

City LG - 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.

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

NOTE: Kindergartners will be previewing The City this weekend!

CG: 2-minute Countdown Video

CG: Welcome Video (play during Welcome)

"Hey, everybody! I'm (your name), and I'm pumped to be hanging out with you today. We're going to have a blast continuing our talks about Honesty! And I *honestly*, can't wait to worship with you all. We'll be talking about something that comes right back to you today in Large Group, but first, let's all stand up and worship with our Worship Team!"

WORSHIP: "Greater is He" and "Turn it Up"

Worship Leader: "Ok City! I can't wait to worship God with you all today! And...guess what? We have a brand-new song to teach you called 'Greater is He'. It's all about how God is bigger, stronger, and greater than anything else in this world! Let's sing..."

CG: "Greater is He" and "Turn it Up" (play both songs back to back with no down time)

Begin Large Group...

"Great job singing everyone! Like I said, we're talking about something that comes back to you today! Before we get started with our Bible Story today, I want to play a game with you all! While our team gets the game ready...here's how to play!"

GAME: "Honesty Four Corners"

Supplies Needed: 4 Corners Printed Signs

How to Play:

1. Place 4 Corners Signs in the 4 Corners of Your Room (Honor, Honesty, Trust and Truth)
2. Have children stand in a corner of their choosing
3. Play the Game Video (Wheel will Spin)
4. Tech Team will pause it at random; whichever word it shows, that corner is "out"
5. Play until there is a winner; play a few rounds as time/interest allows

CG: Honesty Four Corners Game Video

"That was awesome! Thanks for playing the game everybody! Just like in our game today, we have choices of where we will stand. Good thing for us, honesty, truth, trust and honor are all

good options! Let's remember to be truthful today!"

"Ok City. Let me ask you a question. Have you ever been in charge of something big? Maybe you were the line leader for a week. Maybe you were the captain of your soccer match. Maybe you got to choose the movie for family movie night."

"It feels good to be in charge, right? There's nothing wrong with that. Being in charge can make us feel useful. We feel like what we're doing is important."

"There's a guy in our story today who had JUST been put in charge of something really important. His name was Haman. Like, 'Hey, man!' But H-A-M-A-N—Haman. The king during this time was King Xerxes, and he gave Haman a very high position among the people. It was a higher position than Haman or any other noble had ever had before. It says in the Book of Esther (*hold up Bible*) that all the royal officials at the palace gate got down on their knees in front of Haman, because the king had commanded them to do it."

"Everyone, that is, except a man named Mordecai. There's another important person in our story today. Her name was Esther. She was married to King Xerxes, making her queen of the kingdom. Esther was also Mordecai's cousin, AND Esther was Jewish. When Mordecai heard of Haman's plans to wipe out the Jews, he went to Esther for help. That's what this week's Bible Story is all about. Before we take a look, let's take up today's offering!"

Offering Time:

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them. Here is a picture of the school in Kenya..."

CG: Picture of Kenyan School

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor
New Lenox: Daniel
Orland Park: Rose

CG: Picture of Child

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now while our video plays and place it here (*show offering container*)."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:30)

"Haman thought he was SO important that he couldn't handle it when someone else wouldn't bow to him. And so he chose to lie to the king. He lied to help himself, and it ended up hurting him—big time. The truth is, being dishonest can and will hurt you. Lying never pays off in the end."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead. Honesty is always

the wise choice. Let's pray together."

Pray: "God, please help us to remember to choose honesty. We know that when we choose to be dishonest, we hurt ourselves. We want to be people who choose to do and say honest things. Help us to do that. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Closer: "You and I are probably never going to be in a situation quite like that one. But all of us are tempted to be dishonest when we think it will get us what we want. In those moments, we need to remember that we have a choice. We can choose to lie, or we can choose to be truthful and trust that God will take care of us. It's time for you to Small Groups and talk about this some more. I'll see you next time!"

Dismiss children to their small groups.