

Honesty

What does it mean to be honest? You have probably learned that honesty means telling the truth, and dishonesty means telling lies or leaving out details to hide the truth. Honesty can also include doing our chores to the best of our ability. If we take shortcuts in our jobs at home or school, we are being dishonest in our work. We want to be honest in what we say and what we do.

The Bible tells us to speak the truth. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He said, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (Exod. 20:16). Later God said, “Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another” (Lev. 19:11). The Bible also says, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor” (Eph. 4:25). When we speak the truth and are honest we are obedient to God’s teaching. It feels good to be obedient!

Why is it important to be honest? We want to be honest so we can avoid sin. It also helps us to make friends and get along with others. When we tell the truth our friends, family, teachers and classmates know they can trust us. They believe what we say and will be happy to work and play with us. If we are dishonest, people start to wonder about the things we say and do. This can cause hurt feelings and we can lose friendships if these matters are not taken care of.

Is it always easy to be honest? No. Sometimes it’s very hard. We can be tempted to lie, especially when we’ve fallen into sin. We might want to hide our sin because we’re worried or ashamed. Maybe we used dad’s special tools when we weren’t supposed to. Or maybe we took a treat from the cupboard after mom told us “no more.” When dad or mom asks about this we know they will be unhappy that we disobeyed. We might lie to try to cover our disobedience. This makes it even harder. We feel guilty for lying and our conscience becomes burdened. Mom and dad might continue to ask about what happened and we can be tempted to lie even more. This is what the devil wants. He wants us to sin.

What can we do when we fall into sin? We can ask for the gospel. We can hear and believe that our sins are forgiven in Jesus’ name and blood. Our lies can be washed away so they don’t burden us any longer. Once again, we will feel happy and free! This is the joy we have as believers.

Aaron and Eeva Nikula

Discussion Questions:

1. What does honesty mean?
2. What does the Bible teach about honesty?
3. Why is it important to be honest?
4. Tell of a time when you were being honest and how it helped you.