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Preface

“ . . . That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace” (Psalm 144:12).

It's been twelve years since we published the first edition of this book. Our daughters were only four, six, and eight years old. Now they are young women, lovely “polished cornerstones,” ever growing in wisdom and beauty. The oldest is a radiant wife and mama with her own precious daughter, and the other two girls continue to bless our household, as well as other families, with their love, diligence, and skill. Truly God is faithful, bringing fruit from the planting of His Word in the hearts of our little girls.

Many years ago we realized that we needed a plan if we were going to make the most of the years God had given us with our daughters at home. We wanted to be faithful parents, taking our little girls, “pillars-in-the-rough,” and working with God to fashion them into beautiful polished pillars that will be strong supports to their husbands and families, and cornerstones of godliness in a crumbling culture.

Our “plan” turned into this book – a collection of projects and studies that will take you and your daughters to Scripture over and over, helping you truly disciple your daughters, as God molds them into strong and virtuous women for His kingdom.

We pray that the humble labor of our hands, as parents who desired to serve our Father more faithfully, will encourage and motivate you as you too serve the King.

In His Hands,
Pam

An Honest Woman

“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil” (Proverbs 31:11).

Integrity is essential in building strong, loving relationships. A daughter who is honest and trustworthy will be a valued friend, a treasured wife, an exemplary mother. She will be a woman whose husband will “safely trust in her.”

Young ladies (and old) are often tempted to dishonesty -- speaking differently **to** someone than we would **about** them, passing on unkind reports about others, and flattering those from whom we would seek approval.

As parents, we must be constantly alert to any signs of deceit, backbiting, hypocrisy, and flattery in our daughters’ lives. Point them to The Truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, as their example and Redeemer.

A. Select verses from the list below, and use some or all of the following suggestions to help you study and better understand their meaning.

- 1) Copy it.
- 2) Read it in several different translations of the Bible.
- 3) Read the passage and several of the verses before and after it to gain a better understanding of the context of the passage.
- 4) Rewrite the passage in your own words. What does it mean?
- 5) Record a specific way in which you can change your actions or attitudes based on the teaching of this passage.
- 6) Memorize the passage.

Easiest verses are listed in italics.

Proverbs 12:22

Proverbs 20:7

Proverbs 29:5

Ephesians 4:25

Philippians 4:8

Psalm 24:3-5

Psalm 63:11

Proverbs 26:18-19

Colossians 3:9

(BIBLE / SPEECH / HANDWRITING)

Beginner

- B.** Look up **falsehood** in *Nave's Topical Bible* with one of your parents. Draw pictures to illustrate some of these verses. (BIBLE / ART)
- C.** Ask your parents and other adults to recount stories of when they chose to be honest. What were the results? (FAMILY)
- D.** Ask your parents and other adults to recount stories of when they chose to be dishonest. What were the results? (FAMILY)
- E.** Tell about a time when you chose to be honest, and the results of that honesty in your life. (ENGLISH COMPOSITION)
- F.** Tell about a time when you chose to lie, and the results of that lie in your life. (ENGLISH COMPOSITION)
- G.** Work with your parents to keep a "journal of excuses" over a period of one week. Every time they hear you making an excuse or blame someone else, write it down. Review the list at the end of each day. Are you being honest when you make excuses? (FAMILY / SOCIAL SKILLS)
- H.** Make a list of traits and actions that are characteristic of a trustworthy person. Do you think these describe the type of person you are? In what areas do you need to improve? (WRITING)
- I.** Read the stories of Sapphira, Potiphar's wife, Delilah, Jezebel, Rebekah and other women in Scripture who were dishonest. How were they dishonest? Why were they dishonest? What were the results in their lives and in the lives of those around them? (BIBLE / RESEARCH)
- J.** Read the stories about Achan, Joseph's brothers, Jacob's sons with the Shechemites, Gehazi, Daniel's accusers and other men in Scripture who were dishonest. Why were they dishonest? What were the results in their lives and in the lives of those around them? (BIBLE / RESEARCH)

Intermediate

- K.** Study the chapters on lying, false witness, flattery, shifting blame, hypocrisy, and theft in *For Instruction in Righteousness*, by Pam Forster. (BIBLE / READING)
- L.** Interview friends and family members, asking them why they trust some people and why they distrust others. What actions lead them to trust or distrust people? Organize all their answers into a summary report. (RESEARCH / SOCIAL SKILLS / ENGLISH COMPOSITION)
- M.** Study the verses on the form on page 59. These verses all refer to trusting other people. Only one verse speaks **positively** of trust in another person.

