

# SLAM

## Honesty

**Topic:** Tuned in - Honesty

**Bottom line:** When it comes to honesty, be a person that can be counted on.

### Lesson Outline:

What	Time needed	Page
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Games</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>20 minutes</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Prayer &amp; Wrap Up</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 3</b>

*Please note that this is only a guide.*

### Game:

Divide kids into teams of about six or seven. The players stand in line, shoulder to shoulder, with their hands open behind them as they face forward. There is a goal line about ten to fifteen feet in front of them. One player, the 'Rock Dropper', walks up and back behind the players who are standing in line. Suddenly the 'Rock Dropper' drops a small rock, marble, or other token into the open hand of one of the players.

The player with the rock tries to dash across the goal line before the other players can tag him/her. If a player makes it to the goal line before being tagged, that player is the next 'Rock Dropper'. If not, the player who makes the tag is the next one to drop the rock. In addition, the 'Rock Dropper' can dictate different forms of motion for that round such as hopping, hopping on one foot, skipping, or even crawling.

Please note that this series of lessons is from Phoneix Vineyard. We have done our best to make them culturally relatable for the kids. Please feel free though to use your own examples if you feel you have better ones. You can also take the ideas in the lesson and present it in your own way. It does not have to be read word for word.

### Welcome:

Welcome all the kids and ask them to share with you about something they are excited about for in SLAM this year.

The Facilitator will let you know when it is time for worship. Please come downstairs and join with the other children for Worship ☺ Please encourage the children to join in and help the younger children to engage. We would also ask that you participate as the children will watch you also.

# Object Lesson

Seat Belt – (you may need to explain what an SUV is)

Have you ever noticed how big some of our vehicles are getting these days? SUVs are turning into miniature apartments. Pretty soon, people will start renting SUV apartment homes instead of living somewhere. Okay, maybe that's not going to happen, but one can imagine, can't they?

Why do you think people are purchasing all of these very large SUVs? Is it simply because families are larger? No, not really. I think many people purchase SUVs because they feel safer in them. That's not necessarily a bad thing. Being safe is actually a good and smart thing to consider. However, we all know that despite how large your vehicle may be, there is one item that really makes a difference when it comes to safety. Do you know what I'm talking about? I'm talking about your seatbelt.

Isn't it amazing how something so relatively small compared to the rest of the vehicle is actually one of the main things that can save your life in the event of an accident? What that tells me is that little things can make a huge difference in life. In this lesson series, we are talking about character, but specifically, the kind of character that God wants you to have. Today we are going to learn about how something that may seem small and insignificant can actually be a great source of protection.

## Discussion

Today in our lesson we are going to talk about honesty. In this series, we are looking at four aspects of character that God cares deeply about. Now when it comes to honesty, there might be some confusion out there. Our society seems to define what honesty is differently depending on who is giving the definition. Let me give you a really simple definition of honesty.

Honesty is simply doing what is Right, even if it Costs something. This definition is definitely different from the rest of the world, because most people believe in being honest, up to a point. The minute honesty might get you into trouble, or it might cost you money, or anything like that, then the world says that it's okay to not be honest, for the sake of protecting yourself. Let me say this; unless you hear the audible voice of God, or an angel comes to visit you, it's not okay to not be honest.

So how can we become a person of honesty? In a nutshell, we want to become a person of Truth. There are three things that we need to have in place in order to become a person of truth. The first is that we need to learn how to Speak Truly. Titus 2:8 says, "Speak the truth so that you cannot be criticized." What exactly is this verse telling us? Is it trying to tell us that if you speak the truth that no one will ever make fun of the way you look or dress, or perhaps who your friends are? What that verse is telling us is that when you live a life of speaking the truth, no one can challenge your character

Have you ever had a moment in life when your character protected you from something? I remember when I was younger I had a pretty good reputation in my neighborhood for being a good kid. I wish I could tell you that it always remained that way, but it didn't. However, there was a time that I did have a good reputation among parents.

Anyhow, there was once a time when some kids from the neighborhood were playing football and during the course of time while we were playing football, someone had some money stolen from their wallet. The thing that I remember the most about that whole thing is that none of the kids or parents ever suspected it was me. I made \$50 bucks that day. I'm just kidding, I didn't take it. That came from being a person who spoke truly. When something happened, no one challenged my character.

The second thing we need to learn in order to become a person of truth is that we need to Deal Truly with people. Proverbs 16:11 says, "The Lord demands fairness in every business deal; he sets the standard." In other words, don't rip people off, and don't take advantage of them if they are naïve or in a vulnerable spot.

I remember when I was in school a big thing that I was into was collecting sports cards. I mostly collected baseball cards, but I also collected football and basketball cards. Anyhow, at school all the serious kids would bring their cards in books with all their cards organized in special holders to keep the cards from getting bent or damaged in any way. During our recess breaks, we would trade cards. It was like the Wall Street of our day. We would make offers and counter offers trying to get the best deal you could.

