Character First Lesson

**Sincerity**

Today we will be talking about Sincerity and why this is an important Godly character trait that we should all strive to possess!

### Determining the Definition

**Questions to ask the group:**

- What does Sincerity mean to you?
- Would you consider yourself a Sincere person?
- Have a group discussion on examples of people being Sincere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dictionary Definition of Sincerity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>noun,</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>freedom from deceit, <strong>hypocrisy,</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>or duplicity; probity in intention</td>
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<td>or in communicating; earnestness.</td>
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** A Sincere person is one who is “Eager to do what is right with honesty and transparent motives.” “As a clear glass lets you see inside, a transparent individual lets you know who they really are. They do not give false impressions or have hidden motives. Sincerity is doing what is right for the right reasons. You help others without wanting something back. You respect your parents and teachers, whether they are watching or not. Sincerity carries a lot of weight!**

- Why is being a sincere person important?
- What do you think about someone who says one thing and does the opposite? How does this affect relationships?
- How can we become more sincere?

### Life Example of Sincerity

**THE DOG AND THE RABBIT**

A Hound having spotted a Rabbit on the hillside pursued her for some distance, at one time biting her with his teeth as if he would take her life, and at another playing with her, as if in play with another dog. The Rabbit said to him, "I wish you would act sincerely by me, and show yourself in your true colors. If you are a friend, why do you bite me so hard? If an enemy, why do you play with me?" No one can be a friend if you know not whether to trust or distrust him.
** This is a clear picture of Sincerity! You have to be transparent and know who you are. It is a horrible mistake if you act one way in certain situations and another way in other situations. An example is going to Church and acting Godly in church but the moment you leave you are cussing and doing things that do not bring glory to God. You must figure out who you are and be Sincere about it, and in this you will bring glory to God’s name. Here is an example of that from the Bible:

**Biblical Example**

**Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector**

(Read Luke 19: 1-9 in preparation for this message)

*Background Story:* Zacchaeus was a tax collector, meaning he was a man that no one likes. Tax collectors were usually the ones who stole from people and never helped people out. But read this story about Zacchaeus and see if you sincerity.

Read to the group Luke 19: 1-9

- Why do you think Jesus chose Zacchaeus to spend time with?
- How did Zacchaeus show sincerity and transparency to Jesus?
- Do you feel you are a transparent person? Do people truly know who you are? Do others know who you really are?
- Have a group discussion on ways we can figure out who we truly are in God’s eyes and how to be transparent and sincere with others.
Application

Now you get the opportunity to show Sincerity in your life! Pray that the Lord would truly show you who you are in Him and that you will not be afraid to be bold in that. Show transparency to all those who are around you and they will appreciate that they have a friend they know is Sincere!

Practical applications to show Sincerity in your life:

1. **Say What You Mean** – Do not try to manage what others think by giving half truths, false impressions, exaggerations, or slight distortions. Say what you mean instead of being vague or dancing around the issue.

2. **Mean What You Say** – If you express an opinion or share your feelings, you should communicate what you really think and feel. It is better to remain silent than to give compliments your don’t mean, and it is better not to promise than to make promises you can’t keep.

3. **Practice What You Preach** – Saying one thing and doing the opposite makes you a hypocrite. If you say character is important but disrespect your teachers, you lose credibility. Don’t just say what is right – do what is right!

4. **Check Your Motives** – Build a habit of asking, “Why am I doing this?” Beware of selfish motives such as getting attention, winning approval, gaining power, or controlling others.

5. **Do Not Take Advantage of Others** – Relationships are not opportunities to get what you want. Find ways to invest in others and contribute to something bigger than yourself.

**Remember: You are the Light of the World so let your Light Shine through your Sincerity!**