

Logic Error

Bible: Logic Error (David and Ahimelek) • *1 Samuel 21–22*

Bottom Line: When you're not truthful, you hurt others.

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

10:15

If and Then

- "If and Then" cards; one set for each group

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

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

9:00 & 11:30

Spreading Lies

- Coffee filters; one for each kid
- Washable markers
- Eyedroppers; one for each kid
- Cup of water; one for each small group
- Styrofoam plates; one for each kid

10:15

Back and Forth

- Ball of yarn; one for each small group
- Bibles

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

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

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that kids would understand and feel the weight of broken relationships when they're dishonest. Pray that God would give them hearts that seek His and others' forgiveness when they mess up in this area. And ask God to help kids understand that when they hurt others with their dishonesty, they can always rely on Him to help them make it right.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids and invite them to put their offerings in the container.
- Play "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?"
 - The rhyme goes like this:
 - LEADER:** "Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar? (*Point to kid.*) Was it you?"
 - KID:** "Who, me?"
 - GROUP:** "Yes, you."
 - KID:** "Couldn't be."
 - GROUP:** "Then who?"
 - Kid then names someone in the room and the rhyme moves on, with the leader saying, "[Kid's name] stole the cookie . . ."
- After you've played a few rounds, talk about while this is a silly game, when we're faced with trouble, we often are tempted to lie, and sometimes we bring other people into it.
- Ask: What could be the consequences of those kinds of lies?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**If and Then****What You Need:** “If and Then” cards from the Activity Page**What You Do:**

- Explain to your few that you will each take a turn picking up a card and coming up with their own “if and then” scenarios. For example: IF I disobey my mom, THEN I will be unable to go to the sleepover.
- Take the first turn so kids will have an example to follow.
- If time allows, pass out some pencils and let kids come up with their own “If” statements. They can write their statements on the back of the “If and Then” cards.
- Put the cards kids have written on in a pile, and let them take turns drawing a peer’s card and coming up with a “then” statement for the “if” statement on the card.

What You Say:

“You all came up with some crazy ‘if and then’ scenarios. You did an excellent job at thinking through what may result because of a certain choice you make. Have you ever made a wrong choice in real life? What happened when you made that choice? *(Pause for answers.)* **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to learn about a guy who also made some unwise decisions. IF he made wrong choices just like the examples on our cards, I wonder what happened to him THEN?”**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- "0" and "1" poster board signs
- Pickled Eggs
- Drop cloth
- Cue cards

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Table
- White or black sheet
- Visual representations of the following *Star Wars* characters
 - Luke Skywalker
 - Chewbacca
 - Darth Vader
 - Stormtrooper
 - Yoda
 - R2-D2
 - Additional Stormtroopers
- Box
- Five crunchy breadsticks
- Sword cocktail pick

3. Worship

What You Need:

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

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

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

CG: 10-Second Count Down

CG: Source Code Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hello everybody! I'm [Host's name], and I'm so glad you're here today. I know a lot of you have done some coding. Look at binary code. It's basically a bunch of zeroes and ones.

CG: Scrolling GIF of Binary Code

"It looks crazy, but our computers, smartphones, and other devices can READ that, and it tells them what to do. But your code has to be true from beginning to end, or the whole thing just doesn't work. In the same way, God wants US to be 100 percent truthful in everything we say and do. That's why we're talking about honesty.

CG: Honesty Slide

"Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

"Now, I really need your help for today's game. You see, if you don't win, I get the consequences! I'll ask you a series of true/false questions. On one side of this room there's a '0' sign, and on the other side there's a '1' sign. The '0' means FALSE and the '1' means TRUE—similar to binary code. This game is called 'Zeroes and Ones'!

CG: "Zeroes and Ones" Game Slide

"When I read out the question, ALL of you will slow-motion run (*demonstrate*) to the side that you think is the correct answer: true (*point to the '1' side of the room*) or false (*point to the '0' side of the room*). We'll go with whichever answer MOST of you pick.

"If you can get at least four out of seven questions correct, then I'll be safe. If you can't, then . . . well, I

get to experience a consequence. Computers can get a virus sometimes that makes them not work properly. Sometimes we get viruses too and get sick. So, if you get this wrong, I will get a virus. (*Hold up the jar of pickled eggs.*) I'll get to eat a pickled egg. It looks gross . . . and slimy.

"Okay, so my fate is totally in your hands! Are you up for it? Let's play 'Zeroes and Ones'!

