



HONESTY

Choosing to be
truthful in whatever
you say and do.

WEEK
FOUR

READ JAMES 1:22

DAY 1

Do you have a dog? Or do you know someone who does? Does he know how to sit or stay? Pretty cool, right? But what if you sent your dog to the most expensive dog obedience school ever, then get him home and find out he won't respond to a single command. You'd want your money back, right?

Reading your Bible and NOT doing what it says is as useless as sending a dog to an expensive obedience school that didn't teach him anything. Those commands are useless if not followed, right? The Bible has a LOT to say about how we should treat others. And being honest is at the top of the list. It's not enough to read verses about how important it is to be honest. You actually need to BE honest in the way you live your life.

Just for fun, take a minute to imagine you are a dog trainer. What are some commands you'd teach a dog? What creative or unusual things could you teach a dog to do?

THANK God for his word and ask Him to help you DO what it says and show honesty this week.

READ PROVERBS 19:9

DAY 2

The big problem with dishonesty is that the truth will eventually come out. Sometimes you might think you've gotten away with a lie, you really haven't. Know why? Because even if no one else ever finds out, you know. When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead. Every time.

So, it's important to choose honesty from the start. Maybe you're afraid you might hurt someone else or get in trouble, but honesty is always the best choice. If you want to have healthy relationships built on trust, then you have to find a way to be truthful. Dishonesty always hurts. Honesty protects you and keeps you from harm.

To help you remember this, find a wide rubberband. Write the word "honesty" across it. If you're brave enough, the next time you lie, snap the bracelet against your skin to remind you that dishonesty hurts.

ASK God to help you remember that honesty protects and dishonesty hurts.



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READ PSALM 119:29

DAY 3

Have you ever been tempted to cheat to win a game? Let's say you move your game piece a few steps forward when the other person isn't looking. Or you fudge the score so you're ahead when your friend loses track. Sometimes it might make sense to you to lie to win. Nobody wants to lose, right?

Truth is, when you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead. Even if cheating means you win the game, do you REALLY win? Can you really be excited about winning if you know you cheated your friend? Which is really more important: winning the game or being true to your friendship? Obviously, the relationship matters more. But honesty isn't always easy. The cool thing is that God wants to help us to choose honesty.

Write out the words of this verse on fifteen separate pieces of paper or index cards. Next, set the cards like a hopscotch board. As you jump to each card, say the words of the verse in order. Continue play by removing one or two cards each round. Repeat until you can say the entire verse from memory without the cards.

LOOK for opportunities to be honest and ask God to help you follow through.

READ GENESIS 3:4

DAY 4

When Adam and Eve were in the garden, they had everything they needed. Everything. And the most awesome thing of all: they could walk and talk with God. God had just one rule. They weren't allowed to eat from just one tree in the entire garden. The serpent saw an opportunity and tempted them with a lie. That one lie allowed sin to enter the world. No more walking and talking with God. People were now separated from a holy, perfect God.

Just like that first lie separated Adam and Eve from God, our dishonesty separates us from him and others too.

Thankfully, that isn't the end of the story. God loves us so much that he created an amazing plan to rescue us and fix our broken relationship.

Grab a piece of paper to write your own adventure story. Give your main character a situation where he is tempted to lie. How would the story end if he does lie? How would it be different if he was honest?

KNOW that a lie leads to separation in our relationships with God and others.

**WHEN YOU LIE TO HELP YOURSELF,
YOU HURT YOURSELF INSTEAD.**