

# Beware of Scam

**Bible:** Beware of Scam (Naaman and Elisha's Servant, Gehazi) • *2 Kings 5*

**Bottom Line:** When you're not truthful, you lose trust.

**Memory Verse:** "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." *Proverbs 10:9, NIV*

**Life App:** Honesty—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Get Your Head in the Game**

- No supplies needed

**10:15**

### **Just for Fun**

- No supplies needed

## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)**

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Verses to Take with You**

- Bibles
- Ping pong balls; one per kid
- Straws; one per kid
- Two paths taped on the floor; one set for each small group
  - Path #1: straight line
  - Path #2: zigzag line

**10:15**

### **Discussion Questions**

No supplies needed

## **Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)**

- A tube of toothpaste; one per small group
- A plate; one per small group
- Craft sticks; several per small group

## **Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)**

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## Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

*Before kids arrive, take some time to pray for your students. Pray that they would share honestly about a topic that all of us struggle with from time to time (especially as kids). Pray that you would be able to communicate the truth about being honest clearly this week in small group.*

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle with kids facing each other.
- **Instruct** kids to raise their right hand and grab the raised hand of someone across the circle from them.
- **Instruct** kids to raise their left hand and grab the raised hand of a different person. **Check** to ensure everyone is holding hands of two different people.
- **Challenge** kids to untangle themselves without breaking the chain of hands.
- If time is running out, **separate** one grip between two kids and **direct** the group to form a single line instead of a circle.

#### What You Say:

"It wasn't easy to untangle yourself from each other, was it? *[Transition]* **Let's head to Large Group to hear about what else can entangle us and trap us.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**10:15****Just for Fun****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- **Read** a statement from the list below.
- **Ask** kids to give a thumbs up if they think the statement is true and a thumbs down if it is a lie.
- *Optional:* **Encourage** kids to come up with a statement and the group decides if it is a truth or a lie.
- Truth or Lie Statements:
  - Kangaroos can hop backwards (*Lie*)
  - Hippos can be more dangerous than lions. (*Truth*)
  - Earthworms don't have a heart (*Lie – they have 5 hearts*)
  - Ketchup was originally sold as medicine. (*Truth*)
  - Popsicles were invented by an old man whose friends called "Pop." (*Lie- they were created by an 11-year-old*)
  - Panda bears are part of the cat family. (*Lie*)
  - Turtles can breathe under water. (*Lie – but they can hold their breath for several hours*)

**Wrap Up and Say:**

"That was a pretty cool way to learn something new. In all seriousness though, choosing between telling a lie and telling the truth can be kind of hard and have some pretty serious consequences. You'll hear about a guy who had to decide for himself what was more important, being truthful, or what he thought he wanted."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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## Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- Host
- Table
- Giant easel pad or whiteboard on a stand
- Marker (for pad or whiteboard)
- Small towel
- Ingredients to make a ham and cheese sandwich:
  - Loaf of bread
  - Ham
  - Cheese
  - Mayonnaise
  - Mustard
  - Knife
  - Plate

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible

#### 3. Worship

##### What You Need:

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- "Alive"
- "Generation for You"
- "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

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## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG:** *Source Code Theme Slide*

*Host welcomes the kids as they enter. She has a smartphone or other handheld device, and she looks at it occasionally while greeting the kids.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! Let's not waste any time. We thought we might give you a quick throwback to how you used to worship and learn so you can appreciate both the old way and the new way. Student ministry will be back to running the show next Sunday, but for now, up on your feet and welcome the Power Praise team.

*Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.*

### **Worship**

**SFX:** *"Alive"*

**SFX:** *"Generation for You"*

**SFX:** *"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"*

*Power Praise exits as Host enters.*

**HOST:** You know, I hope that some of you will join that team in June. You could be the one that makes a Kinder kid feel like the most special person in the world one day, just because you sang and danced with them.

