Lesson: 19

Growing in Value

"Honesty-What Does It Mean?"

When my sister Pat turned **twelve**, she was supposed to start paying a dime for a bus ride. The next time she rode the bus, the driver gave her a nickel back for her dime. Pat was shy and afraid to say anything. She thought to her herself, "I'm "twelve now, and I should pay a dime." But she didn't tell the driver.



Instead, she went home and asked our father what he would do. Dad answered, "I'm not going to do anything. It's up to you. You could probably keep paying a nickel for a long time without anyone knowing it." Dad patted her shoulder and said, "The bus company won't go broke from losing your nickels. But the way I look at it, I'm not sure it's worth it to sell your **honesty** for a nickel."

The next time my sister boarded the bus, she handed the bus driver fifteen cents--a dime for that day and a nickel for the other time.

That was many years ago, and my father has long since died. Recently I went to a bank drive-up window and gave bank teller a check for $1,500 to put in my savings account by accident. The busy woman made a mistake and gave me two things: a receipt for $1500 and $1500 in cash. Now my account had $1,500, and I had another $1,500 in my hand. By accident, the clerk had doubled my money! But in the back of my mind, I remembered my father's words. And I said to myself, "No, Dad. I wouldn't sell my honesty either—not for a nickel, and not for $1,500." I gave the money back the teller.

These stories tell you something about what it means to **honest**. When you're honest, you don't **steal**. You don't **cheat** other people, even if they make a mistake, not you. Being honest also means that you **don't lie**—you're always truthful.

Is it always easy to be honest? No. In the end, though, being honest is the right thing to do for yourself and for the people around you.

"When in doubt, tell the truth." —Mark Twain

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer questions in COMPLETE sentences. Marks will be deducted for incomplete sentences.

1. When you are honest what are TWO things you don't do? [2]

a.

b.

2. Explain the meaning of honesty. [2]

3. How old was Pat? [1]

4. The bus driver gave Pat a nickel back from her dime. How much money did he take? [1]

5a. Did Pat's dad tell her what to do when she asked? Write yes or no. [1]

5b. Use information from the passage to support your answer. [2]

6. The author of this passage also had a problem. What was the problem? [2]

7. What did dad say wasn't worth it? [1]

LIVEWORKSHEETS