

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:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then ask them to tell the group the best gift they have ever received from their mom or dad. It could be something material—like a video game or cool toy—or it could be something immaterial, like a hug or time spent together.

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Time After Time

What You Need: teaching clock; or a dry erase board and dry erase marker

What You Do:

Use the teaching clock to briefly review what the hands on a clock look like at 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00. If you don't have access to a teaching clock, simply draw the clock face at the different positions. As you review, be sensitive to the fact that telling time may be new to some children and "old hat" to others. If you have children who are adept at telling time, invite them to move the hands to the different positions.

Next, lead the kids in a quick-paced clock game. Tell them that when you call out a time, they should mimic your motions as quickly as they can. In rapid (and random!) succession, repeatedly call out "12 o'clock," "6 o'clock," "3 o'clock," and "9 o'clock." For 12:00, hold both arms straight over your head; for 6:00, hold one arm straight up and one arm straight down; for 3:00, hold your right arm straight up and your left hand straight out to your side (this way the "clock" will be correct to the kids); for 9:00, hold your left hand straight up and your right arm out to your side.

What You Say:

"Great job! *[Transition]* In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something that it's ALWAYS time to do. Let's go to Large Group to find out more." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1

Ouch! (application activity)

What You Need: "Ouch!" (Activity Page); crayons

What You Do:

Give each child an "Ouch!" Activity Page. Guide the kids to look at each picture and talk about what is happening. Lead them to put a sad face over the pictures that show kids choosing to tell lies and a smiley face over the pictures that show kids choosing to tell the truth. Finally, lead the kids to draw their own scenarios in the empty frame.

What You Say:

[Apply] "Sometimes we tell lies to try to get out of trouble; sometimes we tell lies because we want to get someone else in trouble; sometimes we tell lies because we want people to like us; and sometimes we tell lies to get something we want. But no matter why we tell lies, they can always hurt the people around us. (Briefly review the scenario pictures and how the lies the children told hurt others.) *[Personalize]* (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you told a lie and how your dishonesty hurt someone you cared about. If possible, tell how you tried to make the situation right afterwards.) Remember, *[Impress]* when you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about."

Catch On #2

Off With His Coat! (*review the Bible story / great for boys / a classroom-wide activity*)

What You Need: overcoats with buttons

What You Do:

Lead the kids in a wacky Joseph's-coat relay. Guide the kids to line up in teams with a Small Group Leader at the head of each team. Give each Small Group Leader a coat. At the signal, each SGL will help the first child in line to put the coat on backward. The SGL then zips up the coat. The first child then turns his back to the second child, who unzips the coat. The first child takes off the coat and passes it to the second child in line, who puts it on backward. The first child then zips the coat, and the second child turns to the third child, who unzips it. The relay continues until the coat reaches the end of the line. Be sure each Small Group Leader provides plenty of help as needed. The game ends when every team finishes. (Could also be done with a button-up coat the same way. Decide ahead of time on the number of buttons that need to be buttoned. If the whole coat has to be buttoned, the relay will take too long and kids will lose interest.)

What You Say:

"A special coat was an important part of our Bible story today. Who in the Bible story had a very special coat? (*Joseph*) What happened to Joseph and his coat? (*Joseph's brothers tore off his coat and threw him into a well; his brothers sold him as a slave*) After Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave, they did something that let their father believe lie. What lie did they tell their father? (*They dipped the coat in goat's blood and let Jacob believe Joseph was killed by a wild animal.*)

"You know, the lies that Joseph's brothers told hurt both Joseph *and* their father. Joseph was a slave for many years, and Jacob cried and cried because he thought Joseph was dead. Joseph's brothers learned something that you and I can learn from hearing their story. And that is, **[Impress] when you're not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about.** **[Apply] How can the lies you tell hurt the people you care about?** (*Examples: when I lie, it makes my mom/God sad; when I lie about something I have or haven't done, someone could get hurt.*) So, remember: **[Impress] when you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about.**"

Catch On #3

Stick to Honesty (*memory verse activity / great for boys / can be classroom-wide*)

What You Need: Bibles, "Honesty" (Activity Pages), straws

Note: These "Honesty" cards will be used a few times this month. Please save them.

