

Heart

Memory Verse: '...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'
John 8:32 (NRSV)

Study plan: Telling the truth and being honest is the best thing to do so you don't hurt other people or yourself.



To earn the Heart Badge, you will need to do the following steps:



Step 1: Telling lies hurts other people Leader's initials _____

1 Kings 3:16-28

Once there was a very wise king. His name was King Solomon. One day two women came to him with a problem. It was a very sad problem. Would King Solomon be wise enough to solve the problem?

The first woman said, "My friend and I live in the same house. We both had babies at the same time. One night, my friend rolled over on her baby and it died. Since I was asleep, she traded her baby with my baby. When I woke up she said the baby who was alive was hers and that my baby had died."

"No, no," said the second woman, "this baby who is alive is my baby. My baby did not die."

The two women continued to argue. What should King Solomon do? How could he decide who was the honest mother? Then he had an idea.

"I will split the baby in two and then you can each have a half of the baby!" said King Solomon.

"Oh, no," said the first woman, "let her keep the baby. Please don't cut it in half!"

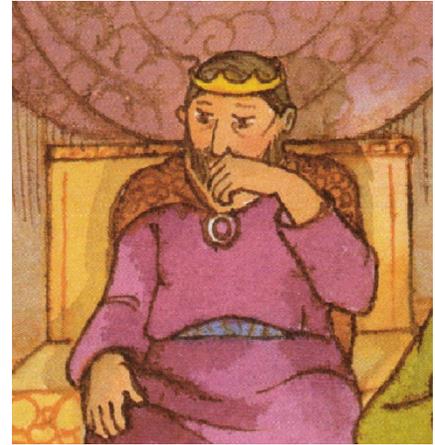
"Go ahead and cut the baby in two," said the second woman, "I don't mind."



"Now I know who the real mother is," said King Solomon. "The first woman is the real mother. She loves her baby so much, she would rather give it to the second woman than let it die. I can see she is telling the truth."



King Solomon had to decide who was telling the truth. He came up with a way to figure out which woman was telling the truth.



There is a way for you to tell right from wrong, too. Ask yourself: Will this hurt someone, maybe even myself?

When the one woman lied, she was hurting her friend by taking her baby away. She was also hurting herself because she would feel very bad inside for taking her friend's baby.

Why did the woman want to take her friend's baby? _____

Did taking her friend's baby make things better? _____



Do one or both of the following:

- ❖ Act out the story you have just read. Bring a baby doll from home to play act with.

- ❖ Make a portrait of King Solomon, using foil and sequins to decorate his crown. Write "Solomon was a Wise King" on the paper and keep the picture in their notebook.



Mandy's Sad Mistake

This is a story that happened a long time ago when having a TV, radio or even a watch was very special. These things were special because they were complicated to make and were very expensive. Life was a little different back then; girls almost always wore dresses and usually wore hats when they went out. They played in their front yards, rode their bikes to school and had daily chores. But as you will hear, some things were not different. Children, and grownups, had a hard time always being honest and telling the truth.

There once was a girl named Mandy who would make up stories to cover up her mistakes. Her parents would eventually find out the truth, but she still kept on telling lies. Then one day, something happened that changed everything.



It was Christmas and when Mandy opened her presents, she found the prettiest watch she had ever seen! Never had she dared hope that her parents would give her anything so expensive. In those days, watches were made by jewelers because they had tiny wheels and gears inside that had to be put together very carefully so the watch

would work well.

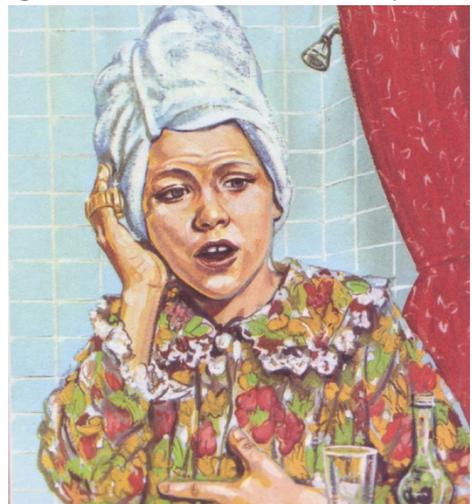
Mandy put the watch on her wrist and smiled. This was a real watch, not just a toy. Her parents told her to be careful with such an expensive gift. She must wind it slowly and never get it wet. She must take it off when she washed the dishes and before she had a bath.

"If you take good care of that watch," said Dad, "it will last you a long time." "Oh, I'll take care of it," said Mandy. "It is the most beautiful thing I ever owned."

Then one evening, about a month later, Mandy was having her bath. She had done her hair and washed herself all over when she suddenly noticed that her precious watch was still on her wrist. It had gotten all wet! She jumped out of tub, removed her watch, and held it to her ear. It had stopped!

"Oh!" she cried. "My lovely watch is ruined. I've ruined it! What will Mother say? What will Dad say?" She felt she could not face them. They were so kind and loving and she thought she simply could not tell them the terrible truth about what had happened.

Mandy decided to make up a story about the watch.



A few days later at breakfast, Dad asked her what time it was.

"I'm not quite sure," she said, blushing just a little. "I'm afraid my watch has stopped." "Stopped?" said Dad. "Did you forget to wind it last night?" "Oh, no," said Mandy, "I wound it, but it just stopped." "Let me see it," said Dad. Mandy took it off her wrist and handed it to him.

"That's strange," said Dad. "It looks a little misty under the glass. I wonder what could have caused that?" "I was wondering, too," said Mandy, "Perhaps it got wet when I was out in the rain last night."

When Dad had gone, Mother asked to see the watch. She noticed little drops of water under the glass. "Mandy, are you sure you had this watch out in the rain?" asked Mother. "Oh, yes, Mother, yes," said Mandy. "It was raining quite hard." "No," said Mother. "Not last night. It didn't rain at all."

"Then, it must have been the night before," said Mandy, blushing even more.

"Are you sure this is rain water?" asked Mother, getting a little suspicious. "Are you sure it is not bath water?" asked mother very sternly. "No-er-yes-er-no; I'm not quite sure," said Mandy, now very upset. "Tell, me the truth, Mandy!" said her mother. "Did you get into the bath tub with this watch on your wrist?"



Mandy gave in. "Yes," she said, "I wore it in the bath." "When did you do this?" asked Mother. "Last week." "Oh," said Mother, "that's too long ago! If only you had told me right away, instead of lying all this time!" "Why?" asked Mandy.

"Because, if you had told me at once, I would have rushed the watch to the jeweler's and it could have been fixed. Now it must be all rusty inside and cannot be fixed." "It can never be fixed!" cried Mandy. "Oh, if I had only told you the truth right away! Now I have lost my beautiful watch for ever."

It was a hard, hard lesson Mandy learned that day. In the future, whenever she was tempted to cover up a mistake with a false story, she remembered what had happened to her precious watch and decided to tell the truth right away. *Adapted from "Myrtle's Sad Mistake," Bedtime Stories, vol. 5, pages 124-128, by Arthur S. Maxwell, Copyright 1976 Review and Herald @. Used by permission.*



When Mandy hid that she had gotten her watch wet, she hurt herself and her parents. She hurt herself because it was too late to fix her watch. She hurt parents because they could no longer trust Mandy.

Mandy had a bad habit. What was it? _____

In the Bible, there are 10 Commandments. These are rules God gave us so we can live the way he wants us to. The ninth commandment is "Thou shall not bear false witness." It means that you should not lie. Another kind of lying is when you hide the truth.

How did Mandy hide the truth? _____

Do people usually figure out when someone is lying? _____



Remember the story about the shepherd boy who cried wolf? When the shepherd boy was bored, he would cry "wolf, wolf." All the townspeople would come running to protect him from the wolf. Yet when they came, he would say he had been joking. Finally, the wolf really did come. Do you know what happened? The townspeople thought he was lying again and didn't run to help him.

Draw a picture of the boy who cried wolf.



Discern

Step 3: What is your conscience? Leader's initials:___

God knows us and knows what is in our hearts because he made us. When we learn about Christ, the Holy Spirit prints the truth on our heart.

People often say, "Let your conscience be your guide". Your conscience is that feeling inside of you that helps you do the right thing. It is the voice of the Holy Spirit.

If you aren't sure what is the right thing to do, make a list of what is good and bad about each choice. Will it hurt someone or yourself? Then pray to God to help you make a decision.



In the movie *Pinocchio*, Jiminy Cricket is Pinocchio's conscience. Think about what happened when Pinocchio did not listen to his conscience.

What do you think guides you to do or say the true thing?

How do you feel when you don't tell the truth or when you are not honest?

Some people say they feel guilty when they don't tell the truth. What do they mean by that?



Do It!

Do one of the following:

- ❖ Play a game called "conscience". Work in pairs. One girl closes her eyes. Her partner is her conscience and will give her directions to get to a predetermined place.
- ❖ Make a simple puppet out of construction paper. Glue it to a piece of construction paper and label the project "The Holy Spirit moves Me!!"
- ❖ Using a dark crayon, color heavily all over a piece of paper. Turn the paper over and place it on top of a sheet of white paper. Write and draw on the back of the colored paper with a pencil. The drawings will transfer to the white paper like old-fashioned carbon paper. This is like the Holy Spirit printing the truth in our hearts.

Step 4: Cheating, Stealing and Seeking Forgiveness Leader's Initials: _____



Being honest means more than telling the truth. It also means behaving truthfully by not cheating or stealing.

Cheating at a game usually makes the other players angry. A game is for fun and keeping score makes the game more exciting. When you cheat on the rules or the score, other children don't want to play with you anymore because they won't have a fair chance.



Cheating on school papers hurts you because the teacher won't know if you need help with the lesson. She will think that you understand the lesson fine. If you copy someone else's test answers on to your paper, you are stealing their work.

Stealing things from the store hurts the store owner who needs to make money. It also hurts your conscience because you know that you have done the wrong thing.



Asking forgiveness. Everyone has a bad day and makes mistakes. Sometimes it seems so easy to be dishonest and tell a "little lie". There is no such thing as a "little lie"! If you have been dishonest and want to fix the situation, you should admit your dishonesty and offer to fix the hurt you have caused. This is called **asking for forgiveness**.



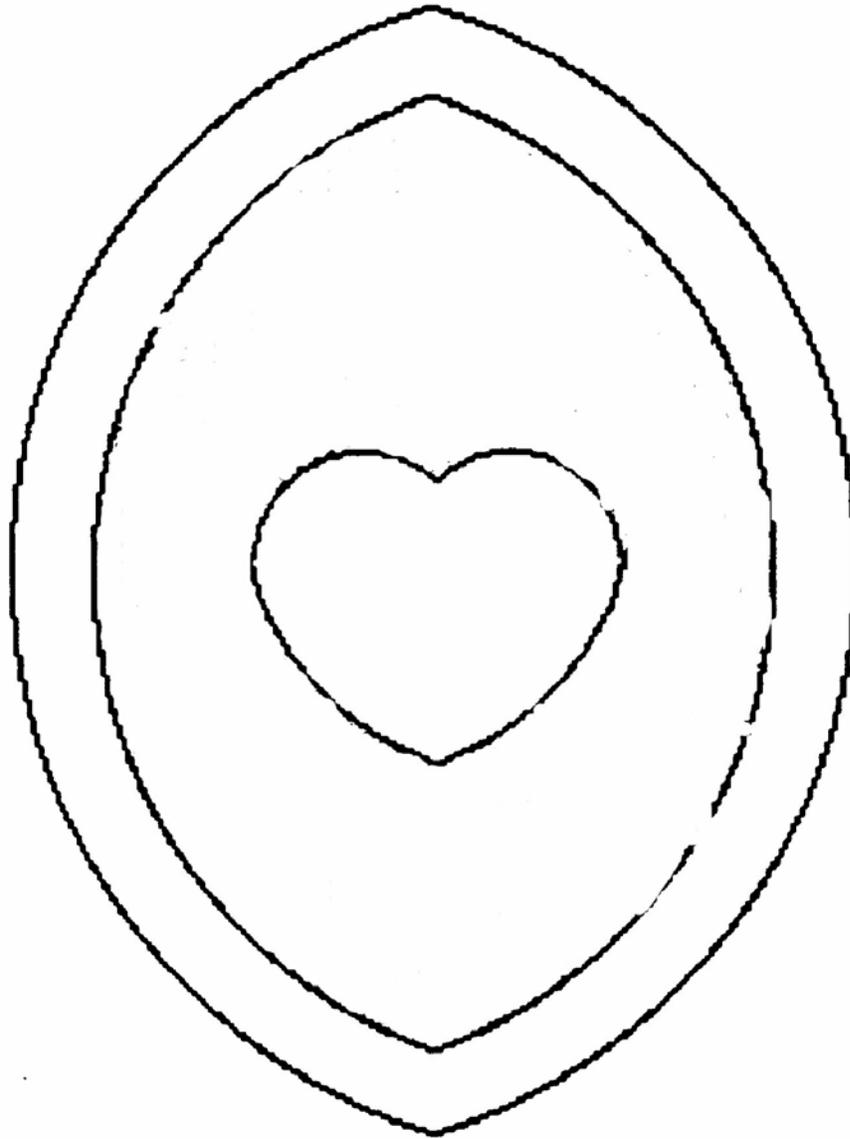
- ❖ If you have broken something, how can you offer to fix the problem?
- ❖ If you have cheated at a game or on a test, what could you do?
- ❖ What should you do if someone asks you for forgiveness?



Do one or both of the following:

- ❖ Learn this prayer: "Oh, heavenly Father, help me to stand for the truth in what I do and say."
- ❖ Paint a wooden heart (from a craft store). Decorate it with rub on transfers and hang it where it will remind you that you have learned to be honest and truthful.

Color this badge for your notebook.



Leader's List

References

Right and Wrong and Being Strong: A Kid's Guide by Lisa O. Engelhardt ISBN#0-87029-352-4

A Children's Book about Lying by Joy Berry