

Guided Discussion - Values, Morals, Ethics and The Ethical Warrior

<u>TIME</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Good morning my name is _____ today we will be talking about values, morals, ethics, and what it means to be an ethical warrior.</p> <p>The ground rules for this discussion are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) No personal attacks on anyone’s opinions(2) Allow each participant to express themselves(3) Drinking coffee and soda is allowed(4) Make head calls at your leisure, just don’t interrupt the group(5) Keep your language clean as not to offend others(6) PARTICIPATION BY ALL!!!!!! <p>Gain Attention</p> <p>Medal of Honor Citation for VITTORI, JOSEPH. Rank: Corporal. Organization: U.S. Marine Corps. Company: Company F, 2d Battalion. Division: 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. Born: 1 August 1929, Beverly, MA. Departed: Yes. Place/Date: Hill 749, Korea, 15 and 16 September 1951.</p> <p>“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an automatic-rifleman in Company F, in action against enemy aggressor forces. With a forward platoon suffering heavy casualties and forced to withdraw under a vicious enemy counterattack as his company assaulted strong hostile forces entrenched on Hill 749, Cpl. Vittori boldly rushed through the withdrawing troops with 2 other volunteers from his reserve platoon and plunged directly into the midst of the enemy. Overwhelming them in a fierce hand-to-hand struggle, he enabled his company to consolidate its positions to meet further imminent onslaughts. Quick to respond to an urgent call for a rifleman to defend a heavy machine gun positioned on the extreme point of the northern flank and virtually isolated from the remainder of the unit when the enemy again struck in force during the night, he assumed position under the devastating barrage and, fighting a single-handed battle, leaped from 1 flank to the other, covering each foxhole in turn as casualties continued to mount manning a machine gun when the gunner was struck down and making repeated trips through the heaviest shellfire to replenish ammunition. With the situation becoming extremely critical, reinforcing units to the rear pinned down under the blistering attack and foxholes left practically void by dead and wounded for a distance of 100 yards, Cpl. Vittori continued his valiant stand, refusing to give ground as the enemy penetrated to within feet of his position, simulating strength in the line and denying the foe physical occupation of the ground. Mortally wounded by the enemy machine gun and rifle bullets while persisting in his magnificent defense</p>	

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of the sector where approximately 200 enemy dead were found the following morning, Cpl. Vittori, by his fortitude, stouthearted courage, and great personal valor, had kept the point position intact despite the tremendous odds and undoubtedly prevented the entire battalion position from collapsing. His extraordinary heroism throughout the furious nightlong battle reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.”

[Medal of Honor Citation for Cpl Joseph Cittori](#)

Key points for this discussion will be:

- (1) Definition of values
- (2) Definition of morals
- (3) Definition of ethics
- (4) Discuss what it means to be an ethical warrior

Learning Objective: After this guided discussion, you will have a better understanding of values, morals, ethics, and what it means to be an ethical warrior.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p><u>KEY POINT 1</u></p> <p>1. What are values?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Values are principles, standards or qualities that an individual or group of people hold in high regard. These values guide the way we live our lives and the decisions we make. - A value may be defined as something that we hold dear, those things or qualities which we consider to be of worth. - The rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't, good and bad. They also tell us which are more or less important, which is useful when we have to trade off meeting one value over another. - Beliefs of a person or social group in which they have an emotional investment (either for or against something). <p>2. What are some things that you value? Why are they important to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expect to get different answers (life, family, friends, pets, car, money etc.) because Marines come from all walks of life and have different perspectives about the world we live in. - All values are subjective or relative (represent an opinion or preference). This means that values are whatever we choose to pursue and whatever we desire. It means there is no such thing as good or evil, except what you think is good or evil. If you believe something is evil, that's just your own personal preference. - The term good is subjective and our definition of what is good may come from our families, culture, religion, habit, circumstances, and our environment. - Values differ between people, and on a larger scale, between people of different cultures. - If no one mentions "life" as a value, you may want to suggest it prior to asking the next question. <p>3. Where do we, as individuals, get our values from? Do you think that there is a value common to all mankind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As human beings, we all have our own values, beliefs and attitudes that we have developed throughout the course of our lives. 	

