

For what we hide will find the light,
But what is true stands strong and right.

Final Chorus (Audience)

The upright are guided by what is true,
Their hearts are steady in all they do.
Let our lives be plain, our hearts be sound—
And may our steps on truth be found.

Reflection: This play invites us to remember that integrity isn’t proven in big public gestures but in the small choices we make every day—whether to join in cruelty, to cheat a little, or to speak up for someone else. Daniel’s story reminds us that while going along may seem easy, true uprightness requires courage, honesty, and the willingness to stand apart. As you leave, consider where you’re tempted to compromise, and let integrity guide you even when no one is watching.

Twelve: Three Choices

Scripture: Proverbs 11:3

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

Cast:

- **Daniel**—high school sophomore. He has a strong sense of right and wrong and is troubled by Caleb’s bullying tactics.
- **Olivia**—Daniel’s best friend since elementary school. They socialize but are not romantically involved. Now that they are getting stronger gender maturity feelings, she has thoughts about Daniel that are restrained but clearly drawn to him.
- **Caleb**—well liked, all around athletic type. He plays baseball and football; girls find him attractive, and he knows this but is dismissive of their presence. Because his behavior is not checked, he enjoys picking on kids he considers his social inferiors. His groupies reinforce this behavior to be near him.
- **Mr. Reed**—English teacher, well liked, approachable, yet reserved, young, married with two middle school children. He has no interest in being the friend to his students, but knows that they enjoy his flashback stories, which he uses to illustrate relatable incidents.
- **Cherry**—new to the school. She senses the dynamics and wants to fit in. She leans toward the popular Caleb but is quickly becoming Oliva’s friend, mostly as a path to Daniel. This creates an unsettling aspect to her relationship with Oliva.

Setting: Daniel faces three dilemmas in one day—whether to laugh at a cruel joke, cheat on a quiz, or ignore a classmate being bullied. Olivia tries to encourage the right choice, while Caleb tempts him toward popularity. Mr. Reed is Daniel’s sounding board. He allows students to find their own place in the social hierarchy. Daniel's arc is one of gradual courage as he learns that integrity builds across small moments.

Synopsis: *Three Choices*” follows Daniel, a thoughtful high school sophomore who faces three tests of integrity in a single day. When the popular and charismatic Caleb mocks an overweight classmate, he pressures Daniel to help him cheat on a

quiz, and uses social invitations as bribes, Daniel must decide whether to stay silent or stand up. His best friend Olivia challenges him to think about the consequences of complicity, while Cherry, a new student eager to fit in, hovers uncertainly between Caleb’s popularity and Daniel’s conscience. Mr. Reed, their English teacher, refuses to tell Daniel what to do, instead urging him to choose his own path. As these pressures mount, Daniel realizes that real integrity is built not in grand, dramatic acts but in small, hard choices to do what is right—even when it's unpopular or hard.

Scene 1: Can I Talk to You?

After class, Daniel confides in Mr. Reed about Caleb’s cruel jokes and request to cheat. Mr. Reed listens carefully, challenging Daniel to think about what kind of person he wants to be.

Scene 2: You’re Supposed to Take My Side

Setting: Hallway

In the hallway, Daniel tells Olivia what he shared with Mr. Reed. Olivia worries about the social fallout. Cherry, trying to be friendly, probes Daniel’s personal life and learns about Caleb’s popularity.

Scene 3: Beep!

Hallway. Caleb, Daniel, Olivia stand together Caleb looks towards stage left. Caleb publicly mocks an unseen, overweight classmate by making beeping sounds like a backing dmp truck. Cherry initially laughs along but is challenged by Olivia to consider what it means to be kind. Tensions rise as Daniel refuses to participate.

Scene 4: About that Quiz

Later, Caleb corners Daniel with instructions to help him cheat on an upcoming quiz. When Daniel resists, Caleb bribes and threatens him with social exclusion from an anticipated pool party. Daniel’s discomfort deepens.

Scene 5: Beep You Caleb.

The next day, Daniel reveals to Olivia that he and Mr. Reed planned to block the cheating attempt. Caleb tries to act friendly but resumes his mocking of the overweight girl. Daniel calls him out in front of everyone, refuses the party invitation, and demands that Olivia and Cherry choose for themselves. Caleb insults them as he leaves. Cherry is left alone, realizing her own choice matters.

Song: The Way of the Upright *(may read responsively and/or with music played from collection)*

Verse 1 (Leader)

The path is narrow; the truth runs deep,
Integrity guards the soul we keep.
It will not sway for pride or gain,
But walks in light through joy and pain.

Chorus (Audience)

The upright are guided by what is true,
Their hearts are steady in all they do.
But the crooked fall through their disguise—
Their path undone by all their lies.

Verse 2 (Leader)

A faithful word, a trusted name,
Are more than gold or fleeting fame.
But those who turn and twist the way,
Will see their house of falsehood sway.

Chorus (Audience)

The upright are guided by what is true,
Their hearts are steady in all they do.
But the crooked fall through their disguise—
Their path undone by all their lies.

Bridge (All)

Let truth be the lamp beneath our feet,
Let honor live where silence speaks.