



# HONESTY

Preview Video Transcript

How do you think of yourself when it comes to the issue of honesty? Would you consider yourself a “truthful” or “honest” person? If you think about it, it’s a pretty difficult question to answer.

This month, we are talking about what it really means to be honest. There are a lot of misconceptions floating around when it comes to honesty. You see, being an honest person doesn’t necessarily mean saying everything that you think or feel. In fact, there are times when nothing good can come from *saying* what you believe to be true.

Take, for example, a game show called *The Moment of Truth*. The goal of the show is to take a contestant, put him or her center stage surrounded by friends and family, then proceed to ask the contestant very personal, overly simplistic questions designed to get them in trouble:

Do you ever wish you were dating someone who’s smarter than your boyfriend?

Does it bother you that there are kids starving in Africa?

Do you think you would have a better relationship with your dad if he divorced your step mom?

After asking questions that have no business being asked, the friends and family wait for an answer that no one really wants to hear. The point of the show is to be as truthful as possible. No one can deny that the contestants are being honest, but is that the definition of honesty we want our children to strive for? Or is this virtue more about living a life characterized by truthfulness?

We define honesty as “choosing to be truthful in whatever you say or do.” This definition of honesty has to do with the core of our relationships. During this month, you will help a child to understand how living a life that is truthful can affect them relationally.

I remember when my oldest daughter was about seven; she was upstairs playing in her next-door neighbor’s bedroom when she spilled some paint on the neighbor’s floor. Instead of going downstairs to find the mom and tell her what had happened, my daughter did what most seven year olds would do. She covered the stain with a nearby rug. A day or two later, after the paint had set into the carpet, the mother found the stain. Naturally, when she asked how it happened, it came out that my daughter was responsible.

Later, I remember sitting with my daughter on the front steps of our house trying to get her to understand why it is important to be honest.

I said, “So why do you think you need to tell the truth?”

“So I won’t get in trouble.”

“No, no, why do you think you need to tell the truth?”

“Well, if I don’t want to be grounded, I need to tell the truth.”



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After about 45 minutes of asking the why question, she finally said this:

“Well, now I know that my best friend’s mom doesn’t trust me anymore.”

In that moment, I saw that the concept of honesty became a value in her life because she recognized the relational consequence that comes with being dishonest.

If dishonesty comes at such a price, why do you think we struggle so much with being truthful? I think in Hannah’s situation, as with most of us, she bought into this idea that if she told the truth, it would cost her. The ironic thing is that many of us operate out of the fear that honest living will cost us or prevent us from getting what we want. But relationally, it pays to tell the truth and costs to tell a lie.

Take the story of Joseph and his brothers. In the first week this month, we are going to talk about the way Joseph’s brothers intentionally deceived their father into thinking that Joseph died. Think about all the pain they caused. Sometimes dishonesty hurts the people that we care about the most.

Then in the second week, we are going to explore the story of Haman and Mordecai. This is a great story that illustrates the way a lie can be most harmful to the one who tells it. Because Haman used deception to try and destroy his enemy, he ended up in a dire situation in his personal life.

In the third week we are going to go to the New Testament and look at the story of Zaccheus, the tax collector. Professionally, Zaccheus was part of a group of individuals who had a reputation for being dishonest. But something about Jesus changed his life so that he recognized how honesty was the key to building relationships. He realized that part of the reason he was estranged from so many others was because of his dishonest lifestyle.

When you hear the name of our last character, you might think he is synonymous with deception and betrayal. That person is Judas. Here is an individual who demonstrated a lifestyle of cheating (remember when he is called out for stealing money from the treasury? John 12:4-6), and ultimately his dishonesty led him to forget what mattered most and betray Jesus in the garden.

Our memory verse this month is Proverbs 12:22: *“The Lord detests lying lips but he delights in men who are truthful.”* Hopefully the children who grow up in your ministries and in your homes, will recognize how important it is to be honest—not to tell lies in the hope that somehow it will help keep them out of trouble or help them get what they want, but for the sake of their relationships, to tell the truth.