



Paul's Concern for the Corinthians - A Ministry of Love and Integrity

By Ariel

2 Corinthians 6:3-4 – “We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses.”

Setting the Scene

Key Concept:

Paul's concern for the Corinthians reflects his deep love and integrity in ministry. His actions demonstrate that building trust through honesty, care, and faithfulness is essential for glorifying God and leading others closer to Him. Paul's example teaches us that ministry isn't just about what we say—it's about how we live. By showing love, keeping promises, and standing firm in truth, we reflect God's light and build meaningful relationships that point others toward Him.

Engaging Analogy:

“Think of a lighthouse standing tall on the shore. It guides ships safely to harbor by shining a clear, bright light, even during storms. Paul's ministry was like a lighthouse, showing the Corinthians God's love and truth through his words and actions. Similarly, when we live with love and integrity, our lives can be a beacon for others, leading them away from harm and toward God's peace.”

Invitation:

Invite participants to reflect on how their daily actions can reflect God's love and truth. Challenge them to think about small, consistent ways they can demonstrate honesty, kindness, and faithfulness to build trust and make a difference in their communities.

Section 1: Reflect and Discuss

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to love others with honesty and care?
2. How can our actions build trust with others and glorify God?
3. Why is it important to act with integrity, even when it's difficult?
4. Can you think of a time when someone showed you love and honesty? How did it make you feel?
5. How do small acts of integrity create lasting impacts in our relationships?

Family or Group Discussion

- **Biblical Examples:** Share examples from the Bible of people who demonstrated love and integrity in their relationships, such as Jesus' care for His disciples, Ruth's loyalty to Naomi, or Paul's ministry to the Corinthians. Discuss how these stories inspire us to act with love and truth.
- **Everyday Integrity:** Discuss real-life ways to practice love and integrity, such as keeping promises, helping someone in need, or speaking the truth with kindness. Encourage participants to share personal stories of times they chose to act with integrity, even when it was challenging.
- **Practical Application:** Brainstorm scenarios where showing integrity can make a big difference, such as resolving conflicts or building trust in friendships. Reflect on how these actions reflect God's love and bring glory to Him.

Section 2: Hands-On Activities

Activity 1: Love and Integrity Lanterns

Objective: Create a lantern that symbolizes how our actions can shine God's love and truth to others.

Materials Needed:

- Mason jars or clear plastic cups
- Tissue paper
- Glue
- LED tea lights
- Markers, stickers, and decorative items

Instructions:

1. Cover the jar with tissue paper, leaving small gaps to let the light shine through. Use glue to secure the paper in place.
2. Write words like "Love," "Honesty," "Faithfulness," and "Kindness" on the jar. Include Bible verses or quotes that inspire integrity.
3. Add symbols such as hearts, stars, and crosses to represent acts of kindness and integrity.
4. Place an LED tea light inside the jar to symbolize how integrity shines brightly for others to see.
5. Display the lantern in a visible place as a reminder to live with love and truth.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to write one act of love or integrity they commit to practicing this week on a slip of paper and place it inside their lantern as a personal challenge.

Activity 2: Build a Trust Tower

Objective: Demonstrate how small actions of love and integrity build trust over time.

Materials Needed:

- Wooden blocks or stackable objects (e.g., LEGO bricks)
- Markers
- Stickers for decoration

Instructions:

1. Write or draw examples of trustworthy actions on the blocks (e.g., “Keep a promise,” “Help a friend,” “Tell the truth”).
2. Stack the blocks to create a tower, discussing how each action strengthens relationships and builds trust.
3. Reflect on how breaking trust can cause the tower to fall and how integrity helps rebuild it.
4. As a group, discuss the importance of forgiveness and how rebuilding trust requires patience and honesty.

Extension Idea: Create a “community tower” by having each participant contribute their blocks to build one large tower, symbolizing unity and collective faithfulness.

Activity 3: Heart of Integrity Puzzle

Objective: Show how love and integrity fit together to reflect God's truth.

Materials Needed:

- Cardboard or foam sheets
- Markers
- Scissors
- Stickers for decoration
- Envelopes for puzzle storage

Instructions:

1. Cut out a large heart shape and divide it into puzzle pieces.
2. Write qualities like "Faithfulness," "Kindness," "Honesty," and "Patience" on each piece.
3. Decorate each puzzle piece with symbols or designs that represent those qualities.
4. Assemble the puzzle together as a group, discussing how each quality is essential for reflecting God's love.
5. Reflect on how these qualities work together to build trust and show Christ's love to others.

Extension Idea: Participants can take one puzzle piece home as a reminder to practice the quality written on it.

Section 3: Music and Creativity

Memory Verse Song

Set 2 Corinthians 6:3-4 to the tune of a familiar children's song, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star":

*"We put no block in anyone's path,
That our work may honor God.
Servants of Him, in every way,
Sharing love and truth each day."*

Encourage participants to sing along and create hand motions to make the song more interactive.

Extension Idea: Challenge participants to teach the song to a family member or friend and explain its meaning. They can also write their own verse to add to the song.

Creative Writing Prompt

Ask participants to write or draw a story about someone who shows love and integrity in a difficult situation. How do their actions reflect God's love, and how do they build trust with others? Include a moment where their honesty or kindness helps someone see God's love more clearly.

Extension Idea: Combine individual stories into a group "Book of Integrity" to inspire others.

Section 4: Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflection:

- What is one way I can show love and integrity to someone this week?
- How can I make sure my actions reflect God's love and truth?
- Discuss how small, consistent actions can make a big impact over time.

Prayer:

Lead a prayer thanking God for His love and faithfulness and asking for the courage to live with integrity in all we do. Pray for wisdom to build trust and care for others in a way that honors God. Include a moment of silent reflection for participants to think about someone they can bless with love and integrity this week.

Extension Idea: Invite participants to share one prayer request related to showing love or integrity, and pray over the group's requests together.