

National Nurses Week Bible Discussion

Ethical Practice, Quality Care



Throughout 2015, ANA is encouraging nurses to celebrate their role in delivering the highest level of quality care to their patients. We recognize that highly ethical nursing practice directly impacts patient care quality and safety for the better.

How would you define “ethical practice” in nursing? What are the foundational principles and standards for ethical practice? This year’s theme for National Nurses Week can generate some thoughtful discussion with your nurse friends and coworkers.

INTRODUCTION

The [ANA Code of Ethics](#) and nurse practice acts provide guidelines and rules for nursing practice, but they don’t absolve us from making appropriate individual decisions. Ethics in nursing involves individual interpretation. It is based on individual morals and values and our own principles of right and wrong. We have to decide what is right and wrong for ourselves.

The Bible has a lot to say about right and wrong attitudes and behaviors and caring for others, yet most of our efforts at righteous living are limited and fall short of God’s standards. Because of God’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit working within us, we are constantly given new opportunities to reflect God’s standards for Christ-like attitudes and behaviors that we can incorporate into our nursing practice.

In the Bible passage below, the apostle Paul sends final instructions to the young church at Philippi for how they are to conduct themselves in a stressful world. Read it aloud and discuss your answers to the questions that follow.

Read Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

FOR DISCUSSION

Review the characteristics mentioned in the Bible verses above:

True: What effect can rumors, gossip and lies have on one's life? What is true about God? About people and the world? How do these truths influence your attitudes and behaviors, your nursing practice? How can you promote truth in your workplace?

Noble/Right: How do you determine what is right and wrong? What injustices do you see in your workplace? What are some ways you can make things right or just in your circumstances?

Pure/Lovely/Admirable: What is the difference between these characteristics? What images come to mind as you reflect on them?

Excellent/Praiseworthy: What are ways you can intentionally promote excellence in your work environment? What do you see that is worthy of praise? How does thinking about positive things have an effect on your attitude?

FOR REFLECTION

- How does our thought life influence our actions?
- What is your vision for ethical practice?
- What attitudes and behaviors do you aim for? Why?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- As nurses, we see very ill people who are in pain and often at their worst. We clean up messes, work short-staffed, and encounter unexpected and critical situations. Through our work circumstances, how can we continue to think of good things? What outcomes do we want to see for our patients, our workplace, and ourselves?
- What is one step you can take to put these attitudes and behaviors into daily practice?
- Scripture says that if we think on these things and put them into practice, the God of peace will be with us. How does this promise give you hope?

May you be blessed today by the God of peace.