



DOUBLE

The **fight** for the real you

Double Series

Small Group Material

Leader Guide

Part 4 - "Imperfect Integrity"

March 5th, 2017

Bottom Line: *You are able to GIVE yourself when you BRING yourself.*

Study Verses: *Romans 15:1-2 (The Message), 1 Peter 1:6-7, John 15:4-5 and Psalm 57*

Define The Win: *Participants would understand how important integrity is to their relationships with others. They would recognize the places where they've extended themselves too far and how this is influencing their integrity. Group members would articulate their priorities and realize that the only way to live them out is to depend on Christ.*

Key Points

- *Your integrity supports the weight of another person's trust.*
- *Don't promise to commit. Commit to depend.*
- *The fruit of your life is what nourishes other people.*
- *Strength is for service, not for status.*
- *Trust is the most important thing we can receive from another person so we must steward it well.*
- *There is a difference between giving yourself and extending yourself.*

ENCOUNTER

- Your integrity supports the weight of another person's trust. How does this statement leave you feeling (overwhelmed, nervous, excited, encouraged, etc.)? How do you deal with the pressure that comes from hearing this statement?
- How do imperfect people walk with integrity? How would you describe "imperfect integrity"?
- What are the major differences between a demand and a priority? What is the danger to our integrity if we don't establish our priorities?

FORMATION

- Read Romans 15:1-2 (The Message). What does it mean that "our strength is for service, not status"?
- Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and Psalm 57. How does the way we respond to struggles and resistance prove the genuineness of our faith?
- Read John 15:4-5. Where does our power to walk in integrity come from? What should serve as the source of our actions and words?

EXPRESSION

- What do you consider priorities in your life? Do your words and actions confirm that these are truly priorities?
- Where have you extended yourself too far? Why do you feel the need to push yourself this far? How are you relying on your own strength to get things accomplished in this area?
- Are there relationships that have been strained due to your actions or words? How can you walk in imperfect integrity and seek forgiveness and reconciliation?
- What insights have you gained over the past four weeks in regards to integrity? Where have you been encouraged? Where have you been challenged? How can you take what you've learned and apply it to your life?

LEADER INSIGHT: *Trust is the most important thing we can receive from another person so we must steward it well. We all have influence and people are looking to us for guidance, support and care. It might be our spouse, our family, our co-workers, our neighbors or our classmates. Our integrity supports the weight of another person's trust. Coming to this realization instantly causes pressure to well up inside of us. Those of us that struggle with codependency experience guilt while those who rely on self-sufficiency feel pressed. We begin to rely on our own strength to somehow will us into obedience and perfection. We feel like we've got to be everything to everyone. We respond to every demand and find ourselves*

stretched too thin. When we struggle dealing with all the demands placed on us, we pretend like we have it all together which in turn causes us to squander our integrity. We all desire to be a person of integrity, but we aren't perfect. So, how does one reconcile their imperfections with their pursuit of being a man or woman of character? Imperfect integrity is possible, but it begins with deciding on where you will remain. There will be moments when we get off track or experience thoughts and actions that don't line up with what believe. We'll find ourselves wondering, "Where did that come from?" Staying connected to Christ is what enables us to live out our priorities and walk with integrity. When we remain in Him, we bring this foundation with us. We are able to bring our whole self to our whole life. Rather than getting sidetracked with every squeaky wheel begging for our attention, we live with purpose. Our priorities guide our steps instead of other people's demands. We begin to understand the difference between giving ourselves away and extending ourselves. Our activities are defined by our identity. Regardless of the circumstances we might face, we stand firm on what we believe, knowing that our strength is for the service of others. The fruit of our lives is what nourishes other people.