What You Do:

Help the kids look up the Bible verse using the Bible navigation tips below. When all the kids find the verse, read it aloud as the kids point to the words. Unpack the words *honest* and *respect*.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Proverbs* at the top of the page as you say "Proverbs" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 14 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 14 for the little 2; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to read the first part of the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them 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." You can help by telling them that *Proverbs* starts with the letters P-R-O. 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 verse 2 in chapter 14. Tell the kids to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to read the first part of the verse together.

Next, lead the kids in a relay game where they will need to "stick" to honesty! Guide the kids to line up in teams at one end of your room. Place the "Honesty" cards about ten feet away from the kids, one set opposite each team. Give each child a straw. At your signal, lead the kids to take turns running to the verse strips, placing the end of the straw close to a strip, sucking on the straw to "vacuum" the strip to the straw, and then running back to her team—all the while sucking on the straw to keep hold of the verse strip! (If a strip falls as the child returns to his team, simply guide him to use the straw to pick it up again.) When each team has all its strips, guide the teams to work together to put the strips in order. Read the verse aloud with the kids. (Tell kids NOT to run with straws in their mouths.)

What You Say:

“What does it mean to be honest (*to tell the truth*)? What does it mean to respect someone (*to treat them well, to honor them*)? So, when Proverbs 14:2 says that ‘An honest person has respect for the LORD,’ it’s saying that **[Apply] when we tell the truth, we show that we honor God. We also show that we care more about God than we do about ourselves and what we want.** So remember, ‘An honest person has respect for the LORD.’”

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:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then invite them to tell about a time when they were sick. What sickness did they have? How did they feel? Did they have to get a shot or go to the doctor or to the hospital? Who helped them get better?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Burgle the Bunny

What You Need: pulled and fuzzy cotton ball, a foam ball, or a Koosh ball

What You Do:

Lead the kids in a game similar to "Doggie, Doggie, Where's Your Bone?" Choose one child to be the "bunny" and guide her to sit with her back to the other kids and close her eyes. (You could have the majority of the group sit in a semicircle behind the "bunny.") Set the cotton ball, foam ball, or Koosh ball behind her. This is her "tail." Point to a child and guide him to sneak up behind the bunny, quietly snatch her tail, and return to his seat. When he is seated, guide all the kids to hide their hands behind their backs. At your signal, guide the bunny to turn and try to guess who took her tail. If she identifies the burglar within two guesses, he becomes the next bunny. If the bunny can't guess, the child who has the tail chooses the next burglar. During the game, praise the kids for telling the truth.

What You Say:

[Transition] "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who lost something more important than a tail. Let's go to Large Group to find out more." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1

Truth Be Told (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: "Truth Be Told" (Activity Page), crayons or markers, hole punch, strips of curling ribbon, tape

What You Do:

Give each child a set of "Truth Be Told" pictures. Guide the kids to put the cards in order, color them, and number them. Next, help the kids punch a hole in the corner of each card where shown. Finally, help the kids thread the cards onto a strip of curling ribbon to create a mini graphic novel of the Bible story. (If you use curling ribbon, be sure to help the kids tie the ends.)

What You Say:

"In our Bible story today, Gehazi was dishonest. How was Gehazi not truthful? (*He lied to get the gift; he lied to Elisha and told him that he hadn't gone anywhere.*) What happened to Gehazi because he chose to lie and hide the truth from Elisha? (*He got leprosy; he lost Elisha's trust.*) Because Gehazi lied, he lost so much, including his health and the trustworthy relationship he had with a great man of God.

[Apply] "Just like Gehazi, sometimes we do things that we know are wrong. When that happens, we have a chance to tell the truth. But if we choose to lie instead of telling the truth, we risk losing the trust of other people. We also risk losing friends. And you know what, even if the truth doesn't come out right away, God *always* knows the truth, and when we're not honest, we risk losing HIS trust, too. That's why we need to remember that **[Impress]** when you are not truthful, you lose trust."

Catch On #2

Coming Clean (*memory verse / great for boys*)

What You Need: “Honesty” (Activity Pages); curling ribbon, string or yarn, clothespins, tape

What You Do:

Create a clothesline on the wall with your string and tape. Guide the kids to get into teams of three to four. At your signal, guide the first child on each team to run to his team’s clothesline, unclip a card, run back to his team, and tag the next child in line. When a team has all its cards, lead them to work together to put the verse in order. When every team finishes, guide the kids to point to each word of the verse as you say it aloud.

