

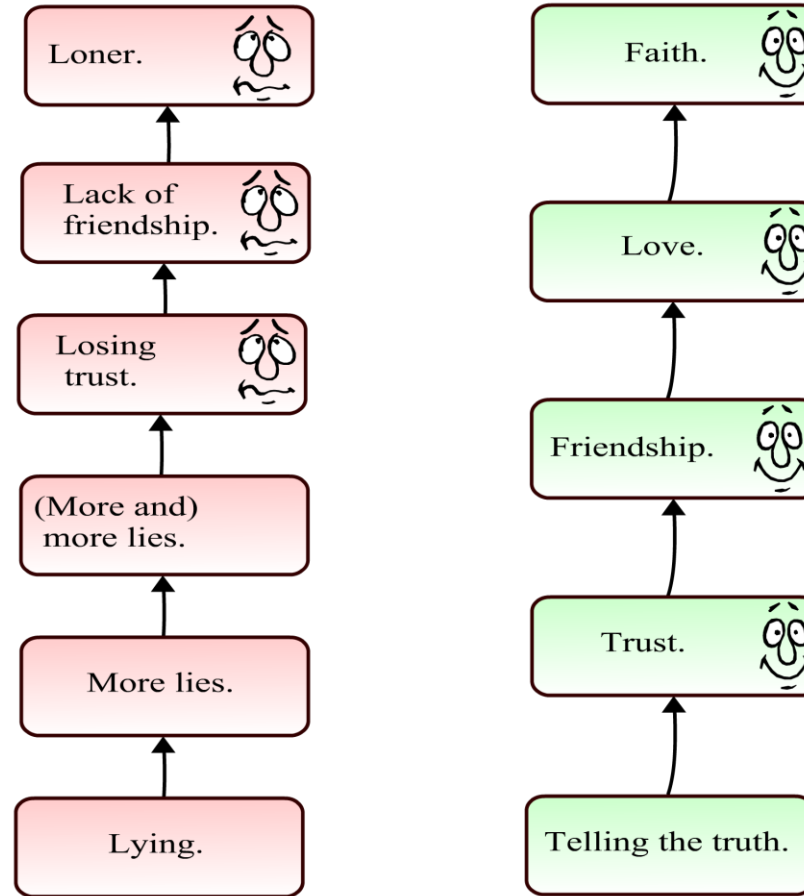
NO MORE LIES!

At Allen Independent School District, north of Dallas, Texas, there is an Assistant Principal Terry Billups. Terry learned about the negative branch from Dr. Charles Blanton during one of his classes at Texas Women's University. Terry was very troubled about a fourth grader who continued to lie. The teachers had tried everything. The parents were part of the team addressing the behavior. The behavior plan they developed had not worked. All the tools their combined education had provided seemed to no avail. This had gone on for almost the entire fall semester 2001.

Terry sat down with the young man and began to talk with him using the negative branch. She asked him questions. As he answered, she drew the branch for him so he could focus on the whys.

He began by explaining that when he lies, it leads to more lies. Terry asked what happens when there are more lies. He said that then people began "losing trust" in him. If people were "losing trust" in him then he would have a "lack of friendship". If he had a "lack of friendship" then he would be a "loner." Terry then asked what would happen if you did not lie, but you told the truth. The fourth grader said that if he were "telling the truth" there would be "trust." If there was "trust" then he would have "friendship." If there was "friendship", he would have love. If there was "love" then there would be "faith."

This was done last semester. In March we went to the school and digital videotaped the story from Terry. At that time, over three months later, the young man had not been lying.



Negative Branch

Positive Branch