

## Would We Lie to You?

**Bible Story:** Would We Lie to You? (Joseph's brothers lie to Jacob) • *Genesis 37:17-36; 45:25-28*

**Bottom Line:** When you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about.

**Memory Verse:** "An honest person has respect for the Lord." *Proverbs 14:2a, NIV*

**Life App:** Honesty—choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

Pass offering container around while you ask the kids if they have ever gotten in trouble for lying. How did it feel? How did the other person feel when they found out that they were lied to and how did you feel about lying when you got away with it? **[Personalize] Share a time—when you were a kid—when you lied and got caught. Tell the kids if anyone was hurt in the process and how it made both of you feel.**

### Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

**Would You Rather ...?**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Point to a door, window or chair in the room. Tell kids you're going to give them a list of choices. What would they rather do? Ask the kids if they would rather tell a lie or: get stung by a bee; chased by an elephant; licked by a gorilla. If they'd rather tell a lie than do the other thing, they should run to the spot you pointed to and tell the group why they'd rather tell a lie over the other option.

Play again with more realistic choices. Would you rather lie or: get grounded for lying; be embarrassed in front of your friends; have to admit you were wrong; confess that you were to blame.

**What You Say:**

"Being in a position of lying or picking another hard choice is not easy. Sometimes we lie to avoid something, but we end up hurting someone else. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we will hear about some brothers who told a whopper of a lie to their dad.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

### Catch On #1

**Trail of Lies (application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** "Trail of Lies" (Activity Page), pencils

**What You Do:**

Give each kid an Activity Page and a pencil. Tell them that each of the symbols represents a different part of the story. Work with the kids to track the story by drawing an arrow from one symbol to the next. Ask them where the starting point might be. *(At the 12 brothers)* Instruct kids to write "Start Here" next to the "12 x stick figures" symbol. As you move through the story, ask leading questions to prompt kids to retell the story themselves. If they get really stuck, you can give them the answers, but try to let them do the retelling themselves.

**What You Say:**

"Look at how that story that lasted for years before the truth was told. The brothers had to live knowing they had lied and hurt their father for many years. Poor Jacob grieved the death of Joseph for years and years when it wasn't even true. **[Apply] It is so important to stop and think when you are tempted to lie, because [Impress] when you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about.** Think and remind yourself that **[Recycle] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**"

## Catch On #2

### Take 2 (*application activity / great for boys*)

**What You Need:** bell or noise maker

**What You Do:**

Divide kids into groups of two to three kids. Letting the groups take turns, whisper-read a situation (from below) to each group to act out. The group will act each scenario out twice. The first time, they should act out what NOT to do in the situation. As soon as they do, ring the bell or noisemaker. Everyone should jump up and yell, "Take 2," clapping their arms together like a Hollywood movie clapboard. Kids will then act out the situation again, but this time they tell the truth. You may want to have a practice round first.

**Situations:**

1. You borrow a friend's pencil off their desk without him knowing and you break it. You put it back without your friend noticing it was gone. He discovers the broken pencil and asks you if you know what happened.
2. You are with a bunch of friends. One friend tells a joke and you don't get it. You laugh really hard so nobody knows you don't get it. But you laugh way too hard. The joke just wasn't that funny. Your friend suspects you didn't get it and asks you to explain the joke.
3. You forget your school library book for the third week in row. You know you will miss recess if your teacher discovers you don't have it. What do you say when your teacher asks you where your book is?
4. You have a babysitter this afternoon and you promised your mom you would walk the dog after school. Instead you watched TV. When your mom gets home, she asked you if you walked the dog.
5. You and your sister were chasing each other and got mud all over the carpet. Your dad asked what happened.
6. A kid in your class stole a pen off your teacher's desk. What do you do when the teacher asks does anyone know what happened to her pen?

**What You Say:**

"That was a fun way to practice being honest. **[Apply]** It's important to practice being honest so that we get better and better at it, because **[Impress]** when you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about. Sometimes we are tempted to lie when we don't want to get in trouble, or when we might be embarrassed. But it doesn't feel good to be lied to. So when you're tempted to lie, always remember: **[Impress]** when you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about."

## Catch On #3

### Partner Hangman (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Partner Hangman" (Activity Page), blank paper, pencils

**What You Do:**

Divide kids up into pairs. Give each kid a blank sheet of paper and half of the memory verse, making sure that the partners together have a full set. (i.e., if one partner has the first half, the other partner should have the second half. No two partners should both have the first half or both have the second half.) Instruct kids to create sets of blanks using the half page of the memory verse. They should draw blanks for each letter of the memory verse section they have, making sure there are enough blanks for each letter and enough space between words to make the finished product legible.