Summarize each verse after studying its context. Why do you think this one person is trustworthy? (BIBLE / SOCIAL SKILLS / RESEARCH / LOGIC)

- N.** Using a topical Bible and concordance, study the word **trust** as it is used in the Bible. What does it mean? Who in the Bible are good examples of trusting? (BIBLE / RESEARCH)
- O.** Make several copies of page 60 to form a small journal. Use this journal to record situations in which you were tempted to lie. Record the circumstances, whom you were with, and why you were tempted to lie. Find a Bible verse you can use to combat temptation the next time you are in a similar situation. Copy the verse and memorize it. (WRITING / BIBLE / RESEARCH / HANDWRITING)
- P.** Do topical and/or word studies on any of the following words:
Deceit
False witness
Hypocrisy
Flattery
- What does each word mean? What commands are given? What are the effects of these sins in a dishonest person's life? How do these sins affect the lives of others? (BIBLE / FOREIGN LANGUAGE / WRITING / RESEARCH)
- Q.** Read Chapter 9, "The Beauty of Truthfulness," and Chapter 10, "Sincerity" in *Beautiful Girlhood*, revised by Karen Andreola. Talk about what you have read with your parents. (READING / FAMILY)
- R.** How can a young lady cause a young man to stumble through flattery? How can a wife cause her husband to stumble through flattery? Write down some ideas, and discuss them with your parents. (FAMILY / SOCIAL SKILLS)
- S.** Read about the "strange woman" as she is described in Scripture. In what ways is she dishonest with the men she seduces? (BIBLE / RESEARCH)
- T.** Study **honesty** and **lying** in the Bible. How do they differ? What are the consequences of each? What are the blessings of honesty? (BIBLE / RESEARCH / READING)
- U.** Use a concordance to study the words **sincerity** and **truth**. What do these words mean? In what ways are they used in Scripture? (BIBLE / RESEARCH)
- V.** Study the chapter on "Honesty" in *Christian Character*, by Gary Maldaner, pages 59-63. (BIBLE)

Advanced

- W.** Study Lessons 46-47 in *The Westminster Shorter Catechism for Study Classes*, by G.I. Williamson. (BIBLE)

- X. Are there areas that you are tempted to hide from your parents (i.e., friends, boys, temptations, questions, worries)? Make a list of areas in which you need to be more open and honest with your parents. Make a commitment to talk with them about these subjects. (FAMILY)
- Y. How can dishonesty affect your relationship with your parents? How can dishonesty affect a wife's relationship to her husband? Discuss your thoughts with your parents. (FAMILY)
- Z. What is the difference between honesty and just saying whatever you think or feel? What is the difference between honesty and a critical spirit? Read the verses listed below. Meditate on their meaning. Discuss these questions and verses with your parents.

Proverbs 10:19-20

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 13:3

Proverbs 15:28

Proverbs 17:28

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 29:20

Proverbs 31:26

(BIBLE / LANGUAGE)

- AA. Look up the word **falsehood** in *Nave's Topical Bible*. Read the verses under the subsection entitled "Instances of..." Write down each instance, the reference from the Bible, and the motivation behind the dishonesty. Was the liar motivated by fear, personal gain, revenge, etc.? (See form on page 61.)

(RESEARCH / BIBLE)

- BB. How can a wife do her husband "good and not evil" when he is sinning? Discuss this with your parents, and write an essay on the subject. (BIBLE / ENGLISH

COMPOSITION)

- CC. Study the chapter entitled "Blameshifting" (pages 16-21) in Wayne Mack's book, *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living, Vol. 1*. (BIBLE / WRITING)

- DD. Study Proverbs 26:28. How does the lying tongue demonstrate hatred toward those afflicted by it? Write an essay on this subject. (BIBLE / ENGLISH

COMPOSITION)

(For related projects, refer to chapters on the loyal and pure woman, and on the woman who controls her tongue.)

Additional Ideas:

A Study of Trust

(See instructions in Project M.)

<i>REFERENCE</i>	<i>PERSON REFERRED TO</i>	<i>TRUST OR DISTRUST?</i>	<i>WHY?</i>
Judges 9:26			
Psalms 41:9			
Psalms 118:8-9			
Psalms 146:3			
Proverbs 31:11			
Jeremiah 17:5			
Jeremiah 46:25			
Micah 7:5			

Parents:

Consider and discuss with your daughter the following questions:

- Do you know that you can trust her to tell you the truth?
- Does she tell “half-truths?”
- Does she make excuses?
- Does she deceive with her actions?
- Does she omit information or deceive by **not** speaking?
- Does she fabricate stories?
- Does she exaggerate (to impress others, for instance)?
- Does she keep promises?
- Does she follow through on commitments she makes?
- Is she repentant when caught in a lie, or does she tell more lies in an attempt to cover her wrong?
- Does she hide information (when she is in trouble, for instance)?
- Does she speak differently about people behind their backs than she does to their face?
- Does she take or use things that do not belong to her without permission from the owner?
- Does she return what she has borrowed?
- Is she honest with herself in regard to her time limits, relationships, plans, thoughts, attitudes? Does she deceive and justify herself?
- Does she flatter others in order to gain their approval or cooperation?
- Does she promise special favors or make threats to get someone else to do what she wants?
- Does she say she was “teasing” when caught in a lie or in troublemaking?
- Does she give false reports about others’ wrongdoings?
- Does she gossip about others?
- Is she sometimes **too** honest, voicing opinions and criticism in a careless or unkind way?

- Does she freely approach you with questions about sensitive or personal subjects?

Notes and comments: