

Character Trait September 17-23 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.

Weekly Verse: 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."

Bible Story: In 1 Kings 22:1-40, Micaiah the prophet demonstrated the difference between saying what others want you to say, and telling the truth (regardless of the consequences).

Quote: "You can lie to everyone else, but you can never really lie to yourself."

Leadership: It can be tempting for leaders to not tell the entire truth because they are afraid it will hurt the other person's feelings. A well-known saying says it like this: by trying to be kind, I have been unclear. By being unclear I have been unkind. Do you agree with this?

Living in Community: Our verse this week describes why we should be truthful with each other, and that is because we are all members of Christ's body. By being untruthful we actually hurt ourselves.

Application: Computers are only as accurate as the information they receive. If the programmer enters information that is not accurate or gives a faulty command, the computer will produce flawed results.

Similarly, the information we accept as true will shape our view of the world and influence our decisions. If we fill our minds with untruths, we will experience the results (e.g., poor decisions, emotional instability, flawed judgment, confusion). By filling our minds with truth, we build a foundation from which to think clearly and make good decisions.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between exaggeration and hyperbole? When is hyperbole ever appropriate?
2. When is silence a lie?
3. What are some situations you might face as a student where it would be easy to be dishonest?