

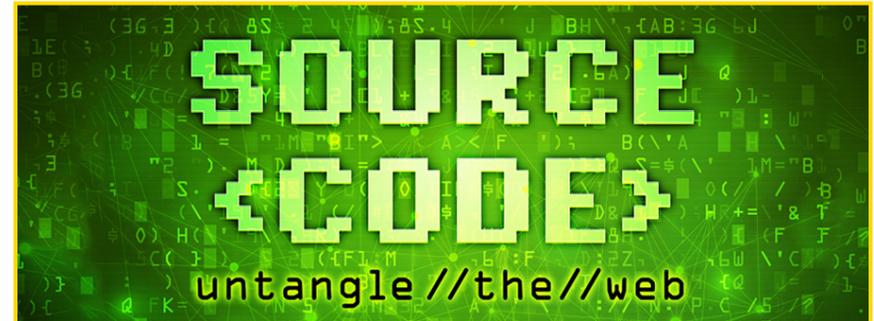
WEEK THREE

ESTHER 3-7

Haman's Plot
Against the Jews

SAY
THIS

When you lie to help yourself,
you hurt yourself instead.



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DO
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DRIVE TIME

While in the car this month ask your child the following questions. Be sure you answer the questions, too! "When has someone been dishonest to you? How did that make you feel?"

REMEMBER THIS

"Anyone who lives without blame walks safely.
But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught."
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

LIFE
APP

HONESTY – Choosing to be truthful in
whatever you say and do

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ONE MARBLE AT A TIME

By Autumn Ward

I've been told there are 936 weeks in the life of a child from birth to 18. Parent Cue uses a visual of a jar filled with 936 marbles. The idea is that when you count the weeks you have left with a kid, you stand a better chance of making your weeks count. As you take one marble out of the jar each week, the marbles begin going down, you see what you have left . . . you get the idea.

I have three kids and the jar of my first-born has four marbles left in it.

One. Two. Three. Four.
Four marbles.
A cap and gown.
A prom tux.
Graduation announcements . . .

All reminders that there's not much time left before the infant that entered my home 18 years ago will soon be leaving as a man.

Looking back, I can't even begin to tell you where all of my 936 marbles went. Some were spent sitting in a rocking chair just staring at his infant face. Others looking for Blue's Clues, putting Transformers together, listening to him read his first book to me, eating lunch with him at school, going on all those field trips, shopping for cool shirts, talking about girls, talking about God,

helping him recover from his first broken heart, letting him chauffeur me around, taking selfies together, getting ready for prom . . .

It's worth pointing out that when I look back, it's not the "big" moments that I remember most. It's the smaller everyday moments that stand out. I truly believe the best way to spend your marbles is by simply making yourself available.

It's making the most of the drive to practice. Eating dinner together with no electronic devices. Helping with homework. Playing in the yard. Hosting sleepovers and listening to their stories.

The point is to be intentional about making the weeks you have with your child count. Because I'm telling you, it will feel like there's a hole in the bottom of your jar, but there's not. Time just really does go by that fast, and before you know it you'll look over and see four marbles sitting there.

Now, go be an amazing parent. You've got this! One marble at a time.

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