

11 Respect for the Truth

Reflection

Can we share our story about a time when someone did not tell us the truth or gave us false information? How did we feel when we found out the information was not true?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who are truthful, his delight. (Proverbs 12:22)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

Allah will say, "This is the Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness." For them are gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them, and they with Him. That is the great attainment. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:119)

"And do not argue on behalf of those who deceive themselves. Indeed, Allah loves not one who is a habitually sinful deceiver." (Surah An-Nisa 4:107)

Hadith

Abdullah reported Allah's Messenger (PBUH) as saying: "It is obligatory for you to tell the truth, for truth leads to virtue and virtue leads to Paradise, and the man who continues to speak the truth and endeavors to tell the truth is

eventually recorded as truthful with Allah, and beware of telling of a lie for telling of a lie leads to obscenity and obscenity leads to Hell-Fire, and the person who keeps telling lies and endeavors to tell a lie is recorded as a liar with Allah." (Sahih Muslim)

How do we show respect for the truth?

- A. Be trustworthy. Think before we speak. Say what we mean and mean what we say.

An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies. (Proverbs 12:17)

- B. Be consistent. Our family, friends and colleagues must know that we can be relied on to tell the truth. We hold ourselves accountable when our words do not match our actions. Do not "shoot the messenger" when someone tells us an inconvenient, uncomfortable or painful truth, but thank them for their truthfulness and deal with the information appropriately.

Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable? (Proverbs 20:6)

Do not betray a confidence. Respect someone's trust in you to keep a secret.

A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence. (Proverbs 11:13)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: May God bless us and protect us. May God smile on us and be gracious to us. May God show us His favor and give us peace.