

Character Trait September 5th – 9th 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: We get the word truth from the Old English treowe-meaning “firm; trustworthy; faithful.” The words trust, truse, and troth (as in betroth) also come from treowe. A truthful person gives a report that is faithful to the facts. We say an individual is true when the person's actions and words are consistent, when the person lives up to his or her responsibility.

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: Proverbs 12:19 “Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.”

Bible Story: We are reminded of how God views being truthful or lying in the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11.

Quote: “Everyone considers honesty a virtue, but most people rarely want to hear the truth.”

Application: You must be clear about your motives for being honest. Never use honesty as a pretext for cruelty or harshness. Consider these three things when speaking honestly:

Is it true? Be certain that what you're saying is accurate and not colored by emotion or secondhand knowledge. Is it necessary? You don't always have to speak. Some things can be forgotten or even ignored. Learn how to tell the difference, and speak only when necessary. Is it kind? Think of the other person. Will hearing these things help him? Will he benefit from the experience? If so, then you can share that as part of your communication. If not, then rethink what you need to say and find a way to say it that's thoughtful and considerate. Being honest isn't easy. Sometimes it is very difficult as it takes thought and effort. But being honest is best. It's best for you, it's best for those around you, and it is what God requires of us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss situations in school where it would be easy to be dishonest. How would you respond if you became aware of dishonesty among your fellow students?
2. What are some reasons that people will tell lies instead of the truth?