What You Say:

“Proverbs 14:2 tells us that when you tell the truth, you show respect for God. You show that you care more about what GOD wants than about what YOU want. **[Apply] This week, how can you show respect for God by being honest?**” (*I can tell my mom the truth instead of saying “I don’t know;” I can ask God to forgive me when I tell a lie; I can tell my dad the truth about the kid I was being mean to at school; I can tell my grandma the truth about the money I took from her wallet.*)

Catch On #3

Tell the Truth (*application activity / great for boys*)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Guide the kids to gather in the center of the room. Designate one end of your area as “truthful” and the other end as “dishonest.” (You can make signs if it’s hard for kids to remember.) Read out the scenarios below. Kids will move to the “truthful” end of the room if the children in the scenario are honest and to the “dishonest” end if the children are dishonest. You can keep interest high by calling out different ways for the kids to move in each round (crab walk, baby step, walk backwards, tiptoe, walk sideways, etc.). At the end of the game, invite the kids to tell ways *they* might be tempted to be dishonest.

- When Bill’s mom asked him if he had brushed his teeth, he started to say, “Yes.” But then he decided to tell the truth and said, “No.”
- Mara ate the last two cookies. When her grandmother asked her if she had eaten them, Mara said, “No.”
- Joey didn’t want to go to school, so he told his mom that he wasn’t feeling well, even though he really felt fine.
- Samantha was tempted to tell her mom that she had cleaned her room, when she hadn’t. But instead, Samantha told her mom the truth.
- Shaniqua’s ball hit her dad’s car and dented it. When Shaniqua’s dad asked her how the dent got there, she said, “I don’t know.”
- At the class party, everyone could have one cupcake. Riley wanted two cupcakes, so he told his teacher that he hadn’t had one yet, even though he had.
- When Taylor and his brother got into a fight, Taylor hit his brother. When his mom asked what had happened, Taylor told her they were fighting and he hit his brother.
- Sheila saw a classmate’s pencil on the floor. It was really sparkly and cool. Sheila put it in her backpack and took it home.
- At school, Joanie found some money on the floor. She didn’t know whom it belonged to, so she gave it to her teacher.

What You Say:

“It’s hard to trust someone who is dishonest, isn’t it? Well, if you’re dishonest, others will find it hard to trust you, too. So, the next time you think about doing something dishonest, remember that people might not be able to trust you later if you make the wrong choice. **[Personalize] (Tell a child-appropriate story about a time when you weren’t truthful and lost someone’s trust. Be sure to tell how you felt as well as how it affected the other person. If possible, tell how you tried to make the situation right afterwards.)** Remember, **[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:

Invite the kids to put their offerings in the container, and then ask them to tell if they’ve ever fixed something that was broken. What was broken? How did they fix it? Did they fix it by themselves, or did someone help them?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Build It!

What You Need: coins, plastic cups, and a branch or piece of firewood

What You Do:

Invite the kids to build towers with the coins and plastic cups. You can even time the kids to see how quickly they can stack each item. Add another layer of difficulty by challenging the kids to stack the coins and cups on the branch; or, challenge the kids to stack the coins on top of a cup tower.

What You Say:

[Transition] “You did a great job building those towers! In our Bible story today, we’ll hear what a man (hold up a cup and point to the stick figure), money (hold up a coin), and a tree (hold up the branch) have in common. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1

Build Trust (application activity / great for boys)

What You Need: “Build Trust” (Activity Page), blocks, clothes baskets or boxes

What You Do:

Lead the kids in a block-stacking relay game. Guide the kids to get into teams of three or four and line up at one end of your area. Set the clothes baskets at the other end, one basket opposite each team. Call out a scenario below and then signal the first child on each team to run to his team’s basket, choose the block that shows the child choosing honesty in the matching scenario, set the block on the floor, and run back to his team. The game continues, with each child stacking his or her block on top of the previous block(s). When the game ends, review the scenarios and the wise choices the kids made.

