

# 30 DAYS TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY

## Dishonesty

30 Days to Save Your Family

### Connect

20 Minutes

1. **Two Truths and a Lie:** Have each member share with the group three things about themselves. Two that are true...and one that is a lie. Let group members guess which statement is the lie. For a little more fun, keep score and see who is the best lie detector.

### Grow

30 Minutes

2. What famous person comes to your mind when you think of lying?

The Bible is full of stories where dishonesty is involved. Abraham tells more than one foreign ruler that his beautiful wife is his sister to avoid being killed. Jacob lied to his father Isaac in order to gain his brother Esau's inheritance. Peter lied to the servant girl in the High Priest's courtyard and denied being a follower of Jesus.

Dishonesty is clearly a pattern when you look at the real life stories of many of the Bible's heroes. And yet, when confronting a group of Pharisees Jesus said,

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."  
—John 8:42-47 (NIV)

3. Our culture has a habit of minimizing what the Bible calls sin. Little white lies, stretching the truth, telling a tall tale or a whopper all have a way of downplaying the damage that a lack of honesty can do. Why do you think that is?
4. When is it toughest for you to be completely honest? Why?

The struggle with honesty isn't new. Teaching a group of early Christians in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul said, "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 (Ephesians 4:15 NLT)." He went on to teach them, "So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body (Ephesians 4:25 NLT)."

5. Can you feel Paul's intensity? Why do you think he was unwilling to accept the dishonesty of the Ephesians?



6. If a commitment to speaking the truth is one part of the truth-telling equation, the other part is a willingness to hear the truth. If your spouse or a good friend were asked, would they say it's more difficult for you to speak or hear the truth? Why?
7. "An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy." Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT

Who in your life are you able to speak the truth with and receive the truth from? Do you have someone that you can share the truth with? If not, what's keeping you from taking a step toward that kind of authentic truth-telling relationship?

**Share**

5 Minutes

8. 30DTSYF isn't an activity for individuals. So much of what makes it possible to proactively make a difference in your family or even in your own life has to do with teaming up with other people who can help; people who will help. Who would you like to add to your group? Take a few minutes and jot down a name or two of people that you'd like to invite to join the group.

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME

Commit to:

- Invite them this week! Don't put it off.
- Offer to ride together to the meeting.
- Be on the lookout for other potential members every day through the first 2 weeks.

**Surrender**

15 Minutes

9. Although the idea may be new to you, sharing your need for prayer is often a first step toward the encouragement you need. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests.

**30 Ways in 30 Days to Save Your Family Reading Plan:**

- Day 8: Assess Your Home (Chapter 3)
- Day 9: Understand How Marketers Target Your Children (Chapter 4)
- Day 10: Direct Your Child's Education (Chapter 11)
- Day 11: Tell Your Children What Makes a True Hero, and Pledge to Be a Hero, Too (Chapter 18)  
Set the Example (Chapter 21)
- Day 12: Envision the Childhood You Want for your Children, and the Adults You Want Them to Become (Chapter 2)  
Learn How to Have Meaningful Discussions With Your Child (Chapter 12)
- Day 13: Help Your Children to Connect Ownership of Material Things and Privileges with Work (Chapter 28)
- Day 14: Teach Your Children to be Good Stewards (Chapter 29)