

Integrity
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Beacon Hill Friends Meeting
First Day School

Lesson 1: Introduction

Welcome children.

We will talk about this fall's curriculum shortly, but first I want to hear about your summer. [informal chat about summer & new school year]

Game

Take turns picking out questions out of a hat. Each child briefly answers the question s/he picked. (all the questions have to do with Integrity in some way)

Discussion

What do these questions have in common? (they all have to do with aspects of integrity)

This fall we will look at Integrity, one of the trickiest of testimonies.

By the way, what are the 5 testimonies? [SPICE - Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality]

What *is* integrity, exactly? [jointly brainstorm definitions/aspects of integrity].

Four aspects:

1. Truth-telling
2. Authenticity (be who you really are)
3. Faithfulness/loyalty to the Truth (conscience)
4. Corporate action (our communal accountability to the Truth)

Questions for the Hat

- Is it ever OK to lie? If no, why not? If yes, under what circumstances?
- True or false: if you met me at school, I would seem different to you than I do here.

- How much would you say you are influenced by advertising? What kind of advertising “hooks” you the most? (e.g. ads for certain products? ads that appeal to a certain characteristic like coolness or fashion or being popular? ads that come by TV versus magazines versus internet?)
- Tell about a time when you had an opinion vastly different than the majority around you. (e.g. your friends, your family, kids at camp, other Quakers). What did you do? Did you broadcast it or keep it to yourself? How did that make you feel?
- Which is creepier: Ronald McDonald or the Burger King?
- Agree or disagree: if people in the news, like celebrities, get attention for “bad” behavior, how bad can it really be?
- Tell us about someone you know who lives their life with great integrity (adult or child). (if you can’t think of someone you know personally, think of a historical figure or a character from a book).
- Did you ever tell a really big lie and get away with it? (describe. Why did you lie?)
- Have you ever pretended to be something you weren’t in order to please someone? (describe)