

EXPERIENCE THE STORY



HONESTY





STEP 1: READ

Luke 19:1-10

KEY VERSE

“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”
-Proverbs 12:22



STEP 2: EXPLAIN

Honesty: Being truthful in all you say and do.

Have you ever been tempted to not tell the truth? Maybe mom asked you to clean your room and when she asked if you did, you said yes even though you didn't. Or maybe your parents gave you money for snacks at a ball game, and when they asked if there was any money left you said no, even though you had some change left.

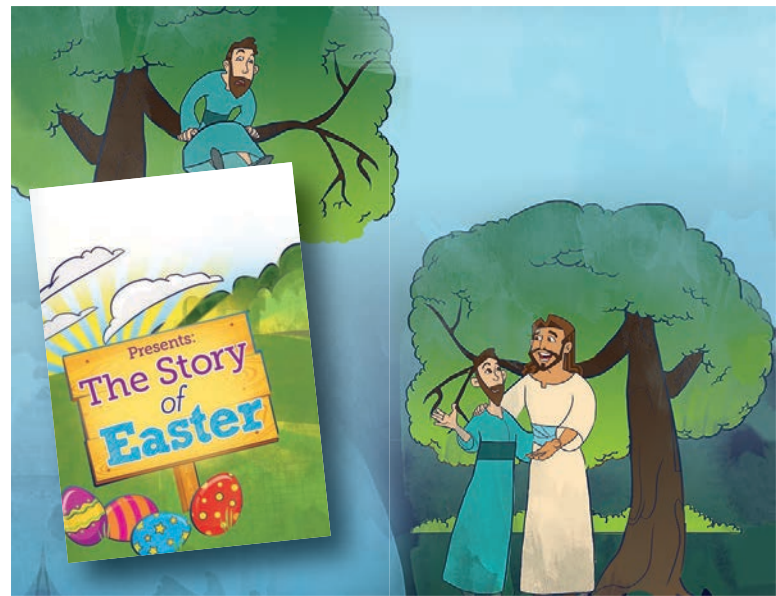
When we don't tell the truth, we are not **honest**. Even when we only tell part of the truth, and leave out important parts, we are still lying.

Lying almost always gets us into bigger trouble. Even if no one else ever finds out, God knows what we have done. It is sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God and with others.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the Bible. When he collected tax money from people, he took more than he was supposed to and kept it for himself.

When Zacchaeus met Jesus and realized his sin, he promised to return four times as much as he had taken from people! He wanted to make things right, with God and with the people he had stolen from.

Admitting that we haven't been **honest** can be hard, but it pleases God. The Bible says that God takes delight in (is happy with) people who are trustworthy (who are **honest** and make the right choices). Sometimes it might mean saying you are sorry to someone. It might mean returning something that isn't yours. An **honest** person will do whatever he can to make things right.



Check out this story on p. 20 in *the Book of Hope, The Story of Easter*
store.onehope.net/



STEP 3: PRAY

Dear God, Sometimes, I don't always tell the whole truth. Please forgive me of my sin and help me choose to be honest when I might be tempted not to. If there are people I need to apologize to or make things right with, help me have courage to do the right thing. I want to be more like your son Jesus. I want to be an honest person. Amen.



STEP 4: TALK ABOUT IT!

Kids ask your parents:

Was there ever a time when you were tempted to not be honest? What did you do?

Parents ask your kids:

Why do you think it's hard sometimes to be honest?



EXTRA QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb so he could see Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to come down from the tree?
3. What did Zacchaeus say he would do after talking to Jesus?

EXTRA QUESTIONS ANSWERS:

1. A sycamore-fig tree.
2. He was going to stay at Zacchaeus' house.
3. Repay anyone he had cheated.

1. As a family act out the story of Zacchaeus together.



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

9 Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Luke 19:1-10 NLT

4. Make “HONESTY” tickets and hand them out to each other when you see someone being kind.

THANKS FOR BEING HONEST!

TO: _____ FROM: _____

I NOTICED YOUR HONESTY WHEN:

THANKS FOR BEING HONEST!

