

Survey Results

The Moral Compass Parent Conference Guide Honesty



What do you consider the following:
Honest or Dishonest

Taking something that doesn't belong to you

| Totally Honest | | Shady, but OK | | Totally Dishonest | |
|----------------|----|---------------|----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 1% | 1% | 2% | 8% | 88% | |

Situation:
A person shoplifts a CD as a part of a dare.

What do you consider the following:
Honest or Dishonest

Taking something that doesn't belong to you

| Totally Honest | | Shady, but OK | | Totally Dishonest | |
|----------------|----|---------------|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 2% | 4% | 14% | 22% | 59% | |

Situation:
A person receives back too much change after paying for lunch, and keeps it.



Which is worse?

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cheating 2% | Stealing 36% | No Difference 59% |
| Lying 19% | Tax Evasion 23% | No Difference 55% |
| Gossiping 7% | Shoplifting 46% | No Difference 44% |



Which is worse?

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Not Paying a Debt 23% | Breaking a Promise 21% | No Difference 53% |
| Sneaking Into a Movie 1% | Using a Fake ID 35% | No Difference 61% |

The "Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth," a study of the habits of 12, 474 students in grades 9-12, found:

| | 2000 | 2002 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| % of students who admitted cheating on a test at least once within the past year. | 70% | 74% |
| % that had lied to their parents in the last year. | 92% | 93% |
| % that had lied to their teachers. | | |
| % that said they would lie to get a job. | 78% | 83% |

(Information obtained from the Josephson Institute of Ethics, www.josephsoninstitute.org)

Introduction to The Moral Compass

The Moral Compass exists to develop moral character, healthy relationships, and Godly choices in students. It seeks to:

- Help students build a strong moral compass. (Matt. 22:37)
- Help students develop healthy relationships. (Matt. 22:39)
- Help students form future lasting marriages by building strong character through positive choices now. (Psalm 119:9)

The Moral Compass seeks to accomplish this by empowering parents to teach their children about moral character and purity, and to make a commitment to these virtues themselves, and by empowering, encouraging, instructing, and supplying information to youth ministers on relational coping skills.

Defining Honesty

Honesty is the quality or _____ of being honest.

It is _____ and _____. Honesty is marked by _____ and uprightness.

The character of honesty does not display _____ or fraudulence, but is genuine, equitable and _____. It is characterized by truth, not falsehood.

Sounds great. What's the problem?

The problem is that honesty is only _____ of _____ choices.

God's directive for us is ever so clear, _____ is always the _____ choice. (*Colossians 3:9-10 says, "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*)

If I "think one way" and God's word differs, then I must _____ the way I think, because His word is always _____.

It is faith in God and the _____ of His trustworthy council, rather than in our own rationalizations, that will ultimately bear good fruit or success in our lives.

This truth reveals itself from the very beginning of time. When Eve was tempted in the garden, she turned from the only way she had known to live, that is, by God's _____ of what was acceptable; *Genesis 2:16-17*, "The LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'" to her _____ of thinking; *Genesis 3:6* "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

So, is this true of people today?

Yes! Our students are struggling with the same issue. (See survey information, pgs. 11-12)

Despite these responses, students overwhelmingly agreed with the statement: It is important to me that people _____ me.

Surveys Indicate:

- *Students do know whether an act is _____ or _____.*
- *Students will often respond according to their _____.*
- *Students see _____ of honesty.*
- *Students do not fully understand the _____ of honesty and/or the _____ of dishonesty.*

So how do I build honesty in my student?

There are some helpful steps, which you can take to help your child value honesty and commit to being an honest person. Kari West, co-author of the book, *When He Leaves* (Victor Books), wrote an article for Focus on the Family entitled, "What Harm Can a Little Lie Do?" In her article, West recommends several approaches to help convince our kids to speak the truth. Here is an adaptation of those principles with a few added.

- **Be _____.**
- **Admit your _____.**
- **Show how even _____ affect the tellers.**
- **Use _____ - _____ examples.**

Survey Results

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Telling a lie | 1% | | 98% | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: A guy tells his parents he is going to a specific friend's home, but actually only stops at that friend's house on the way to someone else's home. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1% | 3% | 20% | 41% | 35% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Cheating at school | 3% | | 96% | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: A person takes a test at school and cheats on only one question. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1% | 7% | 18% | 36% | 38% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Disobeying your parents | 2% | | 96% | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: At a friend's house, a girl changes into a piece of clothing that her parents have told her not to wear, and then goes to the mall in the clothing. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1% | 4% | 11% | 29% | 54% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Spreading Gossip | 5% | | 94% | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: While talking with a friend on the phone a person tells that friend something that is confidential about another friend. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 3% | 4% | 11% | 25% | 58% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Not paying a debt | 2% | | 96% | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: While parking his car, a guy hits a parked car, and puts a small dent in it. He then leaves without leaving his name and phone number, or waiting for the owner to return. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1% | 2% | 4% | 16% | 76% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Deceiving a friend | 5% | | 94% | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: While a girl is at home, someone calls her on the phone. She has no desire to talk to them, so she has a family member to tell them that she is not home. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 4% | 13% | 36% | 22% | 24% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Breaking a traffic law | 6% | | 93% | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: A student or a parent drives 75 mph when the speed limit is posted at 65mph. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 4% | 12% | 30% | 30% | 24% |