After kids have drawn their blanks, give them time to play a game of hangman with their partner. For the first round, one partner will write the letters down in the blanks as the other partner guesses them correctly. Once all the blanks are filled in on each half, the kids put their two halves together to see the whole verse. When everyone is finished, then look up the verse in the Bible and discuss it as a group.

**Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find and read the first part of verse 2 in chapter 14.

**What You Say:**

“Nice guessing! You figured the verse out really quickly. What do you think this verse means? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, when we’re honest it shows God respect because He is honest and wants us to be like Him. Do you think being dishonest is disrespectful? *(Pause for responses.)* You’re right; it is disrespectful and hurtful. We saw today how Jacob’s sons disrespected God and Jacob and how hurtful that was. ***[Impress]* When you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about. *[Apply]* That is why it is so important to be honest and truthful in all you say and do.”**

I

# I've Got Truth Under My Skin

**Bible Story:** I've Got Truth Under My Skin (Naaman and Elisha's servant, Gehazi) • 2 Kings 5

**Bottom Line:** When you are not truthful, you lose trust.

**Memory Verse:** "An honest person has respect for the Lord." *Proverbs 14:2a, NIV*

**Life App:** Honesty—choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

Pass offering container around while discussing situations when it's hard to believe someone who exaggerates all the time. What is the biggest exaggeration you have ever told? Is it hard to believe someone if you know they have lied to you in the past? What could they do to make you trust them again?

## Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

**What a Whopper!**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Begin telling a whopper of an exaggerated story; "I once found a duck that granted wishes ..." Kids each add to it making it more outrageous and harder to believe as each person adds their part. Each kid adds one new thing and then you wrap up the story at the end.

**What You Say:**

"Wow! That story got crazier and crazier. It got harder and harder to believe. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we will hear about a guy who told a whopper of a lie that was hard to believe.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

## Catch On #1

**Naaman, the Opera (application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** "Opera Line Cards" (Activity Page), blank paper, crayons or markers

**What You Do:**

The story will be retold using an abbreviated version of the Storyteller's script from Large Group. Let kids divide into partners and work together to draw a part of the story using stickmen. Give each pair an "Opera Line Card" and blank sheet of paper, and allow the group some time to draw their part of the story. After everyone has finished drawing, read the story and when it comes to each pair's part, they will show their picture and one or both of them will "sing" the "Opera" response. Encourage them to have fun and be silly when they sing.

**Leader:** (In a deep, narrator-style voice) "Today's story is from the Bible, from the book of Second Kings, chapter five. Naaman commanded the army of the king of Aram. He had a fine house and clothes, and he was a very important man, but one day, he became ill with a leprous rash on his skin, a condition for which there was no cure. However, one of his servant girls came from Israel. She suggested that Naaman go to the Prophet Elisha for help. So, Naaman leapt into his chariot, and with a short detour to see the King of Israel, finally came to the home of Elisha."

**Picture and opera line #1:** "Knock. Knock. Is anyone in? I have a condition on my skin!"

**Leader:** "But Elisha didn't even come out to greet this great man! He sent out a messenger instead to deliver his instructions."

**Picture and opera line #2:** "Go wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed and look just like mine!"

**Leader:** “But Naaman was furious. He left Elisha’s home, enraged. He said, (*2 Kings 5:11b*) ‘I was sure he would come out to me. I thought he would stand there and pray to the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over my skin. Then I would be healed.’”

**Picture and opera line #3:** “What about the other rivers, so pristine? Couldn’t I wash in them and be made clean? Elisha, you have seen the last of me!”

**Leader:** “So, Naaman turned and went away, burning with anger. But thanks to some convincing on the part of his servants, Naaman decided to give the Jordan River bath a try. He followed Elisha’s instructions, and lo and behold, he was healed!”

**Picture and opera line #4:** “I’m healed! I’m healed! My skin has been revealed! I’m healed, I’m healed, I’m healed!”

**Leader:** “Naaman went back to Elisha’s house, and this time he stood in front of Elisha. He said, (*2 Kings 5:15b*) ‘Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel. Please accept a gift from me. The prophet answered, (*2 Kings 5:16b*) ‘I serve the Lord. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I won’t accept a gift from you.’ Even though Naaman begged him to take it, Elisha wouldn’t. So Naaman left, without giving any gifts to Elisha or his household. Naaman may have been disappointed, but there was someone else much, much more upset with Elisha’s refusal of Naaman’s gifts—his servant Gehazi.”