TO: _____ FROM: _____

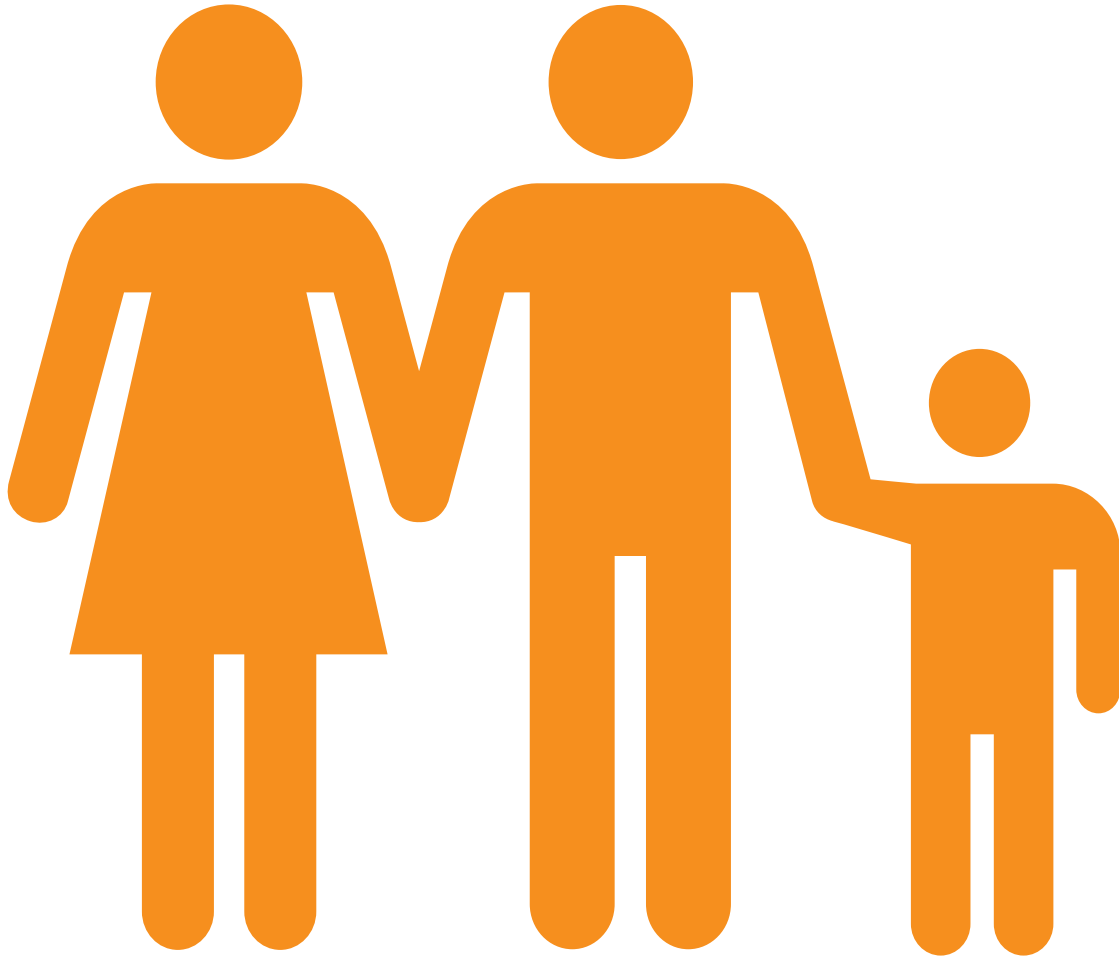
I NOTICED YOUR HONESTY WHEN:

THANKS FOR BEING HONEST!

