

Lesson 7.6 Pharisees: Lack of Integrity

Topic: Model for Peacemaking

Subtopic: Integrity

3B. Be Holy

3G. Integrity, Honesty and Justice

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to explain how dishonesty and a lack of integrity can cause conflict. **Attitude:** Students would want to be honest and just.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40,
Matthew 23:27-28

Memory Verse: Proverbs 50:6

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Optional.* Songs and Prayer. Ask students: Has anyone ever lied to you? How did you feel when you found it was a lie? What did you do?

Bible Story: Tell students to think about the differences between the Jewish leaders and Jesus as they listen to the story. After the story is read, make a T-chart with the students showing the differences between Jesus and the Jewish leaders.

Application: *Class Discussion* (Use the questions in the Teacher's Notes)
Small Group Discussion – as groups share their answers, make a list on the board.
Roleplays

Evaluation: Do you and your students try to stay calm even if others are teasing or belligerent? Encourage them to practice what they are learning in class in other situations.

Student Activities

Introduction: Students discuss lies and how they cause conflict.

Bible Story: Student Readers reads the Bible passages. Then the class works with the teacher to make a T-chart comparing the Jewish leaders and Jesus.

Application: Participate in a class discussion about dishonesty and how it leads to conflict. *Small Groups.* Discuss a question and then plan a roleplay showing how to react calmly if someone tries to get you into an argument.

Evaluation: Are students able to give examples showing how dishonesty leads to conflict? Can students roleplay being calm when others try to get them to react?

Extension Activities: *Worship.* Continue to start each lesson with worship songs and prayer if you have time. *Memory Verse.* Discuss the memory verse and have students study it for a few minutes. Then have students practice saying it to their small groups.

Roleplay. The Jewish Leaders were trying to start an argument. Jesus remained calm and did not argue. Students may find themselves tempted to get into arguments with other students who are teasing or belligerent. Have each small group **think of situations where someone is teasing or belligerent and talk about what they could do.** Then have a few of the

groups do a roleplay where someone is teasing and the other person answers calmly or walks away.

Leaders. Think about yourself as a leader. Jesus said He was like a mother hen who longed to gather His chicks around Him and cover them with His feathers. What kind of an animal would you use to describe your leadership? Why did you choose that animal? Would you like to change your style of leadership? Why or why not?

Draw a picture of the animal and write a short paragraph describing your own kind of leadership and why you chose that animal. (Examples: a giraffe might be a quiet listener, a lion might be bold and aggressive)

Notes for Teacher

Today's story is one example of the many times the Pharisees and Saducees (Jewish leaders) tried to start an argument with Jesus. Students will compare the Jewish leaders' lack of integrity with Jesus' integrity.

Key Points: Dishonesty and a lack of integrity lead to conflict. A peacemaker will want to be honest and have integrity.

Introduction: Get students to think about how dishonesty affects relationships by asking some questions. Has anyone every lied to you? How did you feel when you found out it was a lie? What did you do? Do you think that telling lies could cause a conflict?

Bible Story: **Today as you listen to the story think about the differences between the Jewish leaders (who are called Pharisees and Saducees) and Jesus.** After the story is read, draw a T-chart on the board with "Jewish Leaders" and "Jesus". Then have the students give suggestions of what to write under each heading. There is an example of a completed T-chart below:

<u>Jewish Leaders</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
<i>Sneaky (Setting a trap)</i>	<i>Wise answers</i>
<i>Hypocrites</i>	<i>Transparent</i>
<i>Afraid</i>	<i>Confident</i>
<i>Plotting against Jesus</i>	<i>Not worried</i>

Throughout Jesus' ministry, there were people trying to start arguments and conflict with Him. Notice how He remained calm and gave thoughtful answers to their questions. He doesn't let Himself get into an argument. If people compete for titles and honor it creates jealousy and conflict. When leaders have a parallel life lacking transparency, they produce conflict among their followers who wonder whether to follow what they say or what they live. However, if we seek to serve each other and God, we create peace. Jesus modeled this kind of servant leadership.

Application: *Discuss how dishonesty leads to conflict.*

- **What does it mean to have integrity?** (To be transparent; to be the same on the inside as you act on the outside)
- **Were the Sadducees and Pharisees being transparent?** (No, they were asking questions to try and trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him.)

- **What were the causes of conflict between the Jewish leaders and Jesus?** (The Jewish leaders were *jealous* of Jesus because the crowds followed Him; they were *afraid* of losing their *power*. They used *dishonesty and a lack of integrity* to try to trick Jesus.
- **Jealousy, fear, power, greed, dishonesty and a lack of integrity are all things which lead to conflict between people and groups.**
- **We need to think carefully about the people we are letting lead us.** Are they honest, fair and just? Are they kind and merciful? Are they the kind of person you really want to follow? We need to think carefully about who we will listen to and why.

Small groups. Remind students of the rules for small groups. Divide into small groups and discuss the questions below. After small group discussion, call on a few students to share their group's answers.

- **Think about the kind of leaders you follow.** Who do you listen to? What kind of person are they? Is that really the kind of person you want to follow?
- **Think of as many examples as you can that show how lying, cheating, or dishonesty can lead to conflict.**

Journal. What kind of leaders do you follow? Why do you follow them?