Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Sincerity

Children have an amazing nose to sniff out hypocrisy! They seem to be able to read our facial expressions, body language, and actions better than our words, and if they don't match, they tell us or their barriers go up .

When they are young, they say what they think, sometimes to a fault. It is only when they grow older that they learn to say one thing and think another. They learn from others that insincerity appears to gain popularity, to give favor with teachers, and to help them get their own way.

It is important to help them see that these "shortcuts" do not bring lasting value, but that doing right with integrity will bring lasting positive results.

Being honest with your children about your own faults will encourage them to be transparent also. Praise them well when they admit their mistakes! If they make excuses, try a role play: have them "rewind" (turn around) and tell again what they did, without excuses this time.

Here are a few suggestions:

- ***Have them keep a running list of things that are fake, such as fool's gold, plastic fruit or bread, etc.***
- ***Reward them for doing what they said they would do.***
- ***Help them refine their language to avoid exaggeration or half-truths.***
- ***Make cookies with salt instead of sugar to illustrate something that looks good but isn't.***

String of Pearls

Materials: pearlized wrapping paper, cardboard, spray glue, string, large grains of sand.

- Discuss the pearl story and then have the children name some irritating situations that could be turned into good.
- Have them cut circles of cardboard and pearlized paper 2 or 3 inches wide.
- Glue one circle of each together to form a pearl.
- Write an irritating situation and the good that could come of it on the back of each pearl. Glue a grain of sand between the two statements.
- String the pearls together and hang in a conspicuous place.

You could continue this project as an on-going reminder to transform irritations into blessings or character growth.

Check out the **Just for Kids** pages for an animal analogy and a biographic sketch illustrating Sincerity