

Life Principle: Integrity

The Boiled Seed Cannot Sprout

An aging king, with no child or heir and desperate to find his successor, issued a challenge to his kingdom. Ruling over a kingdom would take wisdom, commitment, and integrity. Ten boys were selected to take a test of their ability. Each boy was supplied seeds and commanded to plant and care for the seeds for 6 weeks. At the end of this time, the king would select a suitable replacement.

Each boy carefully planted and cared for the seeds. The kingdom anxiously awaited the day the plants would be revealed.

On the last day of the 6th week, the king called his subjects to gather around him for the selection process. All ten boys were present. As the king looked upon the display, he was dismayed to see the variety of prosperous plants flowing from nine of the pots. One pot was different. One boy stood, head bowed and dejected, holding an empty pot. This intrigued the king.

As the king approached the boy a tear ran from the boy's eye. The king spoke softly. "You have an empty pot. Can you explain this to me?" The boy replied, "Your Majesty, I tried my best but the seeds would not grow." The king smiled! He spoke to the people with joy! "I have found my successor. It will take wisdom, commitment, and integrity to lead this kingdom and this boy has spoken the truth. None of the seeds would grow because all the seeds were boiled and could not sprout. This boy has integrity and will lead this kingdom well!"

Step 1: Question Focus: "INTEGRITY"

[**Question Formulation Technique Resource**](#)

Step 2: Produce Questions.

Rules for producing questions:

- 1. Ask as many questions as you can.**
- 2. Change any statements into questions.**
- 3. Write down every question exactly as stated.**
- 4. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.**

Step 3: Improve the Questions.

- 1) Identify open and closed-ended questions.**
- 2) Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.**

Example: *Closed to open*

What did one boy do differently from the other boys?

What are some ways that the boy showed integrity and good character?

