

# CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

## Module Objectives

- Understand and embody Christ-like traits (Virtues): humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience.
  - Learn how to consistently choose to do the right thing.
  - Stay connected with God to allow His anointing to impact others through you.
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## I. Introduction

- Building character is a struggle but essential.
  - True honorable character originates from God.
  - Virtue = strength (from Latin “virtus”).
  - Fear of God is shown by living according to His ways.
  - Making virtuous choices requires faith.
  - Key virtues are foundational to the Christian life.
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## II. Humility (Virtue #1)

- **Definition:** Freedom from arrogance, recognizing all comes from God.
  - Jesus exemplified humility.
  - True humility is agreeing with God's view of us.
  - Humility is visible in daily life and relationships.
  - **Biblical instructions:**
    - Be teachable, trust God with enemies, don't repay evil for evil, prefer others, respect authority.
  - **Promises to the humble:**
    - Answered prayer, guidance, peace, grace, honor, and joy.
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## III. Faithfulness (Virtue #2)

- **Definition:** Loyalty, keeping promises, being conscientious.
- Jesus is our model of faithfulness.
- Believers are called to be faithful stewards of their lives and gifts.
- Faithfulness protects and channels God's anointing.

- **Biblical teaching:**
    - Faithful in little → entrusted with more (Luke 16:10).
    - Gifts increase with use.
    - Faithful stewards forgive, serve, and give out the riches of the Kingdom.
  - **Examples:** Abraham, Moses, Paul.
  - **Promises:**
    - Protection, blessings, increased responsibility, joy of the Lord.
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#### IV. Forgiveness (Virtue #3)

- A core aspect of Christian character and the gospel.
- **Definition:** To let go, release debts, and stop holding on to offense.
- **Forgiveness is mandatory**, not optional (Matthew 6).
- **Four false beliefs:**
  1. Forgiveness condones the wrong — it doesn't.
  2. Forgive and forget — remembering is okay if it no longer hurts.
  3. Forgive quickly — it's a process.
  4. Forgive = reconcile — reconciliation is conditional.
- **Forgiveness is:**
  - A decision, not a feeling.
  - Releasing the offender and yourself.
  - Seeing the offense through the lens of the Cross.
- **Unforgiveness** is harmful:
  - Like poison.
  - Leads to bitterness, physical problems, and spiritual bondage.
- **Avoid Satan's trap of offense:**
  - Offense is bait; letting it go requires God's help.
  - Decide daily to forgive in advance.
- **Biblical examples:**
  - Joseph forgave his brothers; Job forgave his friends.
- **Everyday examples:**
  - Be first to say sorry, don't gossip about wrongs, pray for enemies.

- **Promises to forgivers:**
  - Forgiveness from God (Matthew 6:14)
  - Fruit of righteousness (James 3:14-18)

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## V. Courage (Virtue #4)

*“Courage is obeying God under pressure, no matter the cost. It’s more than just bravery—it’s choosing what is right, even when it’s hard.”*

- Courage often happens **with fear**, not without it.
- Courage sometimes means **holding back wisely**, not just charging forward.
- **Romans 8:31** – *God is for us.*
- **Proverbs 29:25** – *Fear of man vs. trust in God.*
- **Psalms 23:4** – *Trusting God through fear.*
- **Joshua 1:9** – *Be strong and courageous.*
- God’s presence gives us courage.
- Psalm 23 shows courage comes from *knowing God is with us.*
- **Jesus – Our Model of Courage**
- Jesus faced tough situations boldly:
- He spoke truth even when it offended others (John 8:40).
- He challenged wrong teachings (Matthew 23:23–27).
- He went to the cross with love and strength (Romans 5:6–8).
- **Real-Life Courage...**
- Admitting you were wrong
- Resisting peer pressure
- Confessing sin (James 5:16)
- Walking away from temptation (Genesis 39, 2 Timothy 2:22)
- Standing for purity, truth, or justice when others don’t

### Myth

Courage = not feeling fear

Courage = always charging ahead

Courage = standing your ground always

### Truth

Courage is action even with fear

Courage includes wisdom and caution

Sometimes it’s brave to walk away (Genesis 39)

### **God's Promises to the Courageous**

- God will strengthen you → Psalm 27:14
- You will be rewarded → 2 Chronicles 15:7
- God is with you → Joshua 1:9

**Ask participants to share the one courageous step they took last week.**

**Quiz –discuss answers as a Recap**

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## Integrity – Walking in Honesty and Honor (Virtue #5)

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### Title: The Same in the Dark

There once lived a man named Caleb, a faithful worker in a large city known for both wealth and corruption. Caleb wasn't rich, but he had something many around him lacked — **integrity**.

One day, Caleb overheard his manager offering a coworker a bribe to cover up a financial error. He knew that staying quiet could earn him favor. Speaking up could cost him everything. But Caleb remembered something his grandfather once said:

“Real integrity is being the same person when no one is watching.”

He took a deep breath and gently spoke up — not to expose, but to stand for truth.

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Here are **Study Questions** based on this teaching which can be used for group discussion, journaling, or personal reflection.