- When Mary spent the night at her friend's house, she took one of her friend's stuffed animals.
- When Joey's grandmother was in the other room, he ate some cookies, even though his grandmother had told him to wait until after supper.
- While Steven was borrowing his brother's favorite game, he accidentally broke it.
- Every week, Jaime secretly took some money from his mother's purse so he could buy ice cream at school.
- At school, Suzy pushed another girl when they were on their way to PE.

What You Say:

“This week we’re learning that **[Impress]** when you are truthful and make things right, you build trust. What do you think it means to ‘build’ trust? (To be honest all the time so that others trust you more and more; to tell the truth after you’ve told a lie so that others can trust you again.)

[Apply] “When we’ve been dishonest, God wants us to apologize. He also wants us to make things right. So, if we’ve taken something from someone, we need to give it back. If we’ve told a lie, we need to tell the truth, and if we’ve promised to give something to someone, we need to keep our promise. But mostly, **[Apply]** when you’ve been dishonest and lost a person’s trust, you need to practice being honest so that bit by bit, that person can learn to trust you again. So remember: **[Impress]** when you are truthful and make things right, you build trust.”

Catch On #2

Build a Verse (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, “Build a Verse” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

Guide kids to look up the verse using the Bible navigation tips from Week 1. Read the verse aloud as the kids point to the words. Guide kids to partner up. Give each pair a set of “Build a Verse” shapes. Guide the pairs to work together to connect the words in order. When each team finishes, it will have a unique verse sculpture!

What You Say:

“Proverbs 14:2 tells us that **[Apply]** God wants us to be honest, because when we’re honest, we show God that we love and respect Him. What are some ways you can be honest and show God respect? *(I can tell my mom the truth when she asks me if I’ve brushed my teeth; I can tell my dad the truth when he asks me if I’ve cleaned my room; I can tell my grandma the truth when I eat four cookies instead of two.)* **[Apply]** How can you show God respect if you’ve told a lie instead of telling the truth? *(I can say I’m sorry; I can tell the person that I lied; I can ask God to forgive me; I can be careful to tell the truth.)*

“You know, we all make bad decisions sometimes and tell lies. **[Personalize]** *(Tell a time you told a lie, how you asked God to forgive you, and how you worked to make things right and build trust.)* So remember: **[Impress]** when you are truthful and make things right, you build trust.”

Catch On #3

Truth Builds Trust

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

[Impress] “When you are truthful and make things right, you build trust. **[Personalize]** *(Tell about a time when you chose to be truthful and make things right. Tell the kids whether it was hard or easy to apologize and make things right. Also describe how you felt afterwards.)* Telling the truth isn’t always easy, especially when we’re telling the truth about a time we’ve been dishonest. But God wants us to be honest, and He will help us. All we need to do is ask Him. Let’s pray. I’ll say a few words, and then you can repeat what I say.

“Dear God, *(pause)* You are kind and loving and good. *(Pause.)* You always keep Your promises. *(Pause.)* Please forgive us when we do things that You’ve told us not to do. *(Pause.)* Forgive us when we choose to be dishonest. *(Pause.)* Help us make things right. *(Pause.)* Please help us to choose to be honest in everything we say and do. *(Pause.)* We love You, God. *(Pause.)* Amen.” *(Pause.)*

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:

Invite the kids to place the offerings in the container, and then lead them in a silly true/false game. To play, simply ask wacky questions for the kids to answer as either true or false. Make the kids laugh by making all the answers false. Add to the fun by hamming it up and acting surprised when the kids say "false."

What You Say:

"An elephant is smaller than an ant. (*False!*) A bee can sing the ABCs. (*False!*) No? Okay. A bee can sing *The Star Spangled Banner*. (*False!*) Hmm. I thought they could! Zebras like to dance ballet. (*False!*) Oh, that's right. They like to tap dance! Cows can count to 100. (*False!*) No? Cows can count to 10. (*False!*) They can't count to 10, either? Wow. They must not be very smart. Monkeys breathe through their ears. (*False!*) No? Then how do they breathe? Through their noses? That's strange! Okay. I must be really confused. Please tell me some things that ARE true."