Alright, on with the day. (*Hold up your device.*) I love playing with this [device name]. Isn't it crazy how the first computer was so big it took up an entire room, and now I can hold a computer in one hand? I brought this in today because this month we're talking about honesty.

**CG:** *Honesty Slide*

**“Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.** I know, I know. What does technology or computers have to do with being truthful? Well, it’s simple.

“Every program, every app, every computer graphic starts with a code—little ones and zeroes. When those ones and zeroes are organized in the perfect way, amazing things can happen. BUT if one of those lines of code isn’t true—if those ones and zeroes are in the wrong place—the whole program falls apart. The same thing is true about you and me. Our ‘source code’ has to be 100 percent honest and true!

*The following demonstration/activity should be lighthearted and fun. The goal is for the kids to figure out that the right code is important if you really want whatever it is to work.*

“Here. Let me show you how this might work. *(Move behind the table and set down the device.)* I thought you could help me make my lunch *(pull off the towel)*: a ham and cheese sandwich. But before we get to the actual making part, we need to write down the steps for me to follow. That’s how coding works. What do you think? What’s the first step in making a ham and cheese sandwich?

*On the white board or easel pad, write down the steps exactly as the kids say them. Keep this part moving pretty fast. Don’t correct them if something seems out of order. That’s the point.*

“Good job, everyone. It looks like you’ve covered all the steps I’ll need to make a great ham sandwich. Now it’s time for me to make it!

*Begin following the steps to make the ham sandwich. Follow the steps very literally. If the kids said, “Put the mayonnaise on the bread,” set the jar of mayonnaise on the loaf of bread. Follow each step exactly and as literally as described, and as the kids catch on, help them rewrite the steps as you go. Don’t make them feel bad about missing some of the steps in the process. Just have fun with it. (If you have an adult volunteer who can help, that person can correct the steps on the whiteboard to keep things moving faster.)*

“That was quite a mess there for a while, wasn’t it? I was a bit afraid I wouldn’t get my ham sandwich. But then you fixed our code into something we can trust. And now I’ve got lunch ready! But for now, please welcome to the stage, the amazing, the honorable, the wise.. [Historyteller’s Name].”

*Host exits as Historyteller enters.*

### **SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Awwwe, I think I might be blushing. Thank you for such a great welcome. Now, let’s get started. Today’s Bible Truth comes from the book of 2 Kings *(hold up Bible)*, where we find a man named Elisha.

**SFX: Elisha's song ("Hava Nagila")**

"Elisha was a prophet in the kingdom of Israel, which means he shared messages from God with the people of Israel. One young girl who knew about Elisha was captured by some of Israel's enemies—soldiers from Aram. The soldiers brought this girl and many others back to Aram to work. The girl became a servant in the home of Aram's great army commander, Naaman."

**SFX: Naaman's song ("If I Were a Rich Man" from Fiddler on the Roof)**

## **NAAMAN AND LEPROSY**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Yes. Naaman was very rich. But he had a problem he couldn't buy his way out of. He had a terrible, itchy skin disease called leprosy.

"The servant girl from Israel saw how miserable Naaman was, and she got word to him about the prophet Elisha.

**SFX: Elisha's song**

"It would have been unusual for Naaman to listen to a young servant girl, but he was desperate. However, instead of traveling straight to Elisha, Naaman took expensive gifts to the king of Israel.

**SFX: King of Israel's song ("Fanfare for the Common Man")**

"Naaman approached the king of Israel with his gifts and a letter from his king, the king of Aram. Listen to what it said.

*Put down the device. Open the Bible to 2 Kings 5:6 and read.*

*"I'm sending my servant Naaman to you with this letter. I want you to heal him of his skin disease (Nirv).*

"The king of Israel panicked. There was no way he could heal Naaman. He wasn't God! He figured the king of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him.

"The king of Israel made such a fuss that the prophet Elisha heard the news.

**SFX: Elisha's song**

"Elisha sent a messenger to the king—most likely, his trusted servant Gehazi.

