

# City 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.

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

## 1. Tall Tales

**What You Need:** Plastic cups (50 per group, 25 each team)

**What You Do:**

- Divide your group into two teams and give each team an equal number (25) of plastic cups.
- Encourage them to compete against each other to see which team can build the tallest tower.
- They can stack cups by placing one cup on the table or floor upside down, then place another cup on top, right side up.
- Let teams continue stacking cups until a designated "stop" time. (Give them a warning when there are about 30 seconds left to build.)
- Declare the winner to be the team with the tallest tower.
- Play a few rounds as time allows.

**What You Say:**

"We had some serious competition going on there! I noticed how you were working together as a team to help make your tower look the best. Were you more concerned with making yourself look good, or were you thinking about everyone in our group? (*Provide time for responses.*) **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we learned about someone else who tried to help himself win, but in the end he hurt himself instead."

## 2. A Truth and a Silly Thing

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Play a game similar to "Two Truths and a Lie" that's called "A Truth and a Silly Thing."
- Explain how the game works:
  - One person says one true thing about themselves and one silly thing about themselves that's not true.
  - Then the others guess which one is the truth and which is the silly thing.
- Start the game yourself.
- Make your two things simple, like: "Chocolate is my favorite food. Prince Hans is my favorite character in *Frozen*."
- If kids have trouble coming up with things to say, feel free to help them out with prompts like: What's your favorite food? What's your least favorite movie? How many brothers or sisters do you have?

**What You Say:**

"Those were some silly things, but some of them weren't truthful, were they? Nope. It was fun to do that in a game, but it's not fun in real life. We should remember to always be truthful about ourselves."

### 3. Esther the Hero

**What You Need:** “Story Script” Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle.
- Lead them to count off as ones, twos, and threes.
  - Ones will be Esther. When they hear her name in the story, they will strike a superhero pose.
  - Twos will be Haman. When they hear his name in the story, they will cross their arms and look mean.
  - Threes will be King Xerxes. When they hear his name in the story, they sit up as straight as they can, make a circle with their hands, and place them on top of their head, as if they’re wearing a crown.
- After making the assignments, give kids a moment to practice.
  - Call out Esther, Haman, and King Xerxes a couple times each and prompt kids to stand and do their pose accordingly.
  - After each group does their pose, they should quickly sit back down to allow for the next group to do their pose.
- After practicing, read the “Story Script.”
  - You might need to briefly pause after saying the names so kids have time to pose.
  - After doing their pose, they should quickly sit back down so the story can keep moving forward.
- After the story, ask the kids who the hero was in the story. Ask who the villain (or bad guy) was in the story.

**What You Say:**

“Esther was the hero in today’s story, because she risked her life for her people. Haman was the villain, because he lied in order to try to make himself look good and to hurt a lot of other people. But it didn’t work, did it? He got caught, and he got hurt instead. **[Bottom Line] When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.** This can happen to us too. **[Make It Personal] (Tell an age-appropriate story about a time you lied to help yourself, and it came back to bite you.)** That SO did not work out well for me. I should have told the truth from the beginning. I hope you will learn from my example—and from Haman’s—and choose to be truthful in whatever you say and do.”

### 4. Untruthful Return **(DO THIS ACTIVITY LAST!)**

**What You Need:** “Boomerang Templates” Activity Pages (printed on thick cardstock, 1 per kid), markers, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Allow time for kids to decorate with markers and cut boomerangs out
- Ask if anyone knows what a boomerang is and what it does.
- Explain that when you throw a boomerang correctly, it should come right back to you.
- Explain that theirs likely won’t come right back to them, since they’re beginners and their boomerangs aren’t high quality, but they can still try.
- If you have enough space, feel free to let kids try out their boomerangs.

**What You Say:**

- “Does anybody know why we’re using boomerangs today? *(Pause for responses.)* It’s because they go along with our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.** What that basically means is that a lie will come right back to you. You send it out to help you, but it comes back to hurt you, just like a boomerang goes out and comes right back. Let’s use these boomerangs as a reminder to always be honest and not lie to help ourselves.”

**5. Prayer**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Encourage your few to sit in a circle together
- Ask your group to close their eyes and think about a time when they’ve been dishonest.
- With their eyes still closed, encourage them to silently pray and ask God’s forgiveness.
- Ask kids to open their eyes.
  - Explain that we all mess up every day and that no one’s perfect.
  - Tell kids that God wants what’s best for us and will always forgive us when we mess up.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, we come to you today with thankful hearts and lots of praise! We understand that there are times when we have messed up and have chosen to be untruthful. But, even in the midst of those bad choices, You still love us and forgive us. We are so grateful for the good path You have given us and worship You for the amazing and kind God You are! In Jesus’ name, amen!”