

CITY SG – October 7-9, 2023

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

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

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

1. Who Has the Money?

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Coin (A few per bin) and Bibles

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Call on a volunteer to stand off to the side, turn their back to the group, close their eyes, and cover their ears.
- Direct the rest of the group in the circle to put their hands behind their backs.
- Quietly give one kid the coin and direct them to hold it behind their back.
- Tell the group to act naturally, even though one of them is holding the coin.
- Call on the kid volunteer who is out of the circle to open their eyes and return to stand in the center of the circle.
- Share that they have three chances to guess who has the coin.
 - If the kid guesses correctly in their three tries, direct the kid with the coin to step out as the next volunteer while you discreetly hand another kid in the circle the coin to hold.
 - If the kid has three incorrect tries, direct the same kid to step out of the circle, close their eyes, and cover their ears while you hand a different kid the coin.
- Repeat the game for three or four more rounds.
- Gather the kids to review the first part of today's Bible story.
 - Naaman traveled to meet Elisha because he had a terrible skin disease.
 - Elisha told him to dip in the Jordan River seven times.
 - Naaman did and was healed.
 - To thank him for what he'd done, Naaman offered a gift to Elisha.
 - But Elisha wouldn't take a reward for something God had done.
 - Naaman left to return home, but Gehazi, Elisha's servant, thought he should accept the gift.
 - So, he ran after Naaman to catch up with him as he drove his chariot away.
- Ask the following questions as you review the last part of the story.
 - What did Gehazi say to Naaman? What lie did he tell? (*Gehazi made up a story about Elisha asking him to get 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothes. Naaman happily gave him the clothes and TWICE the amount of silver.*)
 - If the kids need help, look up and read 2 Kings 5:20-22 to the group.
 - What did Gehazi do with the gift when he returned to Elisha's home? (*He hid it!*)
 - If the kids need help, read 2 Kings 5:24 out loud to find the answer.
 - What did Gehazi say to Elisha? What lie did he tell? (*Gehazi said he hadn't gone anywhere.*)
 - If the kids need help, read 2 Kings 5:25 to find the answer.
- Say, "Elisha couldn't trust Gehazi because of the lie he'd told. And the same is true for us! When you choose to tell the truth, you build trust. But **when you're not truthful, you lose trust.**"

2. Truth Tellers

Application Activity

What You Need: Ball

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask kids to give an example of something they might lie about.
 - If the kids need help, offer a suggestion like you say you finished your homework when you really didn't or you say you weren't the one who talked out of turn in class.
- Tell them that we should always be truthful with our words, and we are going to do that right now!
- Explain that as they roll the ball to each other, they'll say a very true message at the same time.
- Roll the ball to one of the kids and say, "Jesus loves you!"
- Encourage that kid to catch the ball and roll the ball to someone in the circle who hasn't received the ball yet.
- When the new kid gets the ball, instruct the kid who rolled the ball to repeat the truth you shared with them: Jesus loves you very much!
- Continue until everyone has heard that wonderful truth at least once.
- If you have time, repeat the game. Ask the kids for true messages or use the ones below.
- This time, consider saying:
 - God loves everyone so much, He sent us Jesus!
 - I can trust God no matter what!
 - Because of what Jesus has done, I can believe that what He says is true!

3. Memory Verse Coloring

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Coloring Sheet, Markers

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Give each child a memory verse coloring sheet.
- Say the verse a few times together.
- Pass out the markers and they can color their pages.
- As the kids are coloring tell them:
 - "When we live with integrity and make choices that honor God and others, it's like walking a straightforward path! That's what God wants for you and for me because **when you're not truthful, you lose trust**. And the best part is that we don't have to try on our own. God promises to help us choose to be truthful so others can trust us.
- Encourage the kids to hang this at home to help them remember that!

4. Pray

- "Dear God, thank You for being truthful in all You say and do. We know that **[Bottom Line] when you're not truthful, you lose trust**. When we're tempted to lie, help us remember that our relationships will suffer. We want to be kids who are trustworthy! Thanks for loving us and helping us follow You each day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids this question and let them tell their parents the answer, "Why is it important to tell the truth?"