



THEME

Deception + Dishonesty

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

2 Samuel 11:1-5, Proverbs 10:9, James 1:14-15, James 4:17, Luke 16:10-12, Matt 5:14-16, Matt 5:33-37, Colossians 3:5-11

CONVERSATION

1. If you had to tell the truth in all interactions for a month - what would the outcome be?
 - a. How would it affect your life? Your friends' lives?
2. Is there a spectrum of dishonesty (some lies are worse than others)? Explain.
 - a. Are "little white lies" a thing? How do we determine they're little?
3. Is there a certain amount of dishonesty that's expected - even considered polite?
4. Take a look at: **Colossians 3:5-11**

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.
5. Why is God so against dishonesty? What's he trying to get by encouraging honesty in us?
6. If lying is our "old nature" (vs 9) does that mean honesty is a mark of something new + good happening in us?
 - a. What do you think it means to "learn to know your Creator and become like him"?
 - b. How do we "learn" to be like God?
 - c. Does this seem even doable? Isn't it a little out of our reach?
 - d. Can we become more + more honest?
7. Imagine a small, isolated, self sustained community where everyone was honest all the time.
 - a. How would living in that community affect our everyday lives? How we saw + interacted with the world around us?
 - b. What would living there do to our anxiety, paranoia, conspiracy theories, fear + anger?
 - c. How would it affect our relationships?
8. Finish by talking about the association between honesty + peace (peace of mind/heart).

ACT + PRAY TOGETHER

- How can we begin to learn honesty from God?
- How can we help one another with a challenge this ambitious + worthwhile?
- Pray together about chasing God's honesty standard.
- Pray together about fixing some deceptions we're currently in.
- Pray together about the insecurities deep inside us that can prompt us to deceive those around us.