



Lesson Title: Honesty



Key Concept: We are motivated to pursue our mission of ALL making disciples of ALL by our core values. They are our why. This lesson examines Honesty as demonstrated by the truthful, candid, genuine speech and action for the edification and assurance of ALL.



Scriptures:

¹⁵ Instead, we will *speak the truth* in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.
(Ephesians 4:15–16 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Ephesians 4; John 14:6



Lesson Thoughts:

As we grow more like Jesus in every way, our speech and actions will be characterized more and more by honesty. This honesty is exhibited both internally with self and externally with our neighbor. This value is core to ALL making disciples of ALL, and our commitment to honesty is why we do what we do.

As we are made and make disciples, how do we know that honesty is present and growing within us and our community? First, honesty affects not only our speech but also our actions. While honesty emanates from our integrity with self, it is focused outwards for the benefit of others. So, our speech and actions, while true to self, are governed by what improves and builds confidence in others. Thus, honesty is present and growing within a community when its members are focused on the edification and assurance of ALL.

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Second, honesty is about a commitment to truth. Jesus is truth (John 14:6). Truth encompasses both the seen and the unseen worlds. It is the facts that are observed in the seen world and revealed by God from the unseen world. Honesty is courageous and daring. God does not simply value truth or speak truth. Truth is the expression of God, for God is truth. Honesty is present and growing within a community when its members are radically committed to truth that is already known as well as pursuing truth not yet discovered or revealed.

Third, honesty is about right motivation and is genuine and authentic. Honesty is characterized by the desire to be real. Being fake, superficial, image-oriented, produced, self-serving, and hidden are all human temptations that the light of honesty resists. Honesty produces within a community a desire, despite our brokenness, to be true to what God has created, both individually and communally.

Finally, honesty is about the absence of deception and the presence of sincerity. Honesty is motivated by love and respect for our neighbor. When truth is believed and pursued and we live and speak with genuine authenticity, we are then candid. Because we live in a broken world and we ourselves are broken, this candid speech and action is not always comfortable. It not only affirms what is right but corrects what is wrong. It is radically committed both to affirming what is right and to rejecting what is wrong within our neighbor.

A core value of our community is honesty that is generated from within but is focused outward for the benefit of all. It is characterized by both a commitment to truth and an ongoing pursuit of truth. It has the right motivation of sincerity, is committed to all persons, and embraces the genuine and the authentic. Our speech and our actions are for the edification and assurance of all the community.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Why do you think Honesty was chosen as one of our core values?
- 2) How does your response to conflict affect your honesty?
- 3) How can respect be used to hide a lack of honesty?

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- 4) Does our world's culture value honesty? If so, how does it encourage honesty? If not, how does it discourage honesty?
- 5) Where do you struggle with honesty as demonstrated by truthful, candid, genuine speech and action for the edification and assurance of all?

Next Lesson: Kindness

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Read Ephesians 4. Meditate on how to fulfill Paul's instructions to "speak the truth in love".
- 2) What is the role of honesty in fulfilling Paul's description of each part of the body doing its own special work and thereby helping the other parts of the body grow?
- 3) List specific areas in both speech and action where you can grow in honesty (both with your fellow disciples and in the larger community).

Notes and Reflections, cont.