

Family Viewing Guide

Character and Life Skills: Loyalty

Grade Level: 3-5

The Facts

Research points to two different kinds of loyalty to a person, a group, or a cause:

1. Loyalty that is based on ethics, focusing on fairness, integrity, and being a better person.
2. Loyalty that is blind, demanding complete dedication regardless of ethical lines.

Before declaring loyalty to a person, a group, or a cause, people should be sure of the ethical demands that will be made. ("Blind Loyalty? How Group Loyalty Makes Us See Evil or Engage in It" by Max Bazerman and Angus Hildreth, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, 2016)

Start a Conversation with Your Kids

1. When has someone helped you through a difficult time?
2. How can you be a loyal friend or family member?
3. Why is loyalty important?
4. How do you feel when a friend is loyal to you?

Advice from the Experts

YESSafeChoices.org gives the following strategies for teaching loyalty:

1. Show loyalty to teach loyalty. You can be an example of loyalty through simple things like shopping at the same grocery store every week, refraining from gossip about friends or family members or helping at their school.
2. Develop a sense of community within your home and family for your children. As they feel like they're a part of a family community, they'll take ownership of and develop loyalty to the unity.
3. Teach children how to address and work through conflicts. Use conflict resolution to address conflicts. This will teach our children that just because a conflict arises, the relationship between the two parties doesn't need to end.
4. Do activities together as a family. Bring the siblings to each other's events. This offers them the opportunity to be involved.

Notes