**SFX: Gehazi's song ("Trust in Me" from The Jungle Book)**

"Elisha told the king to send Naaman to him. And that's exactly what the king did. He sent Naaman straight to Elisha's doorstep.

"Naaman showed up.

**SFX:** *Naaman's song*

"And Elisha sent a messenger out to him—again, probably Gehazi.

**SFX:** *Gehazi's song*

"Let's check out what Elisha told Gehazi to say.

*Put down the device. Open the Bible to 2 Kings 5:10 and read.*

*"Go! Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed. You will be pure and 'clean' again (NIRV).*

"Naaman was furious. He thought Elisha would come out himself and say the right words and wave his hand, and Naaman would be healed, just like that!" (*Snap your fingers.*)

### **NAAMAN IS HEALED**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Naaman stormed off. But his servants convinced him to follow Elisha's instructions anyway.

"Naaman dipped seven times in the murky Jordan River. When he rose from the water the seventh time, his skin was perfectly clean. He was healed! Naaman raced back to Elisha's house.

**SFX:** *Elisha's song*

*Open the Bible to 2 Kings 5:15 and read.*

"Naaman told Elisha: *Now I know that there is no God anywhere . . . except in Israel (NIRV).* He begged Elisha to take a gift from him. But Elisha refused. Listen to what he said back to Naaman.

*Open the Bible to 2 Kings 5:16 and read.*

*"I serve the LORD. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I won't accept a gift from you" (NIRV).*

"Naaman begged Elisha to take something—anything—from him. But Elisha refused to take even a single gold coin from Naaman. He sent Naaman away in peace."

### **GEHAZI LIES**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Gehazi was speechless.

**SFX:** *Gehazi's song*

"What was Elisha thinking? He should have taken SOMETHING from the rich army commander. Even if Elisha didn't want to keep it, he could have given it to Gehazi!



“So Gehazi took off running down the road until he caught up with Naaman.

**SFX: Naaman’s song**

“Naaman climbed down from his expensive chariot to ask Gehazi if everything was okay.

“Everything was okay, Gehazi assured the man. But Elisha had sent him to say that two young prophets had just arrived for a visit, and he needed gifts to give them. Elisha had SUPPOSEDLY asked: *Please give them 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothes (2 Kings 5:22 NIV).*

“Do you think that was true? Did Elisha really ask for that? *(Pause for response.)* No, he didn’t. Gehazi made it up.

“Naaman agreed. In fact, he begged Gehazi to take twice as much silver. When Gehazi got back to Elisha’s house, he stashed the gifts inside.

“But Elisha was onto him.

**SFX: Elisha’s song**

“Elisha looked at Gehazi suspiciously. ‘Where have you been?’ he demanded to know of his servant.

“‘I didn’t go anywhere,’ lied Gehazi.

**SFX: Gehazi’s song**

“But Elisha told Gehazi that he knew the truth. He knew Gehazi had followed Naaman and had asked Naaman for money and clothes. He knew Gehazi had been dishonest. He said that from then on, Gehazi would have the same skin disease that Naaman had.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Gehazi’s lie had won him some money and some new clothes—at least for a moment. But he lost something much more important. He lost Elisha’s trust. We can learn something really important from Gehazi’s life.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “When you’re not truthful, you lose trust.**

“God wants us to have good relationships with the people around us. He wants us to be able to trust each other. Lying breaks that trust. It’s so important for us to be truthful with our parents, our teachers, and our friends, so we don’t lose their trust.

“Being truthful isn’t always easy. Thankfully, we can ask God to help us. We know we **[Basic Truth] can trust Him no matter what.** Let’s ask Him to help us right now.”

**Pray**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Dear God, please help us to be honest in all of our relationships. We want to be truthful because we want others to trust us. Help us to have the courage and strength to be honest—even if we think we might get in trouble. Help us to show our friends and family that we can be trusted. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

**Closer**

**HOST:** “Wow. You can see why honesty is such a big deal, right?”

“Gehazi thought he could get rich quick, so he snuck out and then told a lie about it too. And then he got caught. I bet Elisha had a hard time trusting Gehazi after that.

