

# How Honest Are You?

Consider the consequences of honesty and dishonesty.



## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

**Do as your brother says.** If your parents ask questions later on, tell a lie to protect your brother.

**Tell your brother that you will not lie for him.** If he sneaks out anyway, tell your parents.

Possible negative consequences if your parents find out that you lied:

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Possible positive consequences if you tell your parents the truth:

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“In the long run, your parents will have more trust in you if you just tell the truth.”



—Natasha.

(Read Psalm 119:163. Consider how you personally feel about lies and other forms of falsehood.)

2

I've done something really bad. My conscience is plaguing me!



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Keep quiet about it.

Talk to a parent or a mature Christian.

Possible negative consequences of keeping quiet:

Three horizontal lines for writing.

Possible positive consequences of talking to someone:

Three horizontal lines for writing.

"If you cover up your mistake, you will never have a clean conscience, and that is a horrible feeling. Plus, when the truth does come out—and it always does—it will just make things worse."



—Carly.

(Read Ecclesiastes 12:14 and James 5:14-16. Consider how good you will feel after receiving the help you need.)

3

Hey! Give me the answer to this question on the test!



### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

**Give in;** after all, you don't want to appear self-righteous.

**Refuse to cheat,** no matter what your classmate thinks.

Possible negative consequences of helping your classmate cheat:

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Possible positive consequences of refusing to help your classmate cheat:

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"Dishonesty is like a drug. If you keep being dishonest, it turns into a habit. Then it becomes a part of you."



—Karen.

(Read Proverbs 29:25. Consider how good you will feel about standing up for what is right.)

Now think of a scenario where dishonesty might be a temptation for you. Write down positive and negative consequences of your potential actions.

### THE SITUATION:

### WHAT YOU COULD DO:

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

### POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

Negative:

Positive:

The bottom line: The degree of honesty you display says something about your character. So ask yourself: 'How do I want to be known by others? Really, what kind of person do I want to be?'—Proverbs 20:11.