthy
  - Responsible
  - Respected and respectful
  - Honest
  - Accountable

#### Start a Conversation with Your Kids

1. What do you think it means to “act with integrity”?
2. When is it important to have integrity?
3. Do you think it is always easy to act with integrity? When is it difficult?
4. Why do you think integrity is an important quality to have?

#### Advice from the Experts

*PBS Parents* gives the following advice for teaching kids integrity:

1. **Invent scenarios that encourage children to think about their choices.** It isn't a test; it's more of an exploration into integrity, into learning what the right thing is and how to actually do it, especially when there is peer pressure involved.
2. **Show diagrams.** Sometimes there will be gray areas. When this happens, it is helpful to take out a piece of paper and draw an image of two boxes with some space in between. Color one in fully and leave the other blank. Shade slightly in between the two boxes to create a “gray” area. Explain what this means to your kids. What is a gray area?
3. **Help children empathize.** Sometimes we are faced with ethical decisions that fall into that gray area, and we are not sure how to proceed. In that case, I suggest they ask themselves a few more questions like “How does my decision affect others? Am I considering other people's feelings? Can I imagine myself in someone else's shoes?” This is where children can rely on empathy. If they can identify with the person who would be most hurt in a situation, they can find the most ethical choice.

#### Notes

---

---