What do you consider the following:

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Honest or Dishonest | | | | |
| Breaking Movie Theater rules | 6% | | 92% | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Situation: A girl sneaks in an "R" rated movie and she is under age. | Totally Honest | Shady, but OK | | | Totally Dishonest |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1% | 6% | 19% | 21% | 53% |

TMC Conference Teaching Plan – Honesty; \$5.00 each

TMC Parent Conference Guide – Sexual Purity; \$3.00 each

TMC Parent Conference Guide – Honesty; \$3.00 each

TMC Conference Kit – Sexual Purity (1 – Teaching Plan; 10 – Parent Conference Guides); \$25.00

TMC Conference Kit – Honesty (1 – Teaching Plan; 10 – Parent Conference Guides); \$25.00

TMC CD Companion — Sexual Purity; \$10 each

TMC CD Companion — Honesty; \$5 each

Downloadable Parent Meeting Plans — free at www.skopos.org

- **Stress _____, not words.**
- **Remember _____ view and remind your children of it.**
- **Don't measure or punish because of _____/_____.**
- **Don't play the _____/_____ game.**
- **Clearly communicate the _____ of honesty and the _____ of dishonesty.**
(7 Laws of the Harvest handout)
- **Foster an _____ for honesty.** Some of those elements, which may foster dishonesty are:
 - _____ . When we are dishonest, then we can have the expectation that our children will be dishonest as well.
 - **Lack of _____ or _____ in my teenager's life.** If my teenager feels that I am disinterested in his or her life, they will lie, if for no other reason, to hurt me and draw me into their life.
 - _____ **responses to the truth.** When we explode at the truth, we make it an easy choice for our children to lie. If your child has an expectation of wrath, they will tell you whatever you want to hear to avoid dealing with your anger.

My child may not be truthful with me anyway. How do I recognize if they are lying?

Proverbs 18:17 says, "The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him." In her article, West also talks about how to become a lie detector. She writes that there are some typical traits a liar employs:

- _____ . "I didn't do it."
- _____ . "She made me do it," or "If you'd been a better friend . . ."
- _____ . "You make me furious when you say that!" Liars hope their anger will force you to back down and forget the original issue. You can't think straight when you're angry or dealing with an angry person. But this emotional response may mean you are close to the truth.

- _____ . “How can you say that about me?” Once you become concerned with how the liar feels, the real issue gets lost.
- _____ . “Everybody makes mistakes” or “Give me a break; I goofed.”
- _____ . “That guy you saw me with is just a friend” or “That’s not what I meant” or “You’re too sensitive.”
- _____ . “I didn’t want to hurt you” or “Yes, I took \$10 from your purse, Mom. But I’ll never do it again.”
- _____ . “Dad, you’re a Christian. So why can’t you just forgive me?”

You might remember these two helpful hints:

- _____, **but** _____. You can trust your child foolishly or wisely. Don’t live in the dark. Quietly verify their words and actions.
- _____ **that if they choose to be dishonest, they will get _____ in their lie.** Nothing works quite like something that doesn’t work.

How can trust be rebuilt after a lie?

- _____
- _____
- _____

(see pages 8-9)



Rebuilding Trust

Rehabilitative costs of broken trust

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Military</u> (Honor Probation) | <u>Parents</u> |
| REHABILITATION Counseling | REHABILITATION _____ |
| Meet with a mentor | _____ |
| Complete a project, which educates the whole wing on honor and integrity | _____ _____ |



Rebuilding Trust

Rehabilitative costs of broken trust

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Military</u> (Honor Probation) | <u>Parents</u> |
| RESTORATION Evaluation & completion | RESTORATION _____ _____ _____ _____ |

Navigational Tools – Resources

The Moral Compass, Biblical Responses to the Questions Youth Ask About Sexual Purity, by Paul Abner & Andy Harrison; \$3.00 each or 10 booklets for \$25.00

TMC Youth Room Poster/Locker Poster; \$2.00 each

TMC Screensaver – free download at www.skopos.org

TMC True North Backpack Carabiner; \$5.00 each

TMC Conference Teaching Plan – Sexual Purity; \$5.00 each



Rebuilding Trust

Punitive costs of broken trust

| <u>Military</u> | <u>Parents</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Loss of specific privileges | _____ |
| | _____ |
| Loss of good standing in the wing | _____ |
| | _____ |
| Administrative sanctions | _____ |
| | _____ |



