



The Principle of Honesty

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Focus The ninth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” When we keep the principle of honesty, we are free to have a better relationship with God and everyone with whom we interact.

Fun What is your favorite rainy day activity?

Review Key Scriptures: Exodus 20:16; Psalm 32:1–5; James 5:16

1. Be honest with yourself.

Dishonest people use excuses to avoid facing the truth. Honest people admit mistakes and accept correction.

2. Be honest with others.

When we honestly confess our sins to God and to others, we gain humility and accountability. If we violate this commandment, deceit will affect our body, soul, and spirit.

3. Be honest with God.

God has fully paid for our sin of dishonesty, so we can be forgiven. If we try to deal with our own dishonesty without confessing, we become prideful.

Group Dynamics Idea After your group has a better understanding of the importance of honesty, ask members to think of a personal relationship that can improve with honesty. Use a couple of minutes for the group to silently pray or intercede for their relationships.

Discuss

1. Can you think of a time when honesty changed a relationship or a business venture? How did honesty bring transparency and accountability?
2. What makes exaggeration a lie? Why does pride attempt to cover a lie? What can a Christian do to move dishonesty from darkness into the light of truth?
3. Read James 5:16. How can confession help a wounded person see themselves honestly? In what ways does honesty with God and with others help a person be the same in private and in public?
4. In Psalm 32:1–5, David describes a time when he kept silent about his sins and the difference when he confessed to God. Read and relate how these verses move from a dishonest to an honest relationship with God. What is the benefit?
5. According to Titus 3:10, what is the consequence for a person who repeatedly refuses to accept honest correction? Name some ways a person can react to correction and honestly adapt to truth.
6. Is honesty an absolute moral value? How does the principle of honesty shape a civilized society? Does it promote a love for God? How so?
7. What is the importance of an honest witness? What effect does honesty have on others who are involved?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- The ninth commandment means you should not lie.
- An honest relationship with God and with others keeps you free.
- Dishonesty causes deceit in a person's spirit and makes it hard for them to receive help.
- People will be gracious when you are honest and accountable with them.
- A wise person will accept correction and adapt himself to the truth.

Prayer Jesus, we walk in Your truth. Show us any dishonesty we have kept in darkness. We want to confess, receive Your correction, and live freely in Your light. Thank You for forgiving us and cleansing our spirits from deceit. Lord, You are the way, the truth, and the life. We bless You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Silence during group does not always mean awkwardness. As you remain relaxed and peaceful, your group will also relax and welcome the peace of God. When you invite God's presence, members can expect to hear the Holy Spirit speak to them.