

# CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

## 6. Truthfulness



### Introduction

There is a very interesting story in the Old Testament about two kings. One is the king of Judah, King Jehoshaphat and the other the king of Israel, King Ahab. There are some important lessons we can learn from this story about truth. Let's read that story.

### Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 18:1 – 19:3

- ◆ The four hundred prophets told King Ahab to go into battle and that God would give him success. However it wasn't true! Why do you think they lied? Discuss.

*(One reason may have been that they wanted to please the King and say what they knew he would like to hear. This seemed safer to them than risking telling the King that he would fail in battle.)*

- ◆ Why do people, and perhaps even ourselves, sometimes tell lies? Discuss.

- 1. Just like the prophets, they want to please others and so say what they think the other person wants to hear.*
- 2. Another reason may be that they want to cover up something they have done that is wrong.*
- 3. Perhaps they want others to like them and think well of them.)*

- ◆ Some people think it is all right to tell lies if you don't hurt anyone. Is this right or wrong? Discuss.

- 1. It is good to want to please others but not by telling lies. We are to please the Lord.*
- 2. It is not right to cover up our wrong. We are to confess our sin, not cover it up.)*
- 3. We all want others to like us, but lying is the wrong way to do it, as it leads to mistrust.)*

- ◆ It must have been difficult for the Prophet Micaiah to tell the truth as he knew the King would not be pleased, but he did so. Have you ever been in a situation where it has been difficult for you to tell the truth? Share if you can.

### Something to think about:

There are many areas where we need to be truthful. Let's check our own lives. Here are some areas to think about:-

- Do you always keep your word or the promises you have made to others?
- Do you sometimes exaggerate the truth?
- Do you keep secrets when people ask you not to share with others?
- Do you sometimes only tell part of the truth?
- Do you keep quiet instead of telling the truth when you should?
- Do you tell the truth but in the wrong way?
- Do you blame others instead of being truthful about what you have done?

## Conclusion

The Bible says that God speaks truth, and we know that Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." In contrast the enemy, Satan, is a liar. As God's children we have the assurance that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all the truth. Let's follow the truth and seek to always speak the truth. At times it is not easy to do this. It wasn't for Micaiah and it may not always be easy for us, but by doing so we please the Lord. King David wrote in Psalm 51:6, "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place."