**Picture and opera line #5:** “My master was too easy on Naaman. He should have taken the gift, That’s it! I’m going after him!”

**Leader:** “And that’s exactly what Gehazi did. He took off after Naaman and his servants. Naaman was concerned when he saw Gehazi and asked if everything was okay.”

**Picture and opera line #6:** “My master sent me with a message to tell. Unexpected guests have arrived and your gifts would be divine. Is it too late to change our minds?”

**Leader:** “Naaman was thrilled to hear that Elisha had changed his mind, or so Naaman thought. Naaman even gave Gehazi more than he asked for, and he sent his servants back with Gehazi to help him carry the load. When they got close to Elisha’s house, however, Gehazi stopped the servants and sent them back to Naaman, and Gehazi snuck the gifts inside Elisha’s house. When he was finished hiding the goods, Gehazi dusted off his hands and went to stand before Elisha. Elisha asked Gehazi where he had been.”

**Picture and opera line #7:** “Me? Why, nowhere, Master. I’ve been here all along, in fact, writing this song.”

**Leader:** “Elisha knew the truth, though. He confronted Gehazi, asking him how he could take a gift from Naaman after he heard Elisha say they couldn’t accept anything. And then on top of that, to lie to Elisha. Well, Elisha had bad news for Gehazi. The very disease that Naaman had been healed of was now passing to Gehazi—and his family for many generations to come. In one afternoon, by telling two lies, Gehazi destroyed his health and his relationships. Our cautionary tale ends here, but the message is clear: dishonesty will cost you dearly.”

#### **What You Say:**

“Excellent job! I think you guys rocked it! Too bad Gehazi didn’t rock it. He totally jammed everything up. He didn’t just lie. He lied twice trying to cover up the first lie. The truth came out and Gehazi lost his health and his relationship with Elisha. Sometimes we make bad decisions too. Sometimes we might do something that we know is wrong, but we have a chance to make it right and tell our parents or our teachers what we’ve done.

**[Apply] If we do that, it can actually build trust. But if we don’t, if instead of telling them what we’ve done and asking forgiveness, we lie, that makes the situation even worse. We risk losing the trust of that person, and sometimes, even losing the relationship. That’s why the one thing we really need to remember today is: [Impress] when you are not truthful, you lose trust.”**

## **Catch On #2**

### **Moment of Truth (application activity / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** prepared poster board, bean bag

#### **What You Do:**

Divide kids into two teams. Instruct teams to line up on opposite sides of the poster board about four feet from the poster. Teams alternate taking turns. Let the first team throw the beanbag at the poster board. The closest word to the beanbag determines how the team will respond to the situation you read. Read one of the situations below, and allow the team to respond. If they respond with the truth, the other team will then high-five them. If they respond with a lie or a partial truth, the other team shakes their head from side to side and says, “No way!” Encourage kids to try to get the beanbag to

land on “Truth,” telling them that **[Apply]** it takes courage and effort to tell the truth, especially if it means you’re going to get in trouble or you might get embarrassed.

Situations:

1. You drip juice on the kitchen floor and don’t clean it up. Later your mom asks if anyone knows why the floor is so sticky.
2. You promise your friend Jake that you will keep a secret he told you, but you let it slip to your friend Luke. Jake asks you how Luke heard the secret.
3. All your friends got 100 percent on their spelling tests. You missed three words again. They ask you what your score was.
4. You are afraid of the dark and a friend sleeps over. You have a small light in your room you keep on when you go to bed. Your friend asks you why you don’t turn it off.
5. You get mad and hit your brother. Your dad asks you if you hit him.
6. You leave your sweatshirt on the field at soccer practice again. The next morning on the way to school, your mom asks you where your sweatshirt is.
7. Your friend asks you to go bike riding. You do not know how to ride a two-wheeler.
8. You find a pencil on the floor by the kid who sits next to you. She asks if you have seen her pencil.
9. Your teacher is giving a spelling test, and you can see her paper with the answers. She asks you if you saw the words.
10. You don’t like broccoli, so you sneak it to the dog under the table at dinner. Your dad sees the dog begging and asks if you are feeding him.
11. Your teacher tells you can go out to recess after you finish cleaning your desk. You don’t bother to clean, and on your way out the door, your teacher asks you if you cleaned your desk.
12. You forgot to brush your teeth and went to bed. You are almost asleep when your dad comes in to say goodnight and asks you if you brushed your teeth.

