

CAN YOU BE TRUSTED?

READ LUKE 19:8-9

DAY 1

Ask a parent for some construction paper, safety scissors, and tape. Carefully cut 20 strips from the paper that you can use to make a chain. Make the links by taping each end of a strip together, then sliding another strip in the link and taping those ends together, and so on. After you've made a few links, tape half of them up on one side of a doorway, and the other half on the other side (ideally high enough that you can still walk under it). When you try to link them together, it doesn't work, does it? When trust is broken, it's like a broken chain. There's nothing to hold things together. But you can rebuild that trust. Make links out of the rest of the paper and join the two ends together, forming one long chain.

How wonderful that even if we've messed up and been dishonest, we can be forgiven and make things right! It does take work, though. Leave your chain up all week long as a reminder that trust can be rebuilt with some effort.

THANK

God for making it possible for us to be forgiven and rebuild trust.

READ PROVERBS 16:13

DAY 2

It's true—you will be a lot more trusted and valued if you speak the truth! And those in authority over you, from your parents to your teachers, will be pleased to know they can trust you. And the more they can trust you, the more privileges and opportunities you will be given.

Make a quick list of times that your parents or teachers ask for your honesty (did you brush your teeth, eat all your dinner, feed the dog, turn in your homework, keep your eyes on your own paper, etc). Star when it's most tempting for you to NOT tell the truth.

1	2
3	4

Find a piece of a paper and fold it into fourths. Every time this week that you are honest, even when it's hard, put a big check or smiley face in one of the boxes. Ask if you can have a special reward for working on being honest this week—maybe staying up an extra 20 minutes, picking a movie to watch or a game to play, even a sweet treat. When your paper is all filled in, remember that it pays to be honest!

LOOK

for ways to build trust by being honest and doing what you say you will.

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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

DAY 3

Get out your Legos® or some other kind of building blocks and build a tall tower. Then ask a parent to time you while you knock it over and tear all the blocks apart. Write how long it takes to tear it apart here: _____. Now ask them to time you while you build it back up. Write the time here: _____. It takes a lot longer to build up than it does to tear down, doesn't it?

Sometimes telling the truth is easy, but sometimes the honest choice is actually harder. If we think we're going to get in trouble, or we won't seem as cool as we want others to think we are, then being honest can be hard work. But it's the only way to build trust.

ASK

God for the wisdom to know how to build trust and the strength to actually do it.

READ LUKE 16:10

DAY 4

Have you heard the phrase "a little white lie"? The idea is that there are some lies that are so small and meant with good intentions that they're not really bad. But the truth of the matter is that we need to be honest with all things big and small in order to be trusted. In fact, when we can be trusted with even the small things, we are more likely to be honest with the big things too (and more likely to even be trusted with the big things by others in the first place!).

What are some **BIG THINGS** that you would like to be trusted with later on? (Maybe sleeping over at a friend's, having your own cell phone, driving a car, or staying up later?)

What are some "**SMALLER**" THINGS that you could do NOW to earn trust to be able to do the bigger things? (Maybe doing your chores well and without being reminded or taking care of your things and not losing them?)

KNOW

that to be trusted with the big things, you have to be faithful in the small things first.