### Section 1: Caleb's Story – Personal Reflection

1. What stood out to you most about Caleb's story?
  2. Have you ever been in a situation where telling the truth was risky? How did you respond?
  3. What would you do differently today if you were in Caleb's place?
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### What Is Integrity, Really?

Integrity means **being whole, undivided, and honest** — in public and in private. It's not just about doing the right thing when others are watching — it's about doing right when **God alone sees**.

“Integrity is being the same on the inside as you appear on the outside... the same in all circumstances.”

It includes:

- **Boundaries:** knowing where you will not compromise
- **Consistency:** reliable and steady, like Jesus — the same yesterday, today, and forever
- **Predictability:** you're someone people can count on

Proverbs 11:3 says,

“The integrity of the upright will guide them.”

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## Section 2: Understanding Integrity

1. In your own words, how would you define **integrity**?
  2. What does it mean to be “the same person on the inside and outside”? Can you think of someone who lives like that?
  3. Why is truth so important in our relationship with God?
  4. How does telling lies, even small ones, slowly affect our character?
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### **God Is Truth. Satan Is a Liar.**

Truth isn't just an idea — it's a **Person**. God is ultimate reality. To lie is to walk away from Him. When we choose truth, we reflect our **Heavenly Father**. When we lie, we reflect another — the **father of lies**, Satan.

“Those who deal in deception reveal who their true father is.”

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### **Living with Integrity Is a Daily Choice**

Caleb wasn't perfect — he had failed before. But every time he slipped, he returned to God and said:

“Lord, I messed up. I confess it. Help me do better.”

This is integrity: not being flawless, but being **honest about your flaws**, owning them, and growing through them.

“Integrity says: If I sin, I'll go to the Father quickly and confess.”

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### **Learning Integrity from Scripture**

Caleb learned from his father that **your word is your bond**. If you say something, do it. Period.

Scripture teaches:

- Don't lie (Proverbs 12:22)
- Don't exaggerate or flatter
- Don't steal — not even time or attention
- Don't take bribes
- Return what you borrow in better shape
- Keep promises, even when it's hard (Psalm 15:4)

God never breaks His word. Numbers 23:19 reminds us,

“God is not a man that He should lie.”

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## Keeping Priorities Straight

Caleb's life was busy — family, ministry, work. But he learned that **honoring God** must come first.

Jesus called His disciples not to do things first — but to **be with Him** (Mark 3:14).

Mary chose time with Jesus over busyness — and Jesus called it the *better part* (Luke 10:42).

“If your ministry or work comes before your walk with God, your life will crumble.”

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## Section 3: Scriptural Insights

1. Read **Proverbs 11:3**. How does integrity “guide” a person in real life?
  2. According to **Psalms 15**, what kind of person can live in God's presence?
  3. How did Jesus model integrity when He called the disciples to simply “be with Him” (Mark 3:13–15)? What can we learn from that?
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## Real-Life Integrity – The Apostle Paul

Paul wasn't afraid to confront Peter when Peter compromised (Gal. 2:11–12).

He lived with an awareness that **God sees everything** (2 Cor. 11:31).

He didn't just preach — he practiced truth and honor.

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## The Integrity Test: What About You?

Ask yourself:

- Do I keep my word?
- Am I honest in my finances?
- Do I flatter or exaggerate?
- Do I avoid gossip and slander?
- Do I return what I borrow?
- Do I trust God to defend me when others treat me unfairly?

Kenneth Copeland once said:

“When wronged, turn it over to God. He'll handle it — and in the end, you'll come out ahead.”

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## Promises for the Upright

God has rich promises for those who walk in integrity:

Promise	Scripture
Protection & Defense	Psalm 7:10, Psalm 41:11–12
God’s Presence	Psalm 15:1–2, 140:13
Stability & Strength	Psalm 15:3–5, Prov. 10:9
Guidance & Wisdom	Proverbs 11:3, 2:7, 16:17
Joy & Light	Psalm 64:10, 97:11
Blessing for Your Children	Psalm 112:2, Prov. 20:7
Inheritance of Good	Prov. 28:10
Delight in Prayer	Prov. 15:8

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### The Final Scene: Caleb’s Reward

Years later, Caleb had lost a few jobs for refusing to lie. But he gained something greater: **respect, peace, and influence.**

At his retirement party, his children stood and said,

“Our father never cheated, lied, or took shortcuts. He gave us the gift of trust.”

He had walked the path of integrity — and it **guided, guarded, and rewarded him.**

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### Section 4: Heart Check

1. Do you keep your word, even in small things (texts, promises, money)?
2. Are there areas in your life where you’re tempted to bend the truth to look good?
3. How do you respond when others treat you unfairly? Do you trust God to defend you like Caleb did?
4. What’s one specific area where you need to ask God for help to walk in greater integrity?

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### Section 5: Applying the Lesson (Assignment for the Week)

1. What would it look like this week to “walk in honesty and honor” at home? At work? In private?
2. What practical steps can you take to keep your **priorities** in order like Jesus taught — God first, then family, then others?
3. Read **Psalm 41:11–12**. How does this promise encourage you to continue walking with integrity?



4. What promise from the “Promises for the Upright” list means the most to you — and why?
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