



# Real Relationships

## Truth and Accountability - Samuel and Eli

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For a real-relationship to thrive, truth and accountability need to be present. We need to be willing to speak the truth to one another and be accountable to one another for that truth. The Old Testament account of Eli and Samuel is an example of truth and accountability in a real-relationship.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-19 (English Standard Version - ESV).

- 1. Do you think it was easy or difficult for Samuel to share with Eli what the Lord had said?**
- 2. What other response could Eli have had to the Lord's message?**

Principles for sharing truth and accountability from 1 Samuel 3:

- Sometimes, the truth hurts. Revelation 3:19  
Sometimes the truth can be uncomfortable but it is always necessary.

### **3. When have you experienced a 'hurtful truth'?**

### **4. How did you respond?**

- Accountability is found in Godly counsel. Proverbs 12:15  
We often go to others for confirmation rather than counsel.

### **5. When's the last time you sought godly counsel? From whom?**

- Honest conversations require truth. James 5:16  
Honest conversations require speaking the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15

### **6. How would you rate your ability to initiate an honest conversation?**

- Accountability brings freedom. Proverbs 27:17  
Accountability is not judgement or control.

**7. What does being accountable to someone mean to you?**

- Accountability requires humility. James 4:6  
Pride will hinder you but humility will grow you.

**8. What makes it hard for you to be accountable to another person?**

- Speaking the truth is for building up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11  
Speaking the truth is never for tearing down. Galatians 6:1-2

**9. Share a time when someone speaking the truth to you has built you up.**

- Truth and accountability should be led by God; not by opinion. 1 Samuel 16:7  
We need to be lead by the Spirit to give and receive truth.

**10. How do we allow the Spirit to lead us in giving and receiving truth?**

**Challenge question: Who is the one person who can be totally honest with you?**

**Family Connect Discussion Starter:**

Share the story of Samuel and Eli from 1 Samuel 3:1-19. Discuss why it is not always easy to tell someone the truth. Read Ephesians 4:15. Discuss why it is important to always speak the truth in love.