**What You Say:**

“That game was called ‘Moment of Truth’ because you were put into a situation where you had to make an immediate decision. Your split-second decision could either build or lose trust. **[Personalize]** *(Share about a time when you knew you had a hard choice to make—to tell a lie or to tell the truth. What were you thinking in your head? What happened next? Would you make the same choice today?)* **[Apply]** That is why it is so important to choose to be truthful no matter what. **[Impress]** When you are not truthful, you lose trust. It isn’t always easy and can be a little scary, but you **[Recycle]** need to make the wise choice.”

## Catch On #3

**Telephone Truth (memory verse activity)**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Lead kids in playing the old-fashioned version of telephone. Write down and then whisper the verse into the ear of a kid. That kid whispers the verse to the next kid and so on until the verse travels around the circle back to you. Compare the verse in the Bible to what the last person says. If it is the true, honest version, have the kids all stand up and congratulate each other on being right. If the verse is not correct, play another round and see if the correct version of the verse can make it around.

**What You Say:**

“This verse sounds simple enough, **[Apply]** but it takes a lot determination to live out. It’s kind of like the game we just played; the more we practice being honest, the better we get at it. And the better we get at it, the more we show respect for God. He wants us to be honest because **[Impress]** when you are not truthful, you lose trust.”

# All the Small Things

**Bible Story:** All the Small Things (Jesus and Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

**Bottom Line:** When you are truthful and make things right, you build trust.

**Memory Verse:** “An honest person has respect for the Lord.” *Proverbs 14:2a, NIV*

**Life App:** Honesty—choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

Pass around an offering container and ask kids: Who is the most honest person you know? Why do you think they are so honest? Can you think of a specific time when they were honest?

## Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

**Honest Abe**

**What You Need:** 1 penny per child

**What You Do:**

Give each kid a penny and talk with them about Abraham Lincoln’s legendary honesty.

**What You Say:**

“What do you know about Abraham Lincoln? Do you know what Abraham Lincoln’s nickname was? *(Pause for responses.)* It was ‘Honest Abe.’ How do you think he got that name and reputation? *(Pause for responses.)* Abe Lincoln was known for his honesty. He once overcharged someone a few cents at the store where he worked. Abe made it right by walking several miles that night after work to give the person the few pennies they were owed.

“I’m giving you a penny today to remind you that you can be known for your honesty and build trust with others when you make things right. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group where we hear about another guy who paid back more than a few pennies to make things right.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

## Catch On #1

**A “Short” Relay *(review the Bible story / great for boys)***

**What You Need:** “A “Short” Relay” (Activity Page)

**What You Do:**

Divide the kids into two teams. Instruct kids to “run” on their knees to retrieve a story card and then “run” back on their knees to tag the next person and so on. When all the pieces have been retrieved, the team puts the cards in the correct sequence. When each team is done putting the cards in order, they jump up and yell, “Zacchaeus, you rock!”

**What You Say:**

*After the activity:* “Zacchaeus might have been a short guy, but he was a giant when he learned that **[Impress] when you are truthful and make things right, you build trust.** Then we can be a ‘giant’ like Zacchaeus turned out to be too. **[Apply] We can strive to always make things right when we blow it, instead of saying things like, ‘I was just kidding,’ or ‘I didn’t mean it.’ Don’t take the easy way out and ignore the situation. Do the right thing and make it right.**”

## Catch On #2

## **Battle of the “I’m Sorrys” (application activity)**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

Divide kids into two teams. Read the situations below, where an apology is needed to make a lie right. Then Team 1 will act out the apology. If Team 2 thinks they can add anything to the apology to help make the situation right, they act it out and try to steal Team 1’s point. Give a point to the team with the most complete and sincere apology. (The purpose of this activity is to teach kids to truly make things right and not just say, “I’m sorry.”)