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- Individual's values come from a variety of sources. Some of these include: hence why they are relative.

- Family
- Peers (social influences)
- The workplace (work ethics, job roles)
- Educational institutions
- Significant life events (death, divorce, losing jobs, major accident and trauma, major health issues, significant financial losses etc.)
- Religion
- Music
- Media
- Technology
- Culture
- Major historical events (world wars, economic depressions, etc).

- In a world full of different ethnicities, cultures, religions, nationalities, behavior sets, opinions, likes, and dislikes it may be difficult or even controversial to say that there is such a thing as a value common to all mankind.

- Almost everyone should respect and value "life"...don't move on to the next question until the group grasps that life is something that people around the world value.

- My life and the lives of my loved ones are as important to me as yours are to you," This value - Humphrey called it the "life value" in his work - appears to be a universal value. Everyone wants their lives to be respected.

4. Ask the group the following questions: Are there people smarter than you? Better looking? Stronger? Better Marines? Senior in rank? Can you accept that? Are some of these people from a different race, creed, or color? Can you live with all of that? Does that make their life more valuable than yours?

- Want to drive the point home that it does not matter where an individual comes from, their rank, race, color, or sex etc.; everyone's life is equally valuable and collectively everyone values life.

Interim Summary: We just finished defining values and where ones values can come from, such as...

