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# A Note to Parents and Teachers in the Home, the School, and the Community

There is no greater impact that we can make in this world than guiding children to develop the skills and abilities to most effectively handle life's ups and downs. Children are the builders of the future for our families and society, and we need to give them the best tools possible.

As much as we would like to "protect" children from the challenges of this world, the reality is that we cannot protect them forever. We would be wise to focus our efforts on preparation rather than protection in order to prepare them for the unavoidable reality that they will encounter challenges during their journey through life.

Aristotle wrote, "Good habits formed at youth make all the difference."

We have a responsibility as parents and teachers to help children form good habits and give them one of the greatest gifts: a strong foundation for living. A foundation that will support them in effectively dealing with the situations they will encounter in life.

There will always be new ideas and new techniques to support us in our changing world. However, even as techniques may change, we need consistent reminders that principles like honesty, loyalty, and commitment will remain the most effective foundation to form our decisions and actions, regardless of the changes in the world around us.

Our hope is that this book will be a helpful reminder to you and the children in your care about the importance of **The Principles** of honesty, teamwork, compassion, courage, and so many others.

The Principles can act as a compass to guide us through all the situations we encounter in life.

The Principles help individuals build and strengthen their character and *Character Creates Opportunity*® for a successful life, regardless of our situation.



There is a moment of time between our situation and how we respond. In that moment of time, we have complete freedom to choose our response. The inner voice that drives our response is our character.

The Principles arrive in that moment of time to help guide our response based on a principle like honesty, compassion, and loyalty, which will build and strengthen our character.

The Principles bring truth and lend strength to our inner voice.

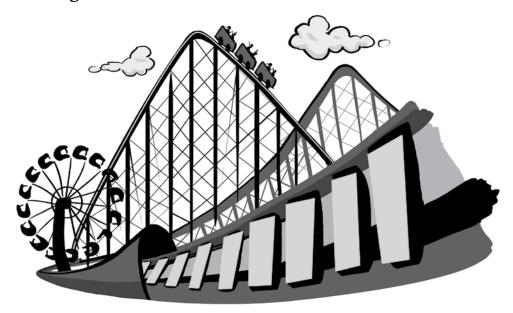
As you use this book to help build a strong foundation in children, we hope it also serves as a good reminder to you about the importance of living a life according to principles.

#### A Note to Children

Life is an exciting journey filled with fun, excitement, wonder, and, sometimes, struggles and challenges.

Have you ever ridden a roller coaster?

#### Life is like riding a roller coaster.



There is so much excitement in the beginning as you get ready to jump in the seat and start the ride. We all must buckle up for safety as the roller coaster will have many ups and downs, twists and turns; so buckling up is the smart thing to do.

There will be times when you will be so high on the roller coaster that you can see everything that is all around you. You will see the exciting turns ahead, and you will know exactly what is coming next.

Then, all of a sudden, you will be in a dark tunnel and a little bit scared because you cannot see what is in front of you.

Then, you speed out of the tunnel into the light again. You're back to enjoying the twists and turns and ups and downs once again.

Life is like a roller coaster ride. This book was written to help prepare you for the "roller coaster" of life.

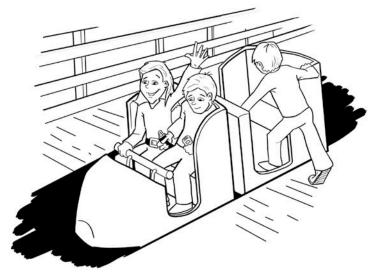
In this book, you will learn about **The Principles**.



The Principles will help keep you safe during the ups and downs and twists and turns of life, just like the seat belt on the roller coaster.

The Principles will always be at your side to help you during the greatest roller coaster ride—your LIFE!

Now, get ready to buckle up with **The Principles.** Have fun!



#### The Principle of Honesty

"Hello, I am The Principle of Honesty.