### Situations:

1. You lied and told your mom you studied for your spelling test. You missed every word. What do you have to say?
2. You told your little brother that all the cookies were gone and when he left the room, you shoved the last one in your mouth. Then he walked back in and caught you red-handed. What do you have to say?
3. You are invited to go to the movies with a friend. It costs \$7.00. You want to get popcorn so when your mom asks you how much the movie costs you say \$12.00. Your mom questions why it’s so much. What do you have to say?
4. You are selling candy bars for your team’s fundraiser. You tell every person you ask that you only need to sell *one* more to earn a prize hoping that will convince people to buy the candy bar. One customer comes back a 2<sup>nd</sup> time and you don’t recognize her. You tell her you only need to sell one more. She questions your honesty. What do you have to say?
5. Your mom asks you if you gave the dog fresh water today. You didn’t. Your mom sees that the dog’s water bowl is empty. What do you have to say?
6. Your friend wants to come over and play. You don’t want them to and say you have too much homework. Ten minutes later your friend sees you riding your bike. What do you have to say?
7. Your mom tells you to put some broccoli on your dinner plate; you tell her you already ate it. Your sister knows that is not true. What do you have to say?
8. Your dad says you can have two cookies after school and you take five. At dinner, you are not hungry and your dad asks you how many cookies you ate. What do you have to say?
9. You accidentally crush some flowers in your neighbor’s yard. When you see your neighbor you run away. The next day they ask you about the flowers. What do you have to say?
10. Your classmates are not well behaved for a substitute teacher. You know you were part of the problem. When your teacher returns the next day, he asks the class what happened. What do you have to say?

### **What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “One reason it’s hard to say ‘I’m sorry’ and to make things right is because we are not sure what to say to make it right. We are going to practice apologizing and making things right by trying to give the most complete apology possible.

*After the activity:* “You guys rocked this! Just like in this game, **[Apply] the more we practice making things right and building trust the easier it is to do it the next time.** Next time you have the chance to apologize and fix something you’ve done wrong, go the extra mile. Instead of just saying, ‘I’m sorry,’ take another step to make it right. **[Apply] Go and do the thing you said you’d do but didn’t. If you took the last cookie when you shouldn’t have, give your brother or sister a different treat you have. [Impress] when you are truthful and make things right, you build trust.**”

## **Catch On #3**

**“Z” Respect (memory verse activity)**



**What You Need:** white boards, markers

**What You Do:**

Give everyone a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. Read the memory verse together. “An honest person has respect for the Lord,” Proverbs 14:2a. In the upper left corner, draw a small stick man and in the upper right corner write the word *Honest*. In the bottom left corner, write the word *Respect* and in the bottom right corner write the word *Lord*. The kids will copy you! Finally, write the verse in the middle of the paper for the kids to copy that too.

**What You Say:**

“When someone decides to live honestly (*draw a line from the stick man to the word Honest*), it changes them. They are no longer doing things selfishly, trying to protect themselves and put themselves first. Instead, it changes their direction and focus. (*Draw a diagonal line to the word Respect.*) An honest person now has respect. (*Draw line to the word Lord.*) And the respect is for the Lord because the man is living God’s way. Zacchaeus is a great example of this verse. When he met Jesus, he decided to be honest and make things right. He changed the direction of his life and gave respect to the Lord.”

I

## Judas the Giant Liar

**Bible Story:** Judas the Giant Liar (Judas betrays Jesus) • *Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25, 45-50; 27:1-5; Supporting: John 12:1-6, 13:21-30*

**Bottom Line:** You can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true.

**Memory Verse:** "An honest person has respect for the Lord." *Proverbs 14:2a, NIV*

**Life App:** Honesty—choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

### Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

While passing the offering container, ask the kids if they have ever met someone (without saying any names) who has a hard time telling the truth and often believes the lies they tell. Maybe they said they knew a famous person and you knew it wasn't true. Or maybe they said they made five goals at their soccer game, or once saw Big Foot.

### Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

**Your Nose is Growing**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Ask kids if they remember the story about Pinocchio, whose nose would grow every time he told a lie. Ask them to think of "two truths and a tall tale"; three statements about themselves, but one is false. Give them a couple examples and explain that all three statements need to be believable, but one shouldn't be true. Go around the group, letting the kids say their statements one at a time. When the false one is said (or what the other kids *think* is the false one), the rest of the group should touch their noses and then pull their fingers straight out and say, "Your nose is growing!" See how many "tall tales" the group can guess.