"Here's question #1: (*read the cue card*) Charmin® Ultra toilet paper has 350 sheets per roll. True or false? If you think it's true, slow-motion run to the '1' side. If you think it's false, slow-motion run to the '0' side. Go!

Small Group Leaders and kids slow-motion run to the side they think is the correct answer.

"The correct answer is . . . true!

Repeat the same process for all of the questions.

"Here's question #2: The red Skittle in the original Skittles® is cherry-flavored. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: False—it's strawberry.*)

"Time for question #3: There are 20 million penguins that live in Antarctica. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: True—at least by some estimates.*)

"Question #4: Of the popular DC Superheroes, the first one to appear in a comic book was Batman. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: False—Superman's comic appeared a year before Batman.*)

"Question #5: The number one bestselling candy in the USA is Reese's® Peanut Butter Cups. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: False—M&M'S® are the best-selling candy.*)

"Question #6: An ostrich's eye is larger than its brain. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: True.*)

"Question #7: 60 percent of the earth is covered with water. True or false? If you think that's true, go to the '1' side. If you think it's false, go to the '0' side. (*Correct answer: False—it's actually about 71 percent.*)

If the audience got four or more questions correct, Host is safe from the "virus." If the audience got three or fewer questions correct, Host picks up the jar and takes one out.

"Wow, that was totally gross! I'm going to need some time to get my stomach right. Please welcome [Historyteller's name]."

Historyteller enters and positions herself behind the table.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

As you introduce each Star Wars character for the Bible Truth, you'll bring them out from the box hidden below the table.

HISTORYTELLER: "Now, today's Bible Truth has a lot of villains and good guys. It's a true event from the book of 1 Samuel (*hold up Bible*), but I thought it would be fun to use some characters from a made-up story that a lot of us love.

"This is David. (*Hold up Luke Skywalker.*)

SFX: "Main Theme" (*from Star Wars*)

"He might look like Luke Skywalker, but he's David.

"David was an unlikely choice to be the next king of Israel, but God had chosen him. However, he wasn't king yet. In fact, the current king of Israel, King Saul (*hold up Darth Vader*) wasn't too excited about the idea of giving up the job. This put David in a really sticky situation—especially since King Saul was also the father of David's best friend, Jonathan." (*Hold up Chewbacca.*)

DAVID AND AHIMELEK

HISTORYTELLER: "Jonathan (*hold up Chewbacca*) knew that his dad was angry at David and jealous of him. You see, David was really popular. Jonathan (*hold up Chewbacca*) warned David that his father had a plan to kill him. So David took off (*make Luke Skywalker 'run away'*) and headed to a place called Nob, where God's tabernacle was.

"David was all alone when he approached the high priest, Ahimelek (*hold up Yoda*). Ahimelek was actually terrified to see David. He was afraid that David's enemies wouldn't be far behind him. When he saw that David was alone, he demanded to know why.

"David had a choice to make. He knew that if he was honest with Ahimelek and told him that King Saul (*hold up Darth Vader*) was actually on the hunt for him, Ahimelek would have sent David away empty-handed. Ahimelek would be afraid of making the king mad.

"Because David didn't want to be sent home empty handed, David (*hold up Luke Skywalker*) decided to lie. He told Ahimelek (*hold up Yoda*) that King Saul had sent him on a mission—a top-secret, special mission. He went on to tell Ahimelek that he did, in fact, have men with him, and he was about to meet up with them. That meant he would need food—LOTS of food. He needed five loaves of bread, to be exact.

"Ahimelek (*hold up Yoda*) told David he didn't have any bread, except for the bread that was holy—set apart for God. (*Optional: Hold up the breadsticks.*) David assured Ahimelek that he and his (*air quotes*) 'men' had kept themselves holy. So Ahimelek agreed and gave David the bread. (*Move the breadsticks next to David.*)

"David decided to take the lie one step further. Let's read what happened next.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 21:8 and read.

“David asked Ahimelek, “Don’t you have a spear or sword here? I haven’t brought my sword or any other weapon. That’s because the job the king gave me to do had to be done right away” (NirV).

“David was in luck—for now, at least. Because Goliath’s sword was actually there at the tabernacle. *(Optional: Hold up the sword cocktail pick.)* This was after David had killed Goliath. There wasn’t any sword like it in the world, so David happily took the weapon and went on his way, gathering men as he moved from hiding place to hiding place. *(Move Luke Skywalker away from Yoda, along with the sword.)* Many members of his family came to join him, as did other men who were unhappy or in trouble with the king. Before long, David had almost 400 men ready to fight Saul with him.”

