

A Character study:

Honesty

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

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Honesty

Memory Verse:

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Day 1

What does honesty mean? Not disposed to cheat or defraud; not deceptive or fraudulent, to be truthful

What does lying mean? A false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive

How can lying hurt those around us?

Why do you think we lie?

Story:

Genesis 2-3 Story of the serpent in the garden

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 3:14-24 All received consequences

Questions:

1. What was the first lie in the Bible? In Gen 3:3 Eve tells the serpent they are not to eat of the fruit of the tree of life or they will surely die. In Gen 3:4 the serpent responds saying "You will not certainly die" In Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Here the serpent is lying to Eve to try and tempt her to eat the fruit and disobey God's command.
2. How would things have been different had the serpent not lied to Eve?
3. Were Adam and Eve responsible for their actions?
4. How did this lie affect all humans after them?
5. What does the Bible say about lying? *Proverbs 25:18* Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.

Challenge:

Tell the truth and the Lord will delight in you!

Proverbs 12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Activity:

Play the game, "4 truths and a lie". Think of a story from your childhood that really happened. As you tell the story, keep everything truthful except for 1 small exaggeration. Have your child try and figure out which part wasn't truthful and point out the many reasons we should always tell the truth. Then switch roles and allow your child to tell the story.

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Day 2

Story:

Gen 26 Isaac lied about his wife.

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 26:9 So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" (Abimelek chose to be truthful and kept sin from his people)

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 26: 10 Then Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife"

Questions:

1. How did Isaac's lying affect others?
2. Why did Isaac lie?
3. Is there ever a good reason to lie?

Challenge:

Be honest, do not tell lies

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Activity:

Using a few 3x5 cards, write out various situations like, "spilled milk", "broken glass" and "holes in clothes" where your child would need to tell the truth. Use those cards to ask questions about how they would handle each situation when asked if they were responsible for the action. Praise them each time they willingly tell you the truth.

Day 3

Story:

Genesis 27:1-42 Rebekah and Jacob lie to Isaac and take Esau's birthright

Blessings of Obedience:

What would have been different if Rebekah and Jacob had not lied to Isaac?

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 27:41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Genesis 27:43 Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran.

(Family was split up because of Rebekah and Jacob's deception)

Questions:

1. Did Rebekah or Jacob benefit from lying?
2. How did their lie affect their family?
3. How do you think it affected their relationship with Isaac?
4. What happens when you lie to others? (Stop trusting you)

Challenge:

Be honest, do not tell lies

Psalm 34:13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.

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Day 4

Story:

Acts 6-7 Sanhedrin produced false witnesses to speak against Stephen, then they stoned him.

Blessings of Obedience:

Acts 7:55-56 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Consequences of sin:

Acts 7:59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

(The lies of the Sanhedrin lead to the death of an innocent man)

Questions:

1. Did the lies of the Sanhedrin affect others?
2. Did their lies affect more than just Stephen? Why? (He was spreading the love of God to others, now he couldn't anymore)

Challenge:

Be honest, our lies will harm the whole family

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Activity: "Get out of Jail Free Day" Set a rule in your home for the day that if the person tells the truth immediately, they will not receive a consequence. (Normally the consequence in our home is hot sauce or "spanking the tongue" for lying. We still give consequences because sin always leads to consequences, however they will be less in our home if the truth is told than if they lie.)

Honesty Card: Add the honesty apple to your character tree! (If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree)

Review Questions:

1. How does our lying affect others?
2. How does our honesty affect others?
3. How does being honest affect our relationship with God and with our parents?
4. Will we receive consequences for choosing to lie?
5. Can we hide our sins from God? Numbers 32:23 "...and be sure your sin will find you out."

Application:

1. What does honesty look like in our home?
2. How can we practice honesty and taking responsibility for our actions?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to have a heart of honesty. I ask that you would give me the strength to be honest in all circumstances so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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Additional Verses:

Psalm 119:29 Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously.

Proverbs 19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will perish.

Proverbs 21:28 A false witness will perish, but a careful listener will testify successfully.

Exodus 20:16 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Proverbs 19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free.

Psalm 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him