Courage to Speak the Truth

What's It All About?

"Hey, Momma didn't make it home from work yet, did she?" Randy burst into the house and ran directly to his sister Rodeana's room.

"Naw. What's wrong with you? Why you all sweaty and stuff like you ran all the way home from school?"

"Because I did run all the way home, genius! I needed to beat Momma to the phone."

Rodeana threw the magazine she was reading to the side and sat up. "You're in trouble. You're in trouble. I can't believe it. Mr. 'A' student, holier than thou, got in trouble at school. What did you do?"

Randy sat on the edge of Rodeana's bed. "Remember the paper I wrote to win our new computer?"

Rodeana nodded, "Yes."

"Well," Randy continued, "I didn't really write it. I copied it from a newspaper."

"Why did you do that? You could have easily written a paper good enough to win."

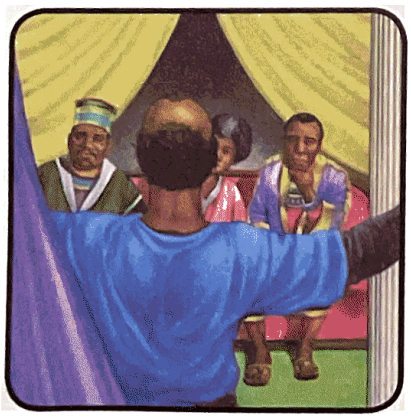
"I know," Randy agreed. "But I waited until the last minute and didn't have enough time. So I copied it. I didn't think anyone would notice."

Rodeana sat next to Randy. "But somebody did. Now what?"

"Now they want to take our computer back and maybe even suspend me. That's why I wanted to get to the phone first. I don't want Momma to find out."

"Randy," Rodeana said compassionately. "There's no way Momma's not going to find out. You should be the one to tell her."

Is Rodeana right? Should Randy tell his mother the truth and face the consequences? Isn't the result of telling the truth always supposed to be positive? Explain.



Learning From God

King Ahab of Israel wanted to go to war with another country. Before he went off to war, he sought the counsel of 400 prophets to see if going to war was a good idea. The prophets all said that King Ahab should go to war and that he would be victorious. King Ahab then called upon one more prophet, Micaiah, a prophet of the Lord, and sought his advice.

1 Kings 22:15–23, 26–28, NIV—When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?" "Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand." **16** The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" **17** Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered

on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'" **18** The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?" **19** Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. **20** And the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' "One suggested this, and another that. **21** Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' **22** "'By what means?' the Lord asked. "'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. "'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the Lord. 'Go and do it.' **23** "So now the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you." **26** The king of Israel then ordered, "Take Micaiah and send him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king's son **27** and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.'" **28** Micaiah declared, "If you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Mark my words, all you people!"

What I Have Learned

Who said it? Answer the following questions with **Micaiah** or **King Ahab**.

1. "Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?"_____
2. "Attack and be victorious." _____
3. "For the Lord will give it into the king's hand." _____
4. "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?"_____
5. "Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.'"_____
6. "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills."_____

Keep In Mind

"But Micaiah said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me"
(1 Kings 22:14, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

Randy and Rodeana heard the front door open and ran downstairs. "Hi, Momma," they said in unison.

"Hi, sweethearts," she said tenderly. "What's up?"

"Nothing much," they replied as they helped their mother put away the groceries.

"Nothing anybody wants to tell me?" Momma asked, catching Randy's eye.

Randy put the groceries he was holding on the table. "Momma, I copied the paper that I used to win our new computer. I didn't write it. The school found out, and they want the computer back. I may even get suspended." Tears welled up in Randy's eyes as he spoke to his mother.

"I know," Momma said. "The principal of your school called me this morning, but I'm glad you told me."

If Randy's momma already knew what Randy had done, why do you think she wanted to hear it from him?

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Doing My Part

We've all heard the phrase, "a little white lie." Exactly what is that? Is there such a thing as a harmless lie?

This week, commit yourself to tell the truth, even when a "white lie" seems more appropriate. Remember that God commands us to tell the truth, and if you pray for His guidance, He will help you speak the truth in all situations.