

Sample discussion questions on Honesty

1. How do you know when you can trust someone?
2. What part does trust play in your relationships with your friends and family?
How would these relationships be affected if you found out someone was lying to you?
3. Can you imagine starting a friendship with someone you didn't trust? What would that be like?
4. What are the benefits of being a trustworthy person? How do you benefit from the trustworthiness of others?
5. What does trusting somebody mean?
6. What do you look for in someone so you know you can trust him/her?
7. What makes a person trustworthy?
8. What does trust have to do with the quality of someone's character?
9. How do you define a "lie"?
10. Is it ever okay to lie? When would that be?
11. What is a white lie? Is there any difference between a white lie and any other kind of lie? When have you told a white lie? What was the situation?
12. Some people say that simply avoiding the truth isn't really a lie. What do you think?
13. What is the biggest lie you've ever told? Would you do it again? Why or why not?
14. Have you ever lied to fit in? Did it help you fit in? If not, what happened?
15. Have you ever been lied to by someone you care about? What did that feel like?
16. Can your parents trust you? Why or why not? What role does trust play in your relationship with your parents? Have your parents talked to you about trust? How important is it to you and your parents?

Copyright Elkind+Sweet Communications / Live Wire Media.

Reprinted by permission. Copied from www.GoodCharacter.com.

Below each question are examples of the type of responses you are looking for. You may need to rephrase the student's answers or guide them along.

***(Ask)* What does *honesty* mean?**

1. To be truthful
2. To not lie, cheat, or steal.

***(Ask)* Why is *honesty* important?**

1. Honest people are trustworthy, dependable, and respected by others.
2. It is the right thing to do. It feels good.
3. Telling the truth lets everyone know what happened and keeps the wrong person from being blamed for something they didn't do.

***(Ask)* What are the consequences of dishonesty?**

1. Losing the trust and respect of others.
2. The need to tell more lies in order to cover up.
3. You may face punishment and embarrassment.

***(Ask)* What are the qualities of an honest person?**

1. Tells the truth, regardless of the consequence.
2. Admits when he or she is wrong.
3. Does not cheat or steal.
4. Does not exaggerate to make things seem different than they are.
5. Keeps promises and encourages others to be truthful.

Gaines, Julie L. *The Parent/Community Connection in the Classroom: Connecting your Classroom to Parents, Community and Character Education.* (Reproduction is permissible for school use only.)