"People say that I am the reminder they need to remain truthful in all that they say and do.

"There will be times in your life when you may feel it is difficult to be honest and tell the truth. You may be afraid of getting into trouble, or you may be worried about what others may think of you when you tell the truth.

"My parents told me that honesty is the best policy, and that is why they named me Honesty.

"Please call on me when you need the strength to be Honest. I can help remind you about how important it is to tell the truth.

"I will be there to support and encourage you no matter what situations you experience in life.

"Please, count on me to help you be Honest."



#### **Honesty in Our Home**

Jenny and her younger sister Elizabeth always enjoyed playing with all different kinds of toys. They had so much fun running, jumping, and playing around. Occasionally, they would have so much fun playing that they would make a complete mess of the playroom.

On one particular day, Jenny became very thirsty and went to the kitchen to get a glass of milk.

She brought the full glass of milk back to the playroom, so they could continue to play.

Jenny and Elizabeth were having fun throwing a ball back and forth.

Jenny tossed the ball to Elizabeth, and it bounced off her hands knocking over the glass of milk.

With a loud thump, the glass fell on the floor; and the milk spilled all over the place.

They stopped suddenly as they heard their mother come into the room.



Their mother screeched and looked at Jenny and said, "Jenny, what happened?"

Jenny was scared because she knew they were going to get into trouble about having milk in the playroom and spilling the milk all over the carpet.

In a moment of time, a number of thoughts raced through Jenny's mind.

Jenny thought: "I could say Elizabeth dropped the ball and caused the milk to spill. I threw the ball perfectly, and she dropped it and caused the mess.

"Maybe I won't get in too much trouble if I tell mom it was Elizabeth's fault."



"Everyone gets a little scared in a situation like this—especially when you don't know what may happen when you give an honest answer to your mom's question," said The Principle of Honesty. "I know it seems like you may have an easy way out by blaming the spilled milk on your sister, Elizabeth.

"However, as The Principle of Honesty, I want to tell you that you know the truth about what happened. You and Elizabeth were both playing with the ball; and it could have been you, just as much as it was Elizabeth who knocked over the milk. Elizabeth just happened to drop the ball. Remember, it was you who brought the milk into the room in the first place.

"The right thing to do is to tell the truth to your mother."



In that moment of time, Jenny thought about what The Principle of Honesty said about being truthful; and she decided what to do.

Jenny answered her mother by saying, "Mom, I brought the glass of milk into the playroom when I knew I should not have done that. I am sorry. Elizabeth and I were playing with the ball. We were tossing it back and forth having a lot of fun. The ball bounced off Elizabeth's hands and knocked over the glass of milk. We should not have been throwing the ball around inside with a glass of milk next to us. I am sorry, Mom."

Jenny's mom was upset with what happened, but she was pleased with the honesty in Jenny's response.

Jenny and Elizabeth were told to clean up the mess quickly and were not allowed to have drinks in the playroom again.

The Principle of Honesty helped remind Jenny about how important it is to always tell the truth.



Later that evening, as Jenny lay in bed ready to go to sleep, The Principle of Honesty came to her bedside.

The Principle of Honesty said, "Jenny, I am really glad that you chose to tell the truth when your mom asked, 'what happened?'

"I know you were scared, but you did the right thing by telling the truth.

"Please remember that honesty is the best policy when you encounter similar situations in life."



## Learn more about The Principles of Our World and buy your copies today at:

### harvesttimepartners.com/childrens-books



The Principle of Honesty

"People say that I am the reminder they need to remain truthful in all that they say and do."



The Principle of Teamwork

"People say that I am the reminder they need to work together to accomplish great things."



The Principle of Sacrifice

"People say that I am the reminder they need to think about others instead of themselves."



The Principle of Courage

"People say that I am the reminder they need to be brave when they feel worried and afraid."



The Principle of Compassion

"People say that I am the reminder they need to reach out to help people in need."