

Name: _____

Date: _____

A LIFE OF INTEGRITY

*“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.”
(Proverbs 12:22)*

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God has commissioned us to speak the truth and to walk in it. Dishonesty damages all relationships.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God hates lies. God is truth. God is involved in every detail of our lives.
<i>Good Works</i>	Never compromise the truth. Take God’s word seriously and allow it to control our speech and actions so that we live a life of integrity.

A. God’s Nature Is Truth

If we look around us, the world places great value on public image and self-protection. As a result, for most, truthfulness takes a backseat in their lives. Even Christians bend the truth, use flattering speech, or tell half-truths. Proverbs 16:2 reminds us, “All the ways of man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.” No matter how much we justify ourselves, the Lord desires that we are truthful.

B. The Father of Lies

It doesn’t matter what kind of lie you tell, or how “big” or “little” the lie. The Bible teaches us that “[a] false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish” (Prov 19:9). Clearly, deception is a serious sin in the eyes of God.

1. *Abraham (Gen 12:10–20; 20:1–28)*
2. *Achan (Josh 7)*
3. *Micaiah, Ahab, and Jehoshaphat (1 Kgs 22:1–37)*

C. The Destruction of Liars

Lying involves deception, cheating, and disregard for the truth. God doesn’t want us to give false testimony against others either, which is difficult in the age of social media. Ultimately, practicing deception can bring destruction to ourselves, to those around us, and even to the church.

Why should I live a life of honesty?

1. *Rewards:* Prov 12:22; 1 Pet 3:10–12; Tit 2:7–8; Mt 25:23
2. *Punishment:* Ps 5:6; Prov 19:9; Rev 21:8; Josh 7:11–12

Life Application: Living a Life of Honesty

1. *What does honesty mean?*

Most people prefer to abide by their own standards of honesty, and these standards are ever-changing and flexible. We must learn to do what is right in God’s eyes, not our own.

2. *Taking steps towards honesty*

Speaking the truth is a sign of maturity that shows our love for God. But achieving a life of honesty is a step-by-step process that requires: observation, admission, determination, and love.

3. *How do I live a life of honesty?*

We should always seek the approval of God over men, without fear of the truth or its consequences. This means never compromising and taking God’s words seriously.

