Character Trait September 19th – 23rd 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:** Ephesians 4:15 “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

**Bible Story:** In 2 Kings 5:1-27 read the story of how God used Elisha to heal Naaman of his leprosy, and how Elisha’s servant Gehazi was punished for lying.

**Quote:** "Although it bothers me that you lied to me, what upsets me more is that from now on I can’t believe you."

**Application:** Picture water as it ripples from a central spot. Being truthful resembles those ripples. When we are truthful today we set ourselves up for being believed in the future. Each truthful act builds our future credibility ripple by ripple. When we operate in a manner that is consistent with our core integrity, we are true to ourselves. We become consistent and predictable, just like the ripples in the water. The more consistent we are, the more we reveal that core 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. Deception, on the other hand creates distance and can sever relationships.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. When is it easy to be truthful?
2. George Washington said, “Honesty is always the best policy”. Do you agree?
3. Have you ever had a relationship that was damaged because you (or the other person) was untruthful?