

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Honesty v. Deception



Being truthful in what I say and do

Picture water as it ripples from a central spot. Being truthful resembles those ripples. When we are genuine and accurate, we emanate truth outward. Each truthful act builds our future credibility ripple by ripple. If we are going to speak the truth, we must first have that truth in our core: our heart and soul. Once we have it in our hearts, we can't help but let it bubble out like the ripples. When we operate in a manner that is consistent with our core integrity, we are true to ourselves and to our faith. We become consistent and predictable, just like the ripples in the water. As people of faith, we know the more we build our core on God's truths, the more we reveal His truths to others. The more we act with integrity the more we reinforce that core.

Truthfulness builds relationships and links us to each other just as the ripples build out from the center.

To Practice Honesty I Will:

- tell the truth
- encourage others to be truthful
- not cheat or steal
- admit when I am wrong
- not exaggerate to make things seem different from what they are

Any others appropriate to your family?

This month, practice truthfulness and watch it ripple.

God's Word on Honesty

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Exodus 20:16

"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices."

Colossians 3:9

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

Luke 16:10

"Cying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."

Proverbs 12:22

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

Daniel Teaches Us about Honesty

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a large tree that was full of life and then cut down for 7 years. The dream frightened him so he called all the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans and astrologers to interpret his dream. None of the wise men could tell him its meaning. Then Daniel came before him and listened to the dream. At first, Daniel was frightened because the dream was not a good sign for the king. Daniel knew that bad things could happen to him, even death, if he told the king the meaning of the dream. Daniel realized that it was important to tell the truth to the king, so he summoned his courage and told the truth about the dream. He told the king that the tree represented the king and that he would be struck down for 7 years if he didn't repent of his evil ways. The king was angry but did no harm to Daniel.

One year later, King Nebuchadnezzar was walking along the top of his castle when he was struck down and forced to live like a beast for 7 years just as Daniel had said. At the end of the 7 years, the king became human again. His punishment helped him to understand God's truths and he reformed his life and lived according to the will of God. His kingdom was restored to him and he became much greater than before.



Cover-Up



For this activity you will need a container about 4 -6 inches in diameter and no taller than 8 - 10 inches. Fill it with about 6 inches of water. Place the container in the center of the group. Have someone drop a nickel into the container, aiming to get it as close to the center as possible. Explain that the nickel is like a lie that you tell. Now give pennies to the others in the group. Each person has to try to cover up the lie (the nickel) by telling other smaller lies (pennies). How many pennies does it take to cover the nickel completely? How difficult is it to cover the lie when you don't have a lot of control over where the pennies land? How is that like lies that you tell to cover your tracks?

"Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4

POSTER IDEA:

Honesty

Being truthful in what I say and do



“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10

Are little lies really little?

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of honesty in your life. You were always teaching others about the truths of your Father in both your words and your deeds. Help us to tell the truth at all times in what we say and do and to encourage others to do the same. Guide our decisions so that we avoid cheating and stealing. Give us courage to admit when we are wrong. Help us to remember that exaggerating is also lying. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit

www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=honesty