

SPOTLIGHTING VIRTUE IN OTHERS

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5: 14-16)



Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to get to know a few of your classmates more deeply through their virtues story of self. Often we can focus on our flaws, pinpointing our worst qualities. And while it is good to recognize where we need to improve, it is also good to recognize our God-given strengths of virtue.

We can also shy away from sharing our best with others, for fear of appearing as a braggart or one who lacks humility. Remember, Jesus reminds us to shine our lights! This encourages others to also act virtuously and gives glory to God.

As you listen to your classmate's stories, think about the virtues you are noticing in them. Is this person practicing gratitude? Loyalty? Trustworthiness? Sincerity? Humility? Magnanimity? Honesty? What are some of the strengths you can pinpoint in this individual?

Virtue spotlighting helps us to build relationships and deepen connections with others. **An easy way to “virtue spot” is to use the following steps:**

-  **Name the virtue**
-  **Explain with an example from their story**
-  **Show gratitude and appreciation for who they are**

So for example, this might look like:

Name: Zack, in your story, I saw you show kindness towards your neighbor when you supported them through their tough time.

Explain: That is truly incredible that you went out of your way to help them, even though you didn't have to.

Show: I am grateful for you and your action inspires me to lend a hand with my own neighbors.

Remember, each classmate was asked to write a story about a time when they were at their best. This could have been a big moment or just a story of their everyday best. This story is one of authenticity and character, not achievement. Create a safe space by actively listening and responding to your classmates as they share their virtuous stories of self.