DOEG AND SAUL

HISTORYTELLER: “But Ahimelek wasn’t the only one who noticed what David was up to. *(Dramatically bring out the Stormtrooper.)* King Saul’s chief shepherd Doeg was there at the tabernacle and, unlike David, he actually WAS there on a mission from Saul. Doeg watched David very carefully. He would have some interesting news to report to the king.

“It wasn’t too much longer before Saul *(hold up Darth Vader)* heard that David had been assembling an army and his hiding place had been discovered. He turned to his own men *(optional: reveal more Stormtroopers)*, and accused them of keeping it all a secret from him. He thought they were all taking David’s side.

“Doeg knew it was his time to shine. *(Hold up the original Stormtrooper.)* He stood up and told Saul *(hold up Darth Vader)* that he knew what David was up to. He told King Saul that he had seen David talking to Ahimelek *(hold up Luke Skywalker and Yoda)* in Nob, and that Ahimelek had given David bread and a sword.”

SAUL AND AHIMELEK

HISTORYTELLER: “Saul was FURIOUS. He called for Ahimelek and all the priests at Nob to be brought to him. *(Bring Yoda near Darth Vader.)* Saul accused Ahimelek of being on David’s side and working to hurt him.

“Ahimelek trembled. *(Shake Yoda.)* He was only trying to be helpful, since David had said he was on a secret mission for the king. He tried to defend David, telling the king that David was faithful to him—more faithful than anyone else, in fact! Ahimelek begged the king not to blame him for anything—he thought he was helping the king with his secret mission, after all!

“But Saul wouldn’t hear any of it. *(Turn Darth Vader away from Yoda.)* He believed Ahimelek was guilty, and so he gave the order to his officials to kill Ahimelek and his family, as well as all the other priests. But his officials refused—they knew better than to kill a priest. Saul turned to the man he knew would do anything for him: Doeg.

“And sure enough, that day, Doeg did a terrible thing. He killed all the priests, just as the king had commanded.

Swipe Yoda off the table and into the box.

“Only one man escaped: Ahimelek’s son Abiathar.” *(Hold up R2-D2.)*

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Abiathar fled to the countryside and found David (*move R2-D2 near Luke Skywalker*). He told David the news of what Saul and Doeg had done. David was devastated. He promised to keep Abiathar safe, all the while knowing that he was responsible for the death of Abiathar’s family and friends. His lie had caused so much hurt for so many people.

“That’s where we’ll end our saga for today.

SFX: “*Main Theme*” (*from Star Wars*)

Drop all the characters into the box and move out from behind the table.

“Unfortunately, David learned something the hard way.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “**When you’re not truthful, you hurt others.** That’s also true for you and me. So many times in the moment, we’re only thinking of ourselves and how to keep ourselves out of trouble. But telling a lie is never the wise choice, and it can really hurt others. We often say in here that **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** In this case, that means telling the truth so that others don’t get hurt. Let’s talk to God about it.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You’re ALWAYS truthful with us. We love our family and our friends, and we don’t want to hurt them with our dishonesty. Please help us to always tell the truth, even when it might get us into trouble. 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.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to God!”

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.

Closer

HOST: “We talked last week about how you should be truthful; otherwise people won’t trust you. But it goes even further than that, because you’re not the only one who can get hurt when you tell a lie.

“Imagine this: you accidentally broke something and then blamed someone else for it. You didn’t want to get in trouble, right? But that means someone else will have to pay the price that you should have paid. They’ll get the consequence when they didn’t do anything wrong. They’ll get hurt for no reason at all.

“When you’re not truthful, you could also hurt someone’s feelings. If you’ve ever heard of someone saying things that are untrue about you, you know how that can feel. It’s even worse when that person who told the lie was a friend of yours. The closer you are to someone, the more it hurts when they tell a lie about you or when you lie about them.

“That’s why it’s so important to remember our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you’re not truthful, you hurt others. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “When you’re not truthful, you hurt others.”

HOST: “When you’re tempted to tell a lie, think about how YOU would want to be treated. Then choose to be truthful. It might keep someone from being hurt.”

