

CHARACTER



Honesty

October 2003

**HONESTY: integrity, trustworthiness, truthfulness, sincerity, fairness in dealing, and the
“absence of fraud, deceit, and dissembling.”**

“If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.” -Mark Twain

“Honesty is the best policy.” How many times have we heard this phrase? Unless a statement has been proven to be tried and true, it does not pass the test of time. This phrase has been repeated and lived by for generations. It has lasted through generations because it is true. Honesty is very important. People are interested in knowing that they can trust what we say and do. Many think that they can ‘shade the truth,’ and then wonder why no one believes them anymore. “There is no twilight zone of honesty...A thing is right or it’s wrong. It’s black or it’s white.” (John F. Dodge)

It is important to tell the truth and to live the truth. A story by Patricia Fripp from [A Cup of Chicken Soup for the Soul](#) illustrates this very well.

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon in Oklahoma City. My friend and proud father Bobby Lewis was taking his two little boys to play miniature golf. He walked up to the fellow at the ticket counter and said, “How much is it to get in?”

The young man replied, “\$3.00 for you and \$3.00 for any kid who is older than six. We let them in free if they are six or younger. How old are they?” Bobby replied, “One is three and the other is seven, so I guess I owe you \$6.00.”

The man at the ticket counter said, “Hey, Mister, you could have saved yourself three bucks. You could have told me that the older one was six; I wouldn’t have known the difference.” Bobby replied, “Yes, that may be true, but the kids would have known the difference.”

We have many fine examples of honest people throughout history. Jesus

Christ is of course the ultimate example. Another one was Abraham Lincoln. His nickname is ‘Honest Abe.’ He earned that nickname through countless acts of honesty throughout his life. A couple of well-known stories of Abraham Lincoln illustrate that he was indeed an honest man. He managed a country store at one time during his life. On one occasion, when he counted the cash late at night, he found that he had taken a few cents from a customer more than was due, he closed the store and walked a long distance to make good the deficiency. At another time, discovering on the scales a weight with which he had weighed out a package of tea for a woman the night before, he saw that he had given her too little for her money. He weighed out what was due and carried it to her.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Who you are speaks so loudly I can’t hear what you’re saying.” We need to be that kind of example.

There is a book with the title, “Who Are You When Nobody is Looking?” Are you one person in public, but another person entirely when you think you can “get away with it?” Nathaniel Hawthorne said, “No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which one may be true.” In challenging times when ethics are more important than ever before, we need to be people of integrity - the same on the inside as we are on the outside.

Roger Williams
Lindon Resident

"Truth never
damages a cause that
is just."

Mahatma Gandhi

"All other
knowledge is hurtful
to him who has not
honesty and good-
nature."

Montaigne

"A straight line is
shortest in morals as
well as in
geometry."

Rahel

Book List

"The Empty Pot"

by Demi

"A Day's Work"

by Eve Bunting

"Passage to Freedom"

by Ken Mochizuki

"The Children's Book of Virtues"

"The Honest Disciple"

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"The Indian Cinderella"

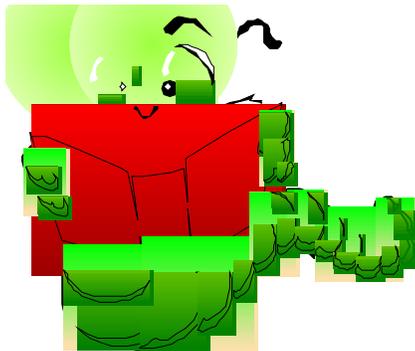
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"The Boy Who Cried Wolf"

Page 100

"The Honest Woodman"

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Family Activities

-Play a game together. Talk about how honesty is important to the fairness of the game.

-Wrap a string around a plant (or loosely around a person) as you tell a story of deceit. How does telling lies also stifle our potential?

-Mohandas Gandhi, Indian political leader, was born on October 2, 1869. He said, "One (person) cannot do right in one department of life whilst...occupied in doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole."

By Laura Clement

Lindon Character Connection is sponsoring a "RELATIONSHIP CHECKUP" family seminar by Dr. Jason Carroll, Ph.D. BYU Marriage and Family Relations on Wednesday, October 22, at 7 p.m. in the Oak Canyon Junior High Auditorium 111 South 725 East Lindon.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FAMILY MONTH, Lindon Character Connection presents "Strengthening the Family" by President L. Edward Burton, former state legislator, mayor, church authority and leader, Sunday, November 9th at 7 p.m. at the Lindon Stake Center 1050 East 100 North Lindon. (adults only please)

Kid's Corner

Honesty is telling the truth. It is also just doing the right thing even if no one is watching. Honesty is like integrity. If you are honest you are trustworthy. It is important to be honest. That way people know that they can trust you. So, if you are blamed for something, people who know you can stand up for you. One time I decided to go to the store and buy something. I picked something I wanted and bought it. The cashier gave me too much change. So, I returned the extra and she thanked me for being honest. It helped me realize that what I did was the right thing to do. It was important so I would have a good reputation of being honest. That is important to me.

Taylor Godfrey
Oak Canyon Jr. High
7th grade
Mrs. Robinson

We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials this year by using the web site located at www.thecharacterconnection.com. If you are interested in receiving a monthly reminder of the character traits and access to resource materials, please e-mail your address to arlainea@isquaredinc.com

*Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support, if you can help please send contributions to:
Lindon Character Connection
c/o Alpine Foundation
575 N 100 E
American Fork, UT 84003
(You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)*

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