

Character Trait September 13-17 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: 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."

Leadership: How does the concept of truthfulness fit into your picture of what a leader should be? How does being truthful with others make us better leaders?

Living in Community: Truthfulness is one way in which we can develop trust with others in our community. It is impossible to live in community with others if we are not truthful with them.

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

Is it true? Be certain that what you're saying is accurate and not colored by emotion or second-hand 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 them? Will they 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 truthful isn't easy. Sometimes it is very difficult as it takes thought and effort. But being truthful is best. It's best for you, 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 not tell the truth. How would you respond if you became aware of this among your fellow students?
2. What are some reasons that people will tell lies instead of the truth?