**What You Say:**

**[Transition]** "I almost believed a few of your tall tales. Today, in Large Group we are going to hear about a guy who started to tell lies, and he actually started to believe the lies he told were true. Let's go and hear his story."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

### Catch On #1

**Bad to Worse (review the Bible story / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** 3 buckets or containers—1 labeled "Jesus" and 2 labeled "Lie;" newspaper or scrap paper to make paper wads

**What You Do:**

Set up the three buckets or containers in a "U" formation with the group in the middle, five to six feet from the buckets. Bucket 2 (a "lie" bucket) needs to be in a position so that Bucket 1 (a "Jesus" bucket) is in a person's peripheral vision while shooting. Bucket 3 is also a "lie" bucket.

Read the Bible story in three segments standing next to the corresponding bucket. After each statement kids will shoot a paper wad showing *where Judas' focus was*. The first part of the story tells of when Judas first meets Jesus. Encourage kids to shoot paper at the Jesus bucket. (Try to let them figure out where Judas' focus was before just telling them.) The second part of the story is about the lie Judas told about why he was angry about the expensive perfume. Kids turn and shoot paper at Bucket 2. Leader points out that Judas' focus was on the lie and not Jesus—even though Jesus was right there just like the Jesus bucket. The third segment of the story is of Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Kids shoot paper into Bucket 3.

Story Segment 1 – Bucket 1 Jesus chose 12 disciples to follow and learn from Him. Judas was one of these disciples. They went everywhere together. For three years, they were like brothers or family. They watched Jesus heal the sick and try to help those who needed it. In the beginning, Judas was focused on ... (*let kids shoot paper into the Jesus bucket*).

Story Segment 2 – Bucket 2 Once, Judas got very upset that a bottle of expensive perfume was poured out on Jesus' feet. He said he thought it was a horrible waste for Mary to pour all that perfume on Jesus' feet. He thought the perfume should have been sold so the money could be used to help the poor. But that was a lie. The real reason Judas was upset was that he was in charge of the money. Jesus trusted him to keep the money safe. But some of the other disciples knew he was taking some of the money when nobody was looking. He probably wasn't mad that the poor wouldn't get the money. He was probably mad that there would be less money for him to take when no one was paying attention!

Story Segment 3 – Bucket 3 The night of the disciples' last meal with Jesus, Jesus took some bread in His hand and declared that the person He handed the bread to was the one who would betray Him or hand Him over to His enemies. He gave the bread to Judas and said, "Do quickly what you must do." Later, it was found out that Judas had already been paid by the religious leaders. He had agreed to deliver Jesus to them in exchange for 30 silver coins. And then hours later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas led the soldiers directly to Jesus. He kissed Jesus on the cheek, which had been the sign he had arranged with the soldiers to show them who Jesus was so they could arrest the right guy. Even his sign of friendship—that kiss—was a lie. Judas got so caught up in his own lies that he lost everything.

**What You Say:**

"When we were at Bucket 1, we heard that in the beginning, Judas was focused on all that Jesus had to teach him. At Bucket 2, things started to get bad. We heard that after Judas became in charge of the money, he was losing his focus on Jesus. He started to lie to cover up his new focus of money. The money had become more important than being honest. At Bucket 3, things went from bad to worse and Judas seemed to forget all that he'd learned from Jesus and focused only on his desire for more money. In the end, Judas lost everything because of the lies he told. Judas is a good example of how **[Impress] you can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true. [Apply] That's why it's so important to be in the habit of telling the truth. One lie can lead to another, which can lead to another, and pretty soon you can't remember where they even started.**"

## Catch On #2

**Eyes on Jesus (application activity / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** paper wads, buckets, coin

**What You Do:**

Let the kids take turns shooting paper wads at the Jesus bucket. Before each turn, they flip a coin. Heads = "Eyes on Jesus" and the kid can look right at the bucket as they shoot, tails = "Eyes off Jesus" and the kid stands with their back to the Jesus basket and throws paper blindly over their head trying to make a basket.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* "It is easier to make a basket when you are focused on it, and it is easier to miss the basket when you aren't looking. **[Apply] It is the same thing with Jesus. When we are focused on Him, it is easier to be honest. And when we aren't focused on Him, it is much easier to be dishonest and lie.**

*After the activity:* **[Personalize] (Share an age-appropriate time when you took your eyes off Jesus and you were tempted to either believe some lies or tell some.)** "Nice shooting! When your eyes were on the basket, you did a great job. Just like **[Apply] when your eyes are on Jesus it is easier to be truthful in whatever you say or do. It's a slam dunk!**"

## Catch On #3

### **Jesus is my Compass (*memory verse activity*)**

**What You Need:** “Jesus is Our Compass” (Activity Page), pencils

#### **What You Do:**

Look up the memory verse together. Discuss the purpose of a compass—to keep you going in the right direction. Give each kid an Activity Page and instruct them to write the verse on their paper, from memory as much as they can. Those who can’t quite remember can copy the verse from the Bible.

