

Alley SG - May 19-20, 2018

Bible Story: Planting A Virus (Haman's Plot Against the Jews) • *Esther* 3; 4:8b; 5:6-10; 6:6-11; 7:1-6, 9b-10

Bottom Line: When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.

Key Question: When are you tempted to lie?

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

1. Just for Fun: "I Doubt It!"

What You Need: Deck of Cards (1 per group)

- Deal the cards out evenly. If there are remainders, place them face down in the center of the table as the beginning of the discard pile.
- Play begins with the player to the left of the dealer. He places the Aces in his hand face down on the discard pile and announces his play to the table: "One Ace." If the player does not have any Aces, or if he wishes to get rid of more than one card, he may "bluff" and play non-Ace cards while announcing: "Two Aces." The next player plays 2s, the next player plays 3s, and so on. If a player doesn't believe an announcement, he can call out, "I doubt it!" The person who played the cards must turn them over and show the challenger whether he is bluffing or not. A player who is caught bluffing must pick up the entire discard pile and add it to his hand. If a challenged player is not bluffing, then the challenger must pick up the discard pile. When the rank to play reaches Kings, it then goes back to Aces and the numbers start again.
- Play a few rounds as time allows.

What to Say:

For many of you, it was either hard or easy to bluff during this game for the sake of trying to win. In life, when we are tempted to lie, it can end up hurting us and others.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Rubber bands (1 per kid), Sharpies (4 per bin)

What You Do:

- **Review** the Bible story. Potential discussion questions are:
 - Who was dishonest in the story?
 - What did he/she do that was dishonest?
 - Why was he/she tempted to lie? What was his/her motivation for lying?
 - What was the result of his/her dishonesty?
 - What are reasons we might be tempted to lie?
 - What could happen when I choose to lie to make myself look important or so I will be popular?
- **Give** student a rubber band and have them write the word "Truth" on it with a sharpie – make sure the ink is dry before the next step.
- **Instruct** each student to place a rubber band around their wrists, and place that wrist on the table/floor.
- **Ask:**
 - What do you think would happen if you pulled the top part of the rubber band as high as it goes, and let go? Wouldn't it hurt really bad?
 - Why do lies that we tell hurt us and others?
 - NOTE: The goal of this demonstration is to illustrate that we don't want to pull a rubber band on our wrist because, when it snaps back, it hurts. **Please do not allow students to snap themselves or their peers with the rubber bands.**

What You Say:

"It hurts if the rubber band snaps when I am holding it, and I want to avoid getting hurt. That is what can happen when you lie to help yourself—you can get hurt. Sometimes it may just sting for a little bit, and sometimes the hurt can last much longer. That's the risk of being dishonest; you don't get to decide the consequences, and that is why God wants us to know that being honest is always the wise choice."

3. Discussion Questions

- What are situations that might tempt someone to lie? Or to **stretch the truth**?
- When you are tempted to lie, what could stop you? What are things you can do to be honest when you are tempted to lie?
- What was happening the last time you felt tempted to lie? What did you do?

(They can keep their "truth" rubber band on their wrist, they will need it for Act. 5)

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: "Encrypted Verse Cards" Activity Page (one per kid), "Key Cards" Activity Page (one per kid), pens, Bibles, paper

What You Do:

- **Give** kids an "Encrypted Verse Card" and a "Key Card."
- **Challenge** kids to decipher the code and find the verse in the Bible.
- Once all the verses have been found, **guide** the group to find common words in the verses and determine the message God has for them. *(Trust Him)*
- **Ask:**
 - When we are tempted to lie, why is it important to remember to trust God? *(Review a few of the examples of why we might be tempted to lie from the "Bible Story Extension" activity. For example, when I am tempted to lie to be popular, why is it important to remember to trust God? Or when I am tempted to lie to not get in trouble, why is it important to remember to trust God?)*
- **Prompt** kids to select one of the verses to take home and memorize this week.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Rubber bands from "Bible Story Extension" (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- **Prompt** kids to **select** one of the verses from the "Verse to Take with You" Activity to memorize this week.
- **Encourage** each student to wear their "truth" rubber band as a reminder that she can trust God no matter what and to rely on God, especially when she is tempted to stretch the truth.
- **Allow** a minute of quiet time for kids to **reflect** about when they are most tempted to lie.
- **Close** with a prayer.

What You Say:

"God, You are honest and always truthful! We can trust You in all situations. God, You know the times we are tempted to be dishonest, the times we want to stretch the truth to make us appear important or popular or to avoid getting in trouble. God, it is our desire to honor You with our honesty, to recognize that when we choose to be truthful we are choosing to obey You. This week give us strength to be truthful in all situations. Amen."