

# Tattling vs. Reporting

KINDNESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM™  
WHOLE GROUP • OPTION 2 • INTEGRITY

## Lesson Timeframe

20-25 mins

## Materials

- ☐ Integrity poster (optional)



## Share

Define integrity: INTEGRITY IS ACTING IN A WAY THAT YOU KNOW TO BE RIGHT AND KIND IN ALL SITUATIONS. (Show the Integrity poster if desired.) Discuss the importance of not only doing what is RIGHT but also what is KIND. Ask the following questions:

- How can our words hurt others, even when we are being honest?
- How can we make sure we are kind with our words? (Think before we speak, etc.)

Aim for 2-3 volunteers of varying ages.



## Inspire

One of the hardest things to understand when you are learning about honesty and integrity is when to report what others are doing. Maybe you saw someone get punched on the playground or a person stole something from the grocery store. It might even be something small like dropping food on the ground and then eating it. In our quest to be honest at all times, we want to avoid becoming a tattler. There are two types of telling that you can choose, so it is important to know the difference between tattling and reporting.

- **Tattling:** This type of telling is not kind because we often tattle on someone because we want them to get in trouble. Usually the other person might be doing something gross or just plain silly (eating the chip they just dropped on the floor), but we don't like it so we tell on them. This type of telling does not show integrity; rather, it is unkind and hurtful.
- **Reporting:** This type of telling is kind because we do it to help others stay safe. We report when we see someone breaking the law or breaking a rule that is there for safety reasons. Reporting involves telling an adult or trusted older teen what we have seen and why we are concerned. This type of telling shows integrity because helping others make safe choices is the right and kind thing to do.



## Empower

As a whole group, vote on the following scenarios. Is the student reporting or tattling? After each vote, discuss whether their motivation behind telling was kind or unkind.

- Lucas overheard John and Pio making plans to do their homework at school so they could play longer when they got home. He races over to tell their teacher. Tattle or Report? (Tattle)
- Blaire sees Alexia yelling mean words at a first grader on the playground. She gets a recess teacher. Tattle or Report? (report)



## Reflect

Guide a discussion on INTEGRITY and tattling.

- How can we tell if we are tattling?
- How does it feel when someone else tattles on us all the time?
- What can we do if we find ourselves tattling too much?