“Check out this Proverb that we’re memorizing this month. Say it with me.”

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

**HOST and KIDS:** “*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out,*’ Proverbs 10:9” (NIV).

**HOST:** “That’s exactly what happened to Gehazi. He took a crooked path, and he got caught. Unfortunately, he lost Elisha’s trust.

“Honesty isn’t just about telling the truth versus telling a lie. Being truthful is also how you live your life. It means that when you say you’ll do something, you do it.

“When a friend tells you a secret and you say you won’t tell—and you actually DON’T tell—your friend knows she can trust you in the future. But, if you’re dishonest and you DO tell someone else that secret, you lose your friend’s trust.

“The one thing you should remember today is this.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “When you’re not truthful, you lose trust.**

“Ask God to help you live your life in a truthful way. When you do, you can hold on to people’s trust.

*Pick up the ham sandwich from the Opener. Take a bite.*

“Thanks for this, by the way. It’s awesome. Honest.”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

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**Life App:** Honesty—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**9:00 & 11:30**

**Verse to Take with You**

**What You Need:** Bibles, two taped paths on the floor, straws, and ping pong balls

**What You Do:**

- **Read** the memory verse, Proverbs 10:9.
- **Ask:**
  - What do you think it means, "Anyone who lives without blame walks safely"? (*If needed, look up the verse in different translations to help answer*)
  - What could be a benefit of walking safely? (*You will keep your integrity, people will trust you, relationships won't be damaged, etc. This is an opportunity to talk about the fact that your life won't be perfect, but the consequences of your choices will be safer.*)
  - What do you think it means, "But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught"?
  - What are the results of a following a crooked path? (*Be sure to tie in with the previous activity and how our honesty reflects God to others.*)
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Line** each team behind one of the taped paths on the floor: one path is straight and one path is crooked.
- **Give** each kid a straw and a ping-pong ball.
- **Explain** kids will compete in a race to move all of their teams' ping-pong balls down the path.
  - Kids blow air through the straw to move the ping-pong balls down the path.
  - Teams can have multiple ping pong balls on the path simultaneously.
  - If a ping-pong ball travels outside the path, kids can touch the ping-pong balls with their hands to put their ping-pong balls back on the path.
  - The first team to move all their ping-pong balls down the path wins.
- **Repeat** the race switching the path the teams race.
- **Ask:**
  - Was there an advantage in this race? Was one path easier to navigate?
  - What were the challenges?
  - How do the two paths in our game reflect our Bible verse?

**10:15****Discussion Questions**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:****Ask:**

- Why should you be honest?
- Why is it important for people to trust you?
- What if no one is watching, why is it important to be honest if no one knows you weren't truthful?

**All Service Times****Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** A tube of toothpaste, paper plate, craft sticks

**What You Do:**

- **Place** a tube of toothpaste and a plate in front of the group.
- **Ask** kids to give an example of a way to be dishonest. For each answer, **instruct** kids to squirt out a bit of toothpaste on the plate.
- **Challenge** kids to work together to put the toothpaste back in the tube using the craft sticks.
- **Close** in prayer.

**What You Say:**

“Once the toothpaste leaves the tube, you may be able to get some of it back in the tube, but you can't get it all back in. It is the same with not being truthful. You may be able to repair some of the changes caused by being dishonest, but ultimately dishonesty changes relationships. When you are dishonest, people now have a hard time trusting you or believing what you say it true. When you decide to be honest and truthful, you not only reflect the type of person you want to be, but you also reflect to others that God values honesty.

“Let's Pray: God, You are honest, and we know we can trust You no matter what. God, sometimes being honest is hard. We are afraid we will get in trouble or people won't like us, but help us to remember that when we are honest we show the world we want to be someone who can be trusted. When we are honest, we show the world that we trust You. Amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.