

ALLEY SG – October 7- 9, 2023

Today's Bible Story: A Matter of Trust (Naaman and Elisha's Servant) • 2 Kings 5

Today's Key Question: Why is it important for people to trust you?

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.* Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Game Spinner (1 per group), Dry Erase Marker, Tissue

What You Do:

- Direct your group to sit in a circle.
- Write your group's names on the spinner wedges with a dry erase marker. (if there are extra spaces, write names twice or write "leader" in those spots, and if it lands on leader, you can pick a kid to answer the question.) Put the spinner in the center of the group.
- Tell the kids you are going to give them a true or false question – they give a thumbs up if it's true, and a thumbs down if it's false.
- Spin the spinner, whoever it lands on gets the first question.
- Once the kid has answered, instruct them to spin the spinner again, so another kid gets a question. (if it points to the same kid, have them pick the next person)
- Continue in the same way until you've read all the true/false statements.
- True/False Statements:
 - We can trust God no matter what. (*true*)
 - Naaman had a horrible skin disease. (*true*)
 - Naaman was poor and didn't have enough money to pay for a doctor to cure him. (*False: Naaman was not poor. However, there was no known cure for his skin disease, so no matter how rich you were you could not pay to be cured.*)
 - A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak for God on earth. God gave words to the prophets to speak truth to God's people. (*true*)
 - Gehazi was a prophet. (*False: Elisha was God's prophet. Gehazi was Elisha's servant.*)
 - Naaman was instructed to wash in the Jordan River seven times to be healed. (*true*)
 - Naaman was so grateful to be healed he wanted to give Elisha silver and Elisha accepted payment. (*False: Elisha refused to accept payment for God's work. Elisha was the messenger of God. It was God who healed Naaman.*)
 - Gehazi thought Elisha was wrong to reject Naaman's offer, so Gehazi lied to Naaman to get riches. (*true*)
 - When asked where he was, Gehazi confessed his lie to Elisha, and he asked Elisha for forgiveness. (*False: Gehazi continued to lie about his actions.*)
 - Gehazi had serious consequences for his lies. (*true*)
 - When you are not truthful, you lose trust. (*true*)
- Talk about the risks and consequences we'll likely face if we aren't truthful.
 - What are some consequences that we know will come when our integrity is broken?
 - A rubber band can often stretch more than twice its length before it breaks. It may seem like all is fine—and then suddenly—SNAP. What can you learn from a rubber band when it comes to "stretching" the truth without totally lying or being completely dishonest?
 - Does a fib count as being dishonest if no one actually gets hurt or finds out? Why or why not?
- Say, "We don't get to decide the consequences of our dishonesty, which is one of the reasons why God wants us to know that being honest is always the wise choice."

2. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Review

What You Need: Memory Verse Coloring pages, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out the coloring sheets.
- *(If time permits, have them find the verse in the Bible.)*
- Invite a kid to read the verse out loud as the rest of the kids follow along.
- Pass out the markers.
- As kids are coloring, ask what one or two key words or phrases in the verses that stand out to them then have them share with the group.
- Ask:
 - Why did those words or phrases catch your attention?
 - What do you think it means to: “Think spinnerefully about the paths that your feet walk on”?
 - Integrity is one of the paths we should walk on, so how do we keep our feet on that path?
 - In our races earlier, the spinners that were on the track had a better chance of reaching the finish line without veering to the left or the right. What are some things that help us stay on track when it comes to our integrity?
 - Why is it important for people to trust you?
 - If you veer off track and lose the trust of those around you, what can you do to gain that trust back?

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Even if you think no one is watching or will ever find out, why is it still important to be honest?
- If we don’t get caught in a lie, it might feel like a victory. Why might not getting caught actually be worse than being found out?
- How can dishonesty affect a friendship? How does dishonesty affect your relationship with Jesus?
- Selfishness is at the heart of a lie. Do you agree or disagree? If you disagree, what would you say is the main reason we’re tempted not to be honest?

4. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Coin (one per kid)

- Say: “Losing trust is not easy to get back, so it’s important to hold onto it tightly.”
- Give each kid a coin.
- Instruct the kids to get into pairs.
- Challenge the pairs to take turns trying to gently pry the coin from the other kid’s hand in 10 seconds.
- Encourage kids to use one hand to pry and to focus on being a constant point of tension rather than actually removing the coin.
- Count 10 seconds silently and stop the kids when the time is up.
- Let the other kid in the pair have a turn.
- Say: “You can keep the coins. I hope they remind you to hold on tightly to integrity this week.”
- Read the beginning of one of the starter sentences below and prompt kids to take turns finishing the sentence with their own ideas.

- Starter sentences:
 - Integrity is . . .
 - When someone is not truthful . . .
 - It's hard to trust people when . . .
 - Kids can show integrity at home / school by . . .
 - It's important for people to trust me because . . .
 - If people don't trust me . . .
 - When I don't trust someone . . .

5. Pray

- “Dear God, as much as You are willing to forgive, we know that You would rather we follow Your path and make the wisest choices we can. We get off track sometimes and mess up. Help us to choose to be honest in everything we say and do. We love You. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT As adults arrive to pick up, tell them we talked about having integrity and telling the truth. Ask the kids to tell their parents what they learned about that today on the way home.