



TRUTH & TRUST

"Always Tell the Truth"

Understanding Truth from Your Child's Point of View:

In "Always Tell the Truth," one lie leads to another until things are out of control. Danny Lion is supposed to buy decorations for the Fun Day picnic. Instead, he buys a Blobit, which is a special toy that grows when you add water to it. Danny then lies and says he lost the money to cover up what he has done. Feeling guilty, he decides to bury the Blobit. Then, it rains... and the Blobit grows to be seven feet tall! Now Danny's lie is visible to everyone.

Truth and trust is an age dependent value - the words "truth" and "trust" are too difficult for 3-5 year-olds to understand. Young children whose needs are met learn that the world is trustworthy. They learn to feel secure; they are willing to explore and discover. Without trust, fear develops, and fear breeds lies. Youngsters sometimes test the difference between reality and fantasy. Adults should tell the truth and expect children to tell the truth in return. We want little ones to trust God. Adults are their first examples of what God is like. We must be trustworthy so that children can learn how to trust the Lord. You might want to avoid using the words, "truth" and "lie," because these are difficult ideas for young children to understand. Talk about "answers to our questions" for "truth" and "made-up stories" for "lies." In the video, we use the phrase "telling what really happened" for truth and "hiding what really happened" for lying. Tell anecdotes and tales to your children and comment that they are "made-up stories." If little ones do tell lies, see their mistakes as learning experiences. Tell them that you still love them.

Here are some things to consider in teaching your children about truth.



3 & 4 year-olds try to please adults and are sensitive to disapproval. At this age, rules are right because adults say they are right. Little ones are very imaginative, so what might appear to be lies may only be wishful thinking or storytelling. It also may be that if one child talks about his or her experiences, any other may claim to have had exactly the same one! In problem situations, parents can ask fewer questions (which youngsters may not answer with facts) and make more statements about what they've observed such as, "I see the milk is spilled." Adults should model truth-telling for their children by giving simple and truthful answers.



5 & 6 year-olds might not actually lie with an intent to deceive; they often get the facts mixed up. They may change the facts just to make an event sound better and to seek adult approval. Parents can talk about the difference between "what really happened" and "hiding what really happened" to explain the concepts of truth and lies.



7 & 9 year-olds want to please adults. Therefore they may say what they think we want to hear, even if it is not the truth. Parents can help them by talking about the difference between lying, teasing, and pretending.



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Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: "What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?" Then, watch how the program ends.

After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Go on a trust walk. One person is the leader; the partner wears a blindfold. The leader takes the follower's hand, and they go for a walk. The object is to build trust between the two people, so don't play tricks! Switch roles.
- 2 Have a fun Day Picnic. Each family member provides something: a game, the food, decorations, a story, a sign.
- 3 Make silly putty (similar to a Blobit!) Mix well: 1 cup of Elmer's white glue and 1/2 cup of St-Flo liquid starch. Let it dry in the bowl; store in an airtight container. Use on smooth surfaces.
- 4 Make a box camera, just like the one Bubba makes for the Fun Day Picnic. Put a hole in each end of a shoebox. Fill in one hole with a hollowed-out styrofoam cup for the camera lens. Leave the other hole for an eyepiece.
- 5 Draw a picture about the events of the day.
- 6 Play "Do Like Me." Player 1 says, "Everybody repeat after me: I like you; you like me. Do like me, on one, two, three! Okay everybody, _____!"
(Fill in the blank with an action such as laugh, fall down, give a hug.) Player 1 selects the next leader.
- 7 Learn and sing together one of the songs from "Always Tell the Truth."



Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: www.quigleysvillage.net