

BASKETBALL LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

Parent Companion Guide

UPWARD
SPORTS

PRACTICE 10

HONESTY

is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

KEY VERSE

**PEOPLE WITH INTEGRITY WALK SAFELY, BUT THOSE WHO FOLLOW
CROOKED PATHS WILL BE EXPOSED.**

PROVERBS 10:9 (NLT)

Bottom Line: When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.

In the Bible, Esther was a queen with an unbelievable story. And just like any good story, there's a good guy and a bad guy! You've probably guessed that the good guy, or girl rather, was Queen Esther. The bad guy was named Haman.

Haman wanted power any way he could get it, so he made up a terrible lie about the Jewish people who were living in the kingdom of Persia. And those lies convinced the king of Persia to have all of the Jews in his kingdom killed. Haman was a really bad guy.

What Haman didn't know was that Queen Esther was a Jew. When she found out what Haman was trying to do, she made a plan and trapped him in his own lie. Esther and her people were saved!

In our own lives, we probably won't face the same end that Haman did when we choose to be dishonest. But we definitely get hurt when we aren't truthful. We've all been tempted to bend the truth a little to get ahead or make things go how we want. But lying to help ourselves get out of something or to gain something we think we deserve is never the wise choice. Remember, when you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead. And you often hurt others, too. We can pray and ask God to help us choose honesty.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

(K-2nd Grade)

- How can being dishonest hurt other people?
- How can being dishonest hurt you?

(3rd-6th Grade)

- How can being dishonest hurt other people? How can it hurt us?
- Is it okay to lie if it doesn't hurt anyone? Why or why not?

(7th Grade and up)

- How can choosing to be dishonest in the moment hurt you rather than help you?
- Is it okay to lie if it doesn't hurt anyone? Why or why not?

GOING DEEPER

(If you have a younger child, it might be a good idea to read these chapters ahead of time and decide if there are any parts that are not age-appropriate for your child.)

This week, read Esther 3-8 with your child. Pause after each chapter and talk about what is happening in the story. How did Haman act in a dishonest way that hurt others and himself? How did Queen Esther act in a way that helped others? Why do you think she was scared to be honest with the king?