#### **What You Say:**

“What tool helps keep a person from getting lost in the woods or in a car? It helps you to go in the right direction? (*Pause for responses.*) Right, a compass. Jesus is the compass in our lives that keeps us honest. When we keep our eyes and focus on Jesus we are more likely to be honest and have respect for the Lord. **[Apply] When we remember and think about this verse it keeps us going the right way like a compass.**”

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## Truth Is ...

**Bible Story:** Truth Is ... (Easter) • *John 3:3,16; 14:1-6, 28-29; John 18–20*

**Bottom Line:** When Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### Early Arriver Activity *(8:45 or 10:30)*

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

Ask kids how their families celebrate Easter: Do you have any special traditions, places you go, or foods you eat? Do you take a family picture or get a special outfit? What do you wish you could do to celebrate?

### Plug In *(9:00 or 10:45)*

**Jesus is my Superhero**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:** Brainstorm a list of superheroes who help people. Talk about their superpowers, what they're famous for, etc. Ask kids if their powers are real or made up. Then ask the kids if Jesus had superpowers. (Hopefully they'll say yes and name a couple miracles, like feeding the 5,000, healing a blind man, bringing someone back from the dead.) Tell the kids Jesus had another really huge superpower. Ask if anyone knows what it is. (*He came back from the dead.*)

**What You Say:**

**[Transition]** "Today in Large Group, we are going to hear the Easter story, which proves that everything Jesus said was true. He is a true superhero!" Lead the group to the Large Group area.

### Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

### Catch On #1

**True or False (review the Bible story / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Give kids a true/false oral quiz retelling the true Easter story. Instruct kids to jump up and say, "Ding! Ding! Ding!" when an answer is true and stay seated and make an "Anhhh" buzzer sound when the answer is false.

True or False Quiz

1. True or False – Jesus is alive! (*True*)
2. True or False – Jesus traveled and taught people about God for three years. (*True*)
3. True or False – On the first Easter, there were chocolate bunnies. (*False*)
4. True or False – Jesus said He is preparing a mansion for us. (*True*)
5. True or False – Jesus died and rose from the dead. (*True*)
6. True or False – Pizza is a traditional food of Easter. (*False*)
7. True or False – After Jesus rose from the dead, He went and saw His disciples. (*True*)
8. True or False – At first, Thomas doubted that Jesus rose from the dead. (*True*)
9. True or False – Jellybeans are a vegetable. (*False*)
10. True or False – When Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true. (*True*)

**What You Say:**

"Congratulations you all got 100 percent (*or an A-plus*) on your Easter quiz. **[Impress]** When Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true. That is good news worth celebrating!"

## Catch On #2

**John 3:16 is a Promise** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

Look up John 3:16 and read it together as a group. Sit in a circle. Stand up and say the first word, then lightly tap the child on your left. They stand up and say the next word. This gets passed all the way around like a wave. Try to see how fast you can go without missing a word or making a mistake.

**What You Say:**

“This is one of the most famous or well-known verses in the Bible, and with good reason. It is a promise from Jesus to you! It is what Easter is all about! We learned today that **[Impress] when Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true**, including this verse. This verse describes the promise of a future with Jesus in heaven someday, which is cause to **[Apply] celebrate all Jesus has done for us.**” **[Personalize] (Share with them one of your personal favorite verses or promises from the Bible. Why is it special to you? When do you think about it?)**

## Catch On #3

**It's True!**

**What You Need:** butcher paper, neon markers

**What You Do:**

As a group, ask the kids to make a “Happy Easter” banner using neon markers. In the background, instruct kids to write, “It’s true!” randomly all over the poster in different colors. When finished, the group can gather around the poster and pray together. Thank God that everything Jesus said was true and that He is alive!

**What You Say:**

“Today is a true celebration that **[Impress] when Jesus came back from the dead, it proved everything He said was true** and we can celebrate. **[Apply] Our banner reminds everyone that it’s true—Jesus is alive!** Let’s pray. Dear God, thank You for Jesus and that everything He said was true! We love You, amen.”