

Character Trait September 26th – 30th is Truthfulness

Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Truthfulness: Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts.

Derivation: truth•ful•ness n. 1: habitually representing the truth; telling the facts 2: corresponding with what is genuine or real 3: speaking the truth with sincerity

Weekly Verse: Psalm 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Bible Story: In Genesis 20:1-28 read the story of how when Abraham moved to Gerar, he told the people that his wife Sarah was his sister. This was only half of the truth.

Quote: "Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now - always."

Application: When Abraham moved to Gerar, he told the people that his wife Sarah was his sister. This was only half of the truth. (She was, in fact, his half-sister – they had both had the same father.) Abraham did not tell the whole truth because he was afraid that if the people knew that Sarah was his wife, someone would kill him so they could have his beautiful wife. He decided to tell them that Sarah was his sister so they would treat him well.

The king wanted Sarah for himself, but God warned him in a dream that Sarah was already married, so the king gave Sarah back to Abraham, along with many gifts. God chose to protect Abraham, even though he didn't tell the whole truth. Abraham should have trusted that God would protect him, even if he did tell the truth about Sarah being his wife.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever told most of the truth, but missed part of the truth?
2. Why did Abraham lie?
3. What did God do?
4. Is it ever OK to lie, even to protect yourself?
5. Instead of lying to protect himself, what should Abraham have done?