



Honesty

5/20/2011

Discuss: Is it difficult or easy to tell small lies these days? Why?

- **Family time**
 - .Share your high and low of the week. Prayer request.
- **Share applications from last or previous weeks**
 - Did anyone take any steps this week to follow what Jesus had to say about living pure? If so, you don't need to tell us what it was, but how has it felt? Has anyone in the youth group been helpful in your quest to be more like Christ in your personal lives?

What does Jesus say about honesty? First, let's look at an Old Testament passage, Leviticus 19:11.

11 "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

- How does this passage define lying? Do you consider telling "half truths" lying?

Read Matthew 5:33-37.

33 "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.'^[a] **34** But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. **35** And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. **36** Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. **37** Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

What do you hear Jesus saying?

If you are going to be honest, you need to move toward honesty on three levels:

1. Honesty with self.

1. How do you see your friends struggling with being honest with themselves? How might an honest admittance of self change them?

Honesty before God.

1. What can stop us from being honest with God? Look at Jesus' honesty with God in the garden or on the cross (Matthew 26:39-42 and 27:46). It gives us an example and the freedom to be honest with God.

Honesty with each other.

0. What are ways that we can be dishonest with each other?
1. What stops us from being honest with each other?
2. What benefits do you see in friends being honest with each other? (Ephesians 4:25 – speak truth with each other). There is real freedom in not having to maintain a false image.

Memory verse for the week : "So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (Acts 24:16).

Vision

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- How can we "spur one another on" in this area of honesty?
- How could a group like this, committed to living honestly before Christ and one another, radically impact our schools? **Pray** for this vision.