

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Are a Global Missions Movement

### 18. COMMUNICATE WITH INTEGRITY

YWAM affirms that everything exists because God communicates. Therefore, YWAM is committed to truthful, accurate, timely and relevant communication. We believe good communication is essential for strong relationships, healthy families and communities, and effective ministry.

[Gen 1:3-5](#); [Num 23:19](#); [Pro 10:19](#); [Pro 25:9-14](#); [Zec 8:16-17](#);  
[Mat 5:33-37](#); [Luk 4:16-22](#); [Joh 1:1 5](#); [Col 4:6](#); [Jam 3:1-18](#)

### Value #18 – Communicate with Integrity: Radical Honesty

#### Biblical Foundation:

*You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.' But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one (Mat 5:33-37).*

#### Discovery Starter:

At an early age I learned to avoid telling lies, or – at least – avoid being caught! The punishment for telling lies was to have my mouth washed out with soap. The lye left an indelible imprint on my taste buds. Though effective to a degree, the soap did not cleanse my heart. I soon learned to tell “the truth” with an intent to mislead. For example, when an argument with my younger sister resulted in an “accidental” punch, I knew I would be in trouble. So I would try to dissuade her from running to Mom. If my efforts did not work, and she took off down the hallway, I’d yell after her in an attempt to stop her with desperate irritation. “Ok ... I’m sorry!” I’d fume. Unmoved by my angry and unrepentant tone of voice she proceeded to tell Mom. Soon I heard my name being called. “Yes,” I confessed, “I did hit her, but just barely, and besides she started it.” And then I’d add, as sweetly as possible, “And I said ‘I’m sorry.’” My feigned angelic demeanor covered up the reality. I had mastered the art of being technically honest while being intentionally deceitful. And thus I avoided the dreaded bar of soap.

In this passage, Jesus teaches us about radical honesty – when words, actions and heart match 100%. His teaching is rooted in the Torah: “Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely.” (Lev 19:12). This is one of six passages in Leviticus which warns against those sins which cause God’s holy reputation to be tarnished in eyes of the lost. They are when:

- \$ one says one thing while intending to do something else (Lev 19:12)
- \$ the people do not keep God’s commands in holy obedience (Lev 22:31-33)
- \$ priests do not fulfill their functions with integrity (Lev 21:5-6; 22:2)
- \$ anyone sacrifices their child by fire to Molech (Lev 18:21; 20:2-5)

This last point was viewed as the most despicable, unimaginable sin. And the lack of radical honesty is likened unto it. Sobering.

Lord, please apply your soap not only to my tongue, but to my heart as well.

### **Keep Going:**

Psalms 15 details the characteristics of those who live in intimacy with God. From verse 2 through the second line of verse 5, there are ten descriptive statements. Five of them – that’s half! – have to do with radical honesty and integrity with the tongue. Read through the Psalm and meditate on the five lines in italics. Ask God to show you any area which you need to make right. Is there something of which you need to repent? Is there an act of restitution that you need to make? Is there someone you need to go to in order to restore a relationship? Listen to God and do as he tells you.

15<sup>1</sup> Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD?

Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right,  
***speaking the truth from sincere hearts.***

<sup>3</sup> ***Those who refuse to gossip***

**or** harm their neighbors

***or speak evil of their friends.***

<sup>4</sup> Those who despise flagrant sinners,  
and honor the faithful followers of the LORD,

***and keep their promises even when it hurts.***

<sup>5</sup> Those who lend money without charging interest,

***and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent.***

Such people will stand firm forever.