

Week 19 - Honest

Day 1

Honest - Definition

Tell the truth..

Honest - Quote

“Lying makes a problem part of your future; telling the truth makes the problem a part of the past.”
Dennis Parker

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either “+” if you demonstrate this quality or “-” if you do not.

M_____ T_____ W_____ Th_____ F_____ Sa_____ Su_____

My Goals for the Week:

+	

Why does lying never solve a problem?

What does honesty have to do with self-respect?

Week 19 – Honest

Day 2

The Boy Who Cried Wolf an Aesop Fable

There once was a boy who kept sheep not far from the village. He would often become bored and to amuse himself he would call out,

“Wolf! Wolf!” although there was no wolf about.

The villagers would stop what they were doing and run to save the sheep from the wolf’s jaw. Once they arrived at the pasture, the boy just laughed. The naughty boy played this joke over and over until the villagers tired of him.

One day while the boy was watching the sheep, a wolf did come into the field. The boy cried and cried,

“Wolf! Wolf!”

No one came. The wolf had a feast of sheep that day.

Why did the boy cry wolf?

What is “crying wolf” today?

What are the results?

Week 19 – Honest Day 3

“Honest Abe” Lincoln

(Taken from article in “The Washington Times” by Gordon Leidner of Great American History; February 20, 1999)

Mary Todd Lincoln once wrote to a friend that “Mr. Lincoln...is almost monomaniac on the subject of honesty.”

The future president was first called “Honest Abe” when he was working as a young store clerk in New Salem, Illinois. According to one story, whenever he realized he had shortchanged a customer by a few pennies, he would close the shop and deliver the correct change-regardless of how far he had to walk.

Lincoln began his law practice in Springfield, Illinois. He admitted that within this profession there was a “popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest.” His advice to potential lawyers was: “Resolve to be honest at all events, and if in your judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation, rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave.”

Always comfortable telling jokes and stories around the men of Springfield, he usually was awkward and self-conscious around women. In Lincoln’s early political years, he wrote “I want in all cases to do right, and most particularly so in all cases with women.” This was a principle to which he remained true all of his life. Today, historians tell us there is not a single credible story of Lincoln’s being unfaithful to his wife.

By the time Lincoln was president, statements he had made previously, such as “I have never tried to conceal my opinions, nor tried to deceive anyone in reference to them,” and “I am glad of all the support I can get anywhere, if I can get it without practicing any deception to obtain it,” had become a source of strength for him as a leader.

Everyone, even his most bitter political opponents, knew exactly where they stood with Lincoln. Because he didn’t have to waste time convincing his opponents of his sincerity, he was able to devote his energies to solving political issues and winning the war.

Finally, in search for the reason Lincoln was so adamant about honesty, a quote by one of his closest friends, Leonard Swett, is revealing:

“He believed in the great laws of truth, the right discharge of duty, his accountability to God, the ultimate triumph of the right, and the overthrow of wrong.”

Lincoln obviously preferred honesty over popularity. Explain what this means in your own words?

Would this be a hard choice for you? Explain.

Week 19 – Honest Day 4

Richard Nixon/Bill Clinton

Yesterday we talked about Abe Lincoln as a positive role model for honesty.

Today we use presidents to show the side of not being honest.

Only one president has ever resigned from office.

Richard Nixon resigned when it became clear that he was lying about his involvement in a burglary of the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate hotel.

Nixon opened trade with China and did many good things but he will be remembered for his lying.

Bill Clinton lied to the American people and was proven guilty of having an adulterous affair with a young intern.

Clinton balanced the budget and did other good things but he is remembered for lying on national TV about his relationship with Monica Lewinski.

Lying never solves a problem. It creates a new bigger problem.

One example of honesty is Abraham Lincoln.

Two examples of dishonesty are Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

Learn from history or you are bound to repeat it.

When someone lies, it is hard to believe anything they might say. Explain what this means in your own words.

Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton were brilliant men. Do you think they understood the consequences of their lying? Why or why not?

Week 19 - Honest

Day 5

Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Honest" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Honest" this week.

Of the three stories, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf", "Honest Abe Lincoln", "Nixon, Clinton", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M_____ T_____ W_____ Th_____ F_____ Sa_____ Su_____