

# BASKETBALL LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

## Parent Companion Guide

UPWARD  
SPORTS

### PRACTICE 9

#### 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're not truthful, you lose trust.

For the next few practices, we will be talking about honesty. Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do. Choosing honesty is a big deal. Why? Because we know that God created truth, and He wants us to spread truth and not lies. And because no one really wants to hang out with someone who isn't truthful. When others act dishonestly, it's hard to trust them in the future.

There's a book in the Bible called Proverbs that was written by a very wise man named Solomon. Solomon wrote down hundreds of truths in the book of Proverbs for us to read and think about. Although these truths were written thousands of years ago, they are still real to us today. Here's what Solomon had to say about honesty. "People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed." (Proverbs 10:9, NLT)

Being honest is about telling the truth and also about the way you live. We live with honesty and integrity so that our words are the same as what we actually do. We live with honesty so we'll be on that straight and safe path, and the people around us can trust us. But when your words and actions don't match, it's like a crooked path where trust is broken.

The question is, are we saying one thing but doing something else? Do you find yourself making up stories or not giving the whole truth to avoid getting in trouble? Living honestly builds trust with the people around you. Because when you're not honest, you lose trust.

Let's ask God to help us live honestly this week so we can build trust with the people around us.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

(K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

- What does it mean to be honest?
- Do you ever have a hard time telling the truth? Why or why not?

(3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- Why is it hard to trust someone who has lied in the past?
- Why is it important to tell the truth?

(7<sup>th</sup> Grade and up)

- What are some examples of times when telling the truth isn't so simple? What should you do in those situations?
- What does it look like when someone lives an honest life?

## GOING DEEPER

This week, read James 3:3-5 with your child. This passage talks about the power of what we say. What do these verses compare to the tongue? How could saying one dishonest thing be very powerful? Now, read James 1:22-25 and 2:14-16. These passages tell us it's important to live honestly by making sure our actions back up what we say we believe. Why should we be careful not to say one thing and do another?