

MARCH 2016

POWERFUL POINTS

HONESTY

Teens & Adults

Honesty means: Straightforward and truthful in words and actions.

The Powerful Word of the Month is honesty. Honesty means being straightforward and truthful in words and actions. It has been said that; "Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving" (James. E. Faust). In particular, honesty does not just encompass lying and truth-telling but also honesty vs cheating, stealing, omissions of the truth, plagiarizing and even flattery. While we seek honesty in our relationships, both business and personal, we also take liberties with this principle. So we will investigate, this month, when the truth is necessary and when we need to question its place when rivaling safety, kindness or even imaginative fun. We must teach those we guide that honesty with others and with ourselves is vital...except, of course, when it may not be advisable.

WEEK 1

This week, we're talking about honesty, lying and telling the truth. As business icon, Mary Kay Ash, once said, "Honesty is the cornerstone of all success, without which confidence and ability to perform shall cease to exist." Would you agree with that statement-- or do you feel that those who lie or dishonest in other ways may be the ones who get to the top of their fields? If you were advising a young person right now on honesty in friendship, school or even in activities such as ours, what message would you send? Has dishonesty and lying ever ended a personal or professional relationship in your life?

This week, your Powerful Thought Assignment is to rate yourself on honesty, 1 being dishonest and 10 being always honest. What would you change?

Optional second day: (Remind everyone about what you are talking about this week.) This week, your *Powerful Thought Assignment* was to rate yourself on honesty, 1 being dishonest and 10 being always honest. What would you change?

WEEK 2

Before we get into this week's topic, are there any comments related to the Powerful Thought Assignment from last week? This week we're talking about stealing and cheating-- dishonesty through actions. There have been some disturbing developments, especially when it relates to cheating. In particular, statistics show a dramatic increase in cheating among teenage students over the last 50 years. While cheating used to be seen as a practice exhibited by struggling students, it is now above-average students who are engaging in this practice. What are your thoughts- why is this happening? **This week, your Powerful Thought assignment is to think through your view on cheating and how you would relay this view (as a leader) to others.**

Optional second day: (Remind the class about what you are talking about this week.) Your *Powerful Thought Assignment* was to think through your own view on cheating and how you would relay your personal view (as a leader) to others.

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WEEK 3

Before we get into this week’s topic, are there any comments related to the Powerful Thought Assignment from last week? This week, we are talking about the benefits and consequences of being dishonest. What is the benefit of dishonesty (*i.e. get ahead, avoidance*)? Consequences? A study out of Ohio State University relays that those who scored high on courage, empathy and honesty have a more positive view of others and are less likely than others to cheat. Although these people know the advantage of cheating, they don’t do it. What is going on? How can we harness this truth? **This week, your Powerful Thought Assignment is to think through how we can guide those we lead to be honest even when there are advantages of dishonesty?**

Optional second day: (Remind everyone about what you are talking about this week.) This week, your *Powerful Thought Assignment* was to think through how we can guide those we lead to be honest even when there are advantages of dishonesty?

WEEK 4

Before we get into this week’s topic, are there any comments related to the Powerful Thought Assignment from last week? This week we’re talking about the times when honesty isn’t the best policy. If we are being honest, lack of honesty plays a big role in the lives of many adults. Flattery. False hope. Tooth fairies. Polite compliments about gifts, hair styles or the like that may not be completely true. Famous poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote; “truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies.” What would business, friendship, and everyday life be like if everyone were always completely honest? Would that be better or worse? **This week, your Powerful Thought Assignment is to think about how often you tweak the truth to save someone’s feelings or bolster their opinion? Where do you draw the line?**

Optional second day: (Remind the class about what you are talking about this week.) This week, your *Powerful Thought Assignment* was to think about how often you tweak the truth to save someone’s feelings or bolster their opinion? Where is the line?