and how life is something that everyone values. Now let's talk about morals.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>KEY POINT 2</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>1. What are morals? Moral values?</p> <p>- Of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior.</p> <p>- Moral values are relative values that protect life and are respectful of the dual life value of self and others.</p> <p>2. What do you think are some moral values? Do you think they have anything in common?</p> <p>- Some possible moral values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truth• Peace• Freedom• Charity• Family• Friends <p>- The great moral values, such as truth, freedom, charity, etc., have one thing in common. When they are functioning correctly, they are life protecting or life enhancing for all. But they are still relative values. Our relative moral values must be constantly examined to make sure that they are always performing their life-protecting mission.</p> <p>3. Who can tell the group what the Marine Corps core values are? Do you think our values are moral? Why or why not?</p> <p>- The Marine Corps core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honor<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The bedrock of our character. The quality that guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior; never to lie, cheat, or steal; to abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; to respect human dignity; to have respect and concern for each other. The quality of maturity, dedication, trust, and dependability that commits Marines to act responsibly; to be accountable for actions; to fulfill obligations; and to hold others accountable for their actions.• Courage<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The heart of our core values, courage is the mental, moral, and physical strength ingrained in Marines to carry them through the challenges of combat and the mastery of fear; to do what is right; to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct; to lead by example, and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure. It is the inner strength that enables a Marine to take that extra step.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The spirit of determination and dedication within members of a force of arms that leads to professionalism and mastery of the art of war. It leads to the highest order of discipline for unit and self; it is the ingredient that enables 24-hour-a-day dedication to Corps and Country; pride; concern for others; and an unrelenting determination to achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor. Commitment is the value that establishes the Marine as the warrior and citizen others strive to emulate. <p>4. Do you think our enemies may value some of the same things we do? Could you say their core values mirror ours? Why? What do you think sets us apart from our enemies?</p> <p>- Our enemies have their own standard of honor, they have courage, and they are surely committed.</p> <p>- Our respect for the universal life value sets us apart from our enemies.</p> <p>Interim Summary: We just finished discussing morals and how great moral values, such as truth, freedom, charity, etc., have one thing in common; when they are functioning correctly, they are life protecting or life enhancing for all. Now let's talk about ethics.</p>	
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>KEY POINT 3</u></p> <p>1. What are ethics?</p> <p>- Rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad.</p> <p>- A person who knows the difference between right and wrong and chooses right is moral. A person whose morality is reflected in his willingness to do the right thing, even if it is hard or dangerous, is ethical.</p> <p>- Ethics are moral values in action. We have to be ethical because morality protects life and is respectful of others, all others.</p> <p>2. Who thinks killing another human being is unethical? Is there a time when taking another person's life is acceptable? Why?</p> <p>- It is a lifestyle that is consistent with mankind's universal values as articulated by the American Founding Fathers, human equality and the inalienable right to life.</p> <p>- As warriors it is our duty to be protectors and defenders of the life value and to perform the unique and difficult mission of taking the lives of those acting immorally (against life) when necessary to protect the lives of innocent others.</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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	<p>- When you must kill protecting life it is still hard, but it is moral. Those who kill those not observant of their narrow relative religious, ethnic or criminal values – in other words, kill over relative values are immoral. A dedication to protecting the life value of self and others, all others, makes the Ethical Warrior different and moral.</p> <p>3. Referring back to Cpl Vittori’s Medal of Honor Citation we read earlier, do you think his killing of the enemy was moral or immoral? Why?</p> <p>Interim Summary: We just finished defining ethics as rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad and how a person who knows the difference between right and wrong and chooses right is moral. Now let’s talk about what it means to be an ethical warrior.</p>	
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>KEY POINT 4</u></p> <p>1. In your own words, please tell the group what it means to be an ethical warrior?</p> <p>- The term ethical warrior seems to have struck a chord with people who believe that a Marine represents the epitome of honor, courage, and commitment on and off the battlefield. There is no official definition of an ethical warrior, but after years of discussion and refinement, the most satisfying description offered is that the ethical warrior is a protector of life.</p> <p>- Our mission remains the same: Marines must, and will, close with and kill the enemy. The role of the ethical warrior is not only to kill, but also to protect and defend life.</p> <p>- Ethical warriors are considered protectors and defenders. This approach actually makes for more skillful warriors on many levels. It allows Marines to accurately assess different kinds of situations and utilize the level of violence appropriate and necessary for each.</p> <p>- Ethical warriors are patient when that works, more aggressive when that works allowing them to make better judgments along the entire continuum of force.</p> <p>2. We just stated that the role of the ethical warrior is not only to kill but also to protect life. Whose lives are we responsible for protecting?</p> <p>- Ours and others.</p> <p>3. Who do we consider as others?</p> <p>- All others. If possible, we must protect even our enemies.</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Today we have defined values, morals, ethics, and discussed what it means to be an ethical warrior. I am confident that you now have a better understanding of values, morals, ethics, and what it means to be an ethical warrior.</p> <p>Closing Statement: Read the following vignette to the group as a way to tie everything together.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The Bully"</p> <p>You are a kid in the schoolyard. You see a bully. He thinks he is the "top dog." That is fine. That perception is a relative value. But when his relative value supersedes the life value of another kid – in other words, when the bully picks on and/or punches the other kid – this is wrong. Here is the rule: relative values, no matter how "great," cannot supersede the life value.</p> <p>You see the bully picking on the other kid. You feel – in your gut – that this is wrong. Congratulations, you are moral. (By the way, most people are moral – they know the difference between right and wrong). Now...you see the bully picking on the other kid. You overcome the "freeze," you overcome the embarrassment, and you go tell a teacher. Congratulations! You are ethical. (Ethics are moral values in action).</p> <p>Now...you see the bully picking on the other kid. You overcome the "freeze," you overcome the fear, and you go to the aid of the kid being bullied. You put yourself at risk. Congratulations! You have the makings of an Ethical Warrior.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>END OF DISCUSSION</u></p>	
	<p><u>RESOURCES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCWP 6-11 Leading Marines - "The Ethical Warrior: Values, morals, and ethics for life, work and service." By Jack Hoban. Published April 2012. - Marine Corps Gazette Article: Developing The Ethical Marine Warrior - Living Values Website 	