“You’ll talk some more about that in Small Group.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

9:00 & 11:30

Spreading Lies

What You Need: Coffee filters, washable markers, eyedroppers, cup of water, Styrofoam plates

What You Do:

- Give each kid a coffee filter, and instruct them to place it on a Styrofoam plate.
- Encourage your few to write this week's Bottom Line on their coffee filter with a marker.
- After completed, provide each kid with an eyedropper.
- Help them fill up their eyedropper about half way with the water from the cup.
- Instruct kids to slowly drop water in the center of the coffee filter.
- As they do, let them watch the ink from their Bottom Line spread across the coffee filter.

What You Say:

- "It was a bit of a bummer to watch the words you wrote disappear as the ink spread across the coffee filter! Just like the water caused the ink to spread all over the place, being untruthful spreads to others. Have you ever witnessed how a lie can spread—maybe at school or with friends? *(Provide time to share stories.)* **[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story from a time you were untruthful and in the end hurt someone.)** Whether it's a lie we share, or it's from someone else, now we can see how **[Bottom Line] when you're not truthful, you hurt others.**"

10:15**Back and Forth****What You Need:** Yarn; Bibles**What You Do:**

- Look up Proverbs 10:9 together in the Bibles and read it out loud a few times.
- Then arrange the group so they're seated in a large circle facing inward.
- Give the yarn to the kid with the last name closest to the end of the alphabet.
- Tell him to hold the end of the yarn in one hand and the ball in the other.
- The kid holding the yarn ball should say the first word or phrase of the verse and then say the name of someone else in the circle.
- Then that kid should throw the ball to the person he named while holding the end securely in his other hand.
- The kid who catches the ball of yarn says the next word of the verse and another kid's name, and while holding onto the loose end of the yarn, she tosses the ball to a kid across the circle.
- Say the whole verse like that, helping kids who may have the yarn tossed to them more than once.
- Guide kids to continue holding the yarn in a web. (You'll reference the web during prayer, so if you don't move directly into prayer, preserve the web somewhere in your area.)

What You Say:

"This web reminds us that we can get tangled in lies really quickly! It's all twisted and crooked like the path in our verse. And when we don't tell the truth, we don't just get ourselves caught up in a web. **[Bottom Line] When you're not truthful, you hurt others.** People you love can get hurt when you lie, even though you don't mean for that to happen. That's why it is so important to live with honesty and choose to be truthful in what you say and do. Telling the truth can protect you and others from the consequences of lying."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

Consider asking these discussion questions:

- What do you think about the idea of a little tiny lie or a fib? When we say those kinds of things, we're usually trying to not hurt others' feelings. So do you think those kinds of lies really ever hurt people?
- Read Psalm 15:2-3. The chapter is talking about the kinds of people who are friends with God, who live according to His ways. When you are tempted to tell a little white lie, how can you "speak the truth from your heart"?

What are some ways that you could encourage people while telling the truth? If you're afraid the blunt facts would hurt someone's feelings, how could you tell the truth in love?

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** Web from “Back and Forth” (9:00 & 11:30 only), yarn (10:15), scissors**What You Do:****9:00 & 11:30**

- Gather around the tangled web of yarn.
- Cut one-foot pieces of yarn from the web so each kid gets one.
- Straighten out the rest of the yarn into a circle and sit around it.
- Show kids how to tie knots in the yarn. They should make one every two inches and tie them tight so they can't be undone easily.
- Then let kids gently tie the yarn around their wrists, helping each other.

10:15

- Cut one-foot pieces of yarn from the yarn provided, so each kid gets one.
- Show kids how to tie knots in the yarn. They should make one every two inches and tie them tight so they can't be undone easily.
- Then let kids gently tie the yarn around their wrists, helping each other.

What You Say:

“These knots are hard to untie, and time will make them even tighter. Wear these for a while to remember that just like these knots, lies are hard to undo, and they get harder to untangle with time. When you look at these knots, remember **[Bottom Line] when you're not truthful, you hurt others.** When it's time for you to take these off, ask an adult to help you cut them and share with that adult that you're choosing honesty in what you say and do. Ask them to pray with you that God will help you be honest. Put the yarn in a place that you see often so it can remind you to always work toward honesty.

“Dear God, please help us this week to be honest and truthful so that others are not hurt by our words or actions. Give us the strength and wisdom we need to choose the right words at the right times so that we can live the way You want us to. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, explain about the yarn bracelets and encourage adults to pray with their kids and help them to choose honesty in daily situations.