

Lesson 24

Understanding Honesty: Being Truthful Like Jesus

What is Honesty?

Honesty means always telling the truth and being fair in everything we do. It's like being a good friend who never tries to trick or deceive others. In the Bible, it says that being honest is really important (Exodus 20:16).

Why Honesty Matters

Being honest is super important for our salvation. It means being true in everything we say and do. Just like how God is always honest and fair, we should be too. When we're honest, we're like Jesus, who always told the truth and never lied.

Being Honest in Different Ways

1. Lying Is Dishonest: Lying means not telling the truth on purpose. It's like saying something that's not true or tricking someone with our words. Jesus said we should never lie (Matthew 19:18). Even if we think a little lie is okay, it's not!

2. Stealing Is Dishonest: Stealing means taking something that doesn't belong to us without permission. It could be taking a toy from a friend or taking something from a store without paying. Jesus said stealing is wrong too (Matthew 19:18). We should always ask before taking something that's not ours.

3. Cheating Is Dishonest: Cheating means not being fair or not doing our best. It could be copying someone's homework or not working hard when we're supposed to. Jesus wants us to be fair and honest in everything we do (Matthew 19:18). Cheating isn't fair to others or to ourselves.

No Excuses for Dishonesty

Sometimes, we might want to make excuses for being dishonest. But even if we have reasons, being dishonest is never okay. When we make excuses, we're not being true to ourselves or to God. It's important to always tell the truth, no matter what.

Being Completely Honest

Being completely honest means always telling the truth, even when it's hard. It means being true to our promises and never trying to trick others. When we're completely honest, we can feel proud of ourselves and know that we're doing the right thing.

Why Honesty Matters to Us

When we're honest, we feel good about ourselves because we know we're doing what's right. But when we're dishonest, we feel bad inside. It's always better to be honest and true, just like Jesus (Matthew 19:18).

Scripture References:

- Exodus 20:16 (Commandment not to bear false witness)
- Matthew 19:18 (Commandment not to lie, steal, or cheat)

Title: "The Truthful Tale of Emily and the Lost Necklace"

Once upon a time in a cozy town nestled between rolling hills, there lived a girl named Emily. Emily had a heart as pure as gold and a smile that could brighten the darkest of days. She was known throughout the town for her honesty and integrity.

One sunny afternoon, as Emily was playing in the park with her friends, she stumbled upon a shiny necklace lying on the ground. It sparkled in the sunlight, and Emily's eyes widened with excitement. She picked it up and examined it closely, marveling at its beauty.

But as she turned the necklace over in her hands, Emily noticed a small inscription on the back: "Property of Mrs. Thompson." Realization dawned on Emily, and she knew immediately that the necklace belonged to her neighbor, Mrs. Thompson.

Without hesitation, Emily knew what she had to do. She rushed over to Mrs. Thompson's house and knocked on the door, her heart pounding in her chest. When Mrs. Thompson answered, Emily held out the necklace with a solemn expression on her face.

"Mrs. Thompson, I found this necklace in the park," Emily said earnestly. "I think it belongs to you."

Mrs. Thompson's eyes widened in surprise as she recognized her missing necklace. She thanked Emily profusely and gave her a warm hug. "You are such a honest and trustworthy girl, Emily," she exclaimed. "Thank you for returning my necklace."

With a smile, Emily nodded and returned home, her heart light and happy. She knew that even though it would have been easy to keep the necklace for herself, being honest was always the right thing to do.

As Emily lay in bed that night, she felt a sense of pride wash over her. She knew that by choosing to be truthful, she had followed in the footsteps of Jesus, who always spoke the truth and never wavered in His honesty.

From that day forward, Emily made a promise to herself to always be completely honest, no matter what. For she understood that honesty wasn't just about telling the truth—it was about living a life of integrity and honor, just like Jesus. And with that thought in her heart, Emily drifted off to sleep, knowing that she had done the right thing.