Every now and then, there would be that one kid who would show up clueless. He would have all these incredible cards, but he did not have any clue as to the value of those cards. The ruthless kids would sniff him out a mile away. They would try to rip him off, offering ten worthless cards for one of his most valued cards. Is that the honest thing to do when dealing with people? No. it's deceitful. As people of truth, we should teach that poor kid the value of his cards and let him know how to trade fairly. Remember, the Lord demands that we treat people fairly.

The third thing to becoming a person of truth is to simply Live Truly. Do people know what you stand for based on how you live your life? Do they see Jesus in your actions, your words, and your attitude? They need to. Matthew 5:16 says, "You should be a light for other people. Live so they will see the good things you do and will praise your father in Heaven." In other words, we need to be the living, breathing examples for others to follow.

I remember there used to be this basketball player in the NBA who showed us how to live truly. His name was David Robinson. He was a giant of a man who played center for the San Antonio Spurs. During his entire career in the NBA he set an example for professionalism and character on and off the court. When David played in college he was one of the most desired players coming out of college. However, David attended the Naval Academy, which meant that he was obligated to serve in the Navy for four years after college. Now most people would have fought this. There were millions of dollars to be made in the NBA, verses peanuts in the military. However, David Robinson never tried that. He simply followed through on his commitments. And you know what? When he finished his commitment to the Navy, he still went on to play in the NBA.

His career in the NBA was nothing short of legendary. He was a 10-time NBA All-Star, the NBA MVP during the 94'-95' season, Rookie of the Year in 1990, 8-time All-Defensive Team, NBA Sportsman of the Year in 2001, 3-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Defensive Player of the Year in 1992, won 2 NBA Championships, and he is currently rated as one of the 50 greatest players of all-time in the NBA. Simply put, he lived his values out in his life. He is a Christian and that showed more through the way he lived his life than by him just claiming to be a Christian. being dishonest to begin with.

Maybe you're here today and you just don't see the big deal about being honest. We hinted at the importance of honesty during the lesson intro, today. Honesty is so important, because it's our best source of Protection. You see, dishonesty always hurts someone, and most often it hurts the one who is being dishonest to begin with. Look at what the writer of Psalm 25:21 thinks of honesty; "Assign me Godliness and honesty as my bodyguards, for I expect you to protect me." I don't know about you, but if I walked around with a bodyguard my entire life, I think I would feel protected. That's what honesty is like, a bodyguard.

## Look It Up:

Let's all open our Bibles to Ephesians 4:15. It's located in the New Testament. Use your newly acquired Bible skills to locate it. Let's read this verse together.

Ephesians 4:15; "Lovingly follow the truth at all times – speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly."

- Does that verse sound familiar to you? This is a great verse to memorize that will also help you to remember all the points of our lesson.
- How many of you would call yourself an honest person? How many of you would say you are a liar? How many of you are stuck on which one applies to you? How can you tell for sure?
- Do any of you have things in your life, right now that you're not being honest about? Do you listen to music, watch shows or movies that your parents don't know about? In light of your answer, are you being a person of honesty?
- What do we need to do differently in our lives to become a person of truth?

## Closing

Honesty is an important thing to God. It's more than just saying the truth when you are pressed, though. It's being an honest person at everything you do, especially when no one is around to know for certain. Remember that to become a person of truth, we need to speak truly, deal truly, and live truly. So when it comes to honesty, can you be Counted On or Counted Out? On a scale of 1-10, ten being the highest, how would you rate your honesty? If you're not a 10, what needs to change?

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# Leading Prayer in SLAM

## Come Together:

Bring the children together in a circle. Ask if there is anything that they would like to pray for.

Some Questions you may ask to help them think:

- Is there something that you would like to praise God and thank him for this week?
- Are you sick or do you need healing?
- Have you hurt anyone or been hurt by something this week that you need to ask forgiveness for?

## Pray:

Pray together— there are two choices here:

They can pray for each other or they can pray for themselves (out loud).

### Praying for each other:

If they would like someone else to pray for them ask the child to sit in the middle and for another child to pray for them (ask for volunteers). If both children are comfortable they can lay hands on as they pray.

### Praying for themselves:

If they would like to pray for themselves they can either sit in the middle or where they are. Ask them to pray in a loud voice so everyone can hear. We want them to be comfortable so be flexible and sensitive to the child's needs.

Continue through the group until everyone has been prayed for.

## Listen:

Then take time to sit and listen to God and see if there is anything that he would like to say to the group. Ask each child to sit silently and listen to God. Explain that God may speak to them all in different ways, e.g. a picture, an idea a colour etc. Then after a minute ask if there is anything the children felt God was saying.

## Write:

If anyone has anything please write it in the SLAM Prayer Journal with the date, service time and child's name. Then have a leader thank God for the lesson and any healings, words or pictures.