Rebuilding Trust

Rehabilitative costs of broken trust

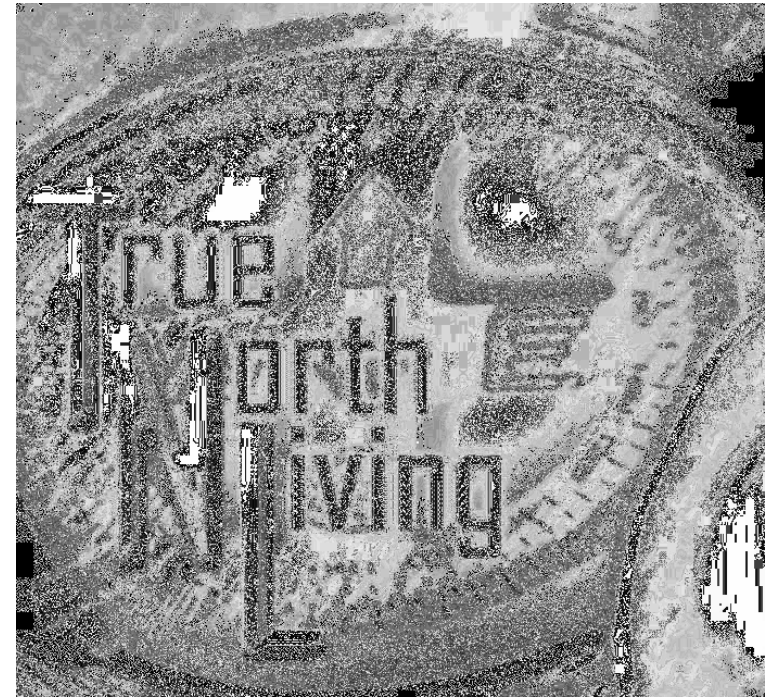
| <u>Military</u> (Honor Probation) | <u>Parents</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| REFLECTION | REFLECTION |
| No early release from probation. No exceptions. | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |



Rebuilding Trust

Rehabilitative costs of broken trust

| REHABILITATION | REHABILITATION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| A presentation at the beginning and end of probation | _____ |
| | _____ |
| Keeping a daily journal w/entries about honor, integrity, morals, & values | _____ |
| | _____ |



The Moral Compass seeks to encourage people to live True North lives.

A Self-Assessment to Stay True North...

Keep the First Commandment. Loving God is a passion that requires cultivation, discipline, and renewal.
(Matthew 22:37-38)

Stay Focused On A Vision. A shared vision or mission keeps me focused on what is important and that which ultimately bears lasting fruit in my life.
(Proverbs 11:1)

Live in Community. I need help for true north living. I will find a friend or friends who will keep me accountable to stay on true north.
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Quotes on Honesty

In an issue of *Moody Monthly*, George Sweeting wrote about the desperate need for honesty in our culture. He referred to Dr. Madison Sarratt, who taught mathematics at Vanderbilt University for many years. Before giving a test, the professor would admonish his class something like this: "Today I am giving two examinations - one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both. If you must fail one, fail trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can't pass trig, but there are no good people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty."

"The best measure of a man's honesty isn't his income tax return. It's the zero adjust on his bathroom scale." — *Arthur C. Clarke*

"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." — *George Washington*

"Honesty pays, but it doesn't seem to pay enough to suit some people." — *F. M. Hubbard*

"Honesty is the first chapter in the Book of wisdom. Let it be our endeavor to merit the character of a just nation." — *Thomas Jefferson*

"We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot." — *Abraham Lincoln*

"A lie has speed, but truth has endurance." — *Edgar J. Mohn*

"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on." — *Winston Churchill*

"We tell lies when we are afraid... afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we tell a lie, the thing that we fear grows stronger." — *Tad Williams*

"It is impossible to calculate the moral mischief, if I may so express it, that mental lying has produced in society. When a man has so far corrupted and prostituted the chastity of his mind as to subscribe his professional belief to things he does not believe he has prepared himself for the commission of every other crime." — *Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason*

"Beware of the half truth. You may have gotten hold of the wrong half." — *Author Unknown*

"Some people will not tolerate such emotional honesty in communication. They would rather defend their dishonesty on the grounds that it might hurt others. Therefore, having rationalized their phoniness into nobility, they settle for superficial relationships." — *Author Unknown*

"I am different from Washington; I have a higher, grander standard of principle. Washington could not lie. I can lie, but I won't." — *Mark Twain*

Some Honesty Scripture References

Proverbs 4:24

Proverbs 8:7

Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 10:23-24

Proverbs 11:1

Proverbs 11:18

Proverbs 12:3

Proverbs 12:13

Proverbs 12:17

Proverbs 12:19

Proverbs 12:22

Proverbs 13:6

Proverbs 19:5

Proverbs 25:12

Proverbs 28:6

Proverbs 28:13

