

Character Trait September 24-30 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 4:15 "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: "For every good reason there is to lie, there is a better reason for telling the truth."

Leadership: Truthfulness and honesty are difficult to find in our culture, and it seems that this is especially true of leaders. It is a sad commentary on our society that our first reaction is to think that a leader is lying when they tell us something. One of the ways that you can distinguish yourself from most other leaders is to become known as men and women of integrity and have a reputation for telling the truth.

Living in Community: Our verse for the week says that we should speak the truth in love. This can be a difficult thing to do. However, the same verse tells us that if we can practice this it will help us to become mature as Christians.

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.

Discussion Questions:

1. When is it easy to be truthful?
2. George Washington said that 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) were untruthful?