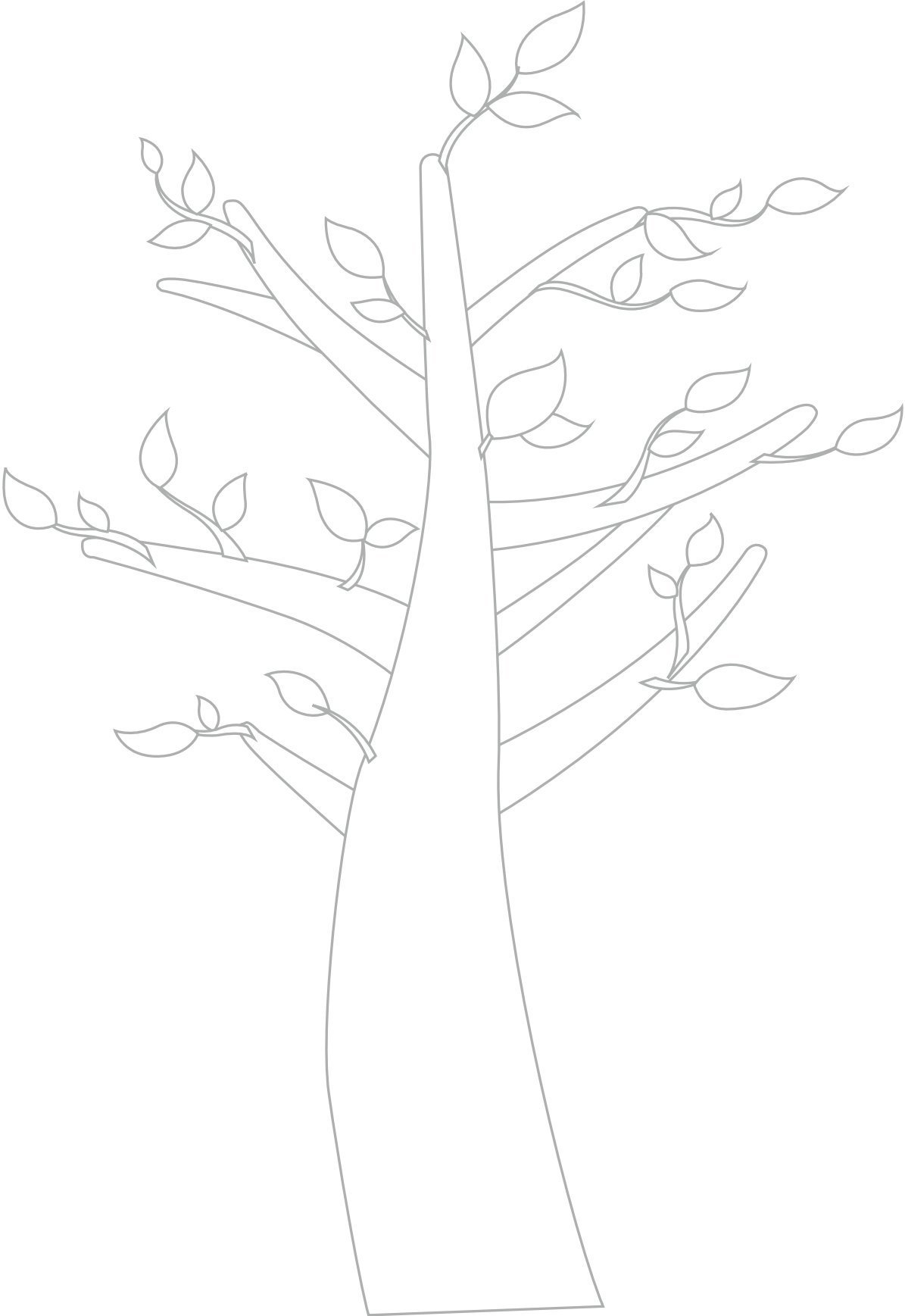
TO: _____ FROM: _____

I NOTICED YOUR HONESTY WHEN:

2. Talk about situations where it's hard to be honest.
Encourage each other with ideas of how you can choose honesty.



3. Draw a picture of a tree. Write the memory verse (Proverbs 12:22) on the branches to remind you to choose honesty.



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5. Use a Bible to authenticate the cryptogram's message by looking up Proverbs 11:3 (NLT)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
20	23	16	11	24	6	21	14	4	15	7	12	22
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
8	25	3	9	26	18	5	13	19	2	1	10	17

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6. Color in the key verse below!

THE LORD DETESTS

LYING

lips,

BUT HE

delights

who

IN THOSE
tell THE

truth

- PROVERBS 12:22