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Is It True? (optional classroom-wide activity)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Play the "gossip game." Lead the kids to line up. Whisper a true phrase (such as "Giraffes have long necks," "Dogs walk on their toes," or "elephants can't run") into the ear of the first child. When the listener hears the phrase, he whispers the phrase to the next child in line. Then that child relays the same message (however he heard it!) to the new listener. The game continues until everyone receives the message. The last person tells the group what he/she heard.

What You Say:

[Transition] "Over time, the first message got lost. What started out as true became something that didn't make sense. Sometimes that can happen in real life, too. Let's go to Large Group to hear about a man who learned this lesson the hard way." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1

Truth Walk (memory verse / great for boys)

What You Need: Bible, "Honesty" (Activity Page), yarn, tape

What You Do:

Work with the kids to scatter the "Honesty" cards around the floor and secure them with tape. Next, create a "maze" by taping yarn to connect the words of the verse in order. Starting at the first word of the verse, lead the kids to "tight-rope" walk the maze, saying the words of the verse as they go. (Be sure to provide as much reading assistance as needed!) If the children step off the yarn, they must be honest and go back to the beginning of the verse. *Option:* Set up multiple overlapping mazes, using a different yarn color to distinguish each maze.

What You Say:

[Apply] "We all struggle with telling the truth sometimes, but God doesn't want us to lie. He wants us to tell the truth. He wants us to tell the truth, because when we do, we show Him that we love and respect Him. Proverbs 14:2 says it this way: 'An honest person has respect for the LORD.'"

Catch On #2

True Thing (application activity / great for boys / can be classroom-wide)

What You Need: tape, ropes, or a flat king-sized sheet; a balloon with “truth” printed on it; a piece of paper with “a lie” printed on it

What You Do:

Mark a large playing area with tape, ropes, or a flat king-sized sheet spread out and taped in place. Tell the kids that the floor inside the marked area is “a lie.” (Place the “a lie” paper within your marked area to make the concept more clear and concrete in the kids’ minds.) Guide the kids to stand within the marked area and play “keep it up” with the balloon labeled “Truth.” When the balloon (“truth”) hits the floor (“a lie”), the kids get on their knees for round two; when it hits the floor again, the kids sit on their bottoms; when it hits the floor again, they lie on their backs. When the balloon hits the floor a fourth time, the game is over.

What You Say:

“In our game, our goal was to keep ‘the truth’ up (*hold up the balloon*) so that it wouldn’t fall into ‘a lie’ (*point to the floor*). Each time ‘the truth’ fell, it became harder to keep it up the next time. The same is true for you: the more you lie, the harder it gets to keep the truth going. We say it this way: **[Impress] you can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true.**

“Maybe you’ve told a lie, and then you had to tell another lie, and another, *and* another to keep from getting into trouble. After awhile it gets hard to remember the truth!

“But the good news is that even if you mess up and lie again, God still loves you—no matter what! He will NEVER stop loving you. **[Apply] So, if you feel sad about some lies you've told, I want you to know that there is *nothing* that can keep you from God's love. You don't have to be like Judas. You can tell God you're sorry, ask for His forgiveness, and try again.** And you know what? God wants you to be honest, and He will help you!”

Catch On #3

Remember the Truth

What You Need: pieces of yarn

What You Do:

Guide the kids to gather around you. Tie a bit of yarn around each child’s finger. As you do, encourage the kids to think about a specific time or place when it might be hard for them to tell the truth. It could be when they think they’re going to get into trouble, when they want to get something that someone else has, or when they want others to like them. **[Personalize] After you've tied yarn around each child's finger, tie yarn around your own finger, too. Tell the kids when it might be hard for you to tell the truth. Stick to examples that they can relate to, like when you were supposed to do something but you didn't.**

What You Say:

“Today we learned that **[Impress] you can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true.** Judas lied so much that he forgot the most important, truest thing of all—that Jesus loved him and wanted to be his friend forever. We need to be careful so that we don’t get trapped in lies like Judas did. **[Apply] So this week, when you find yourself tempted to lie, let the yarn around your finger remind you to tell the truth. Let it remind you that if you're not careful, you can get to the point where [Impress] you can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true.** Let’s pray and ask God to help us tell the truth.

“Dear God, we know that You want us to choose to be truthful in whatever we say and do. You want us to tell the truth, because if we don’t, we can lie so much that it's hard to remember what's true. Please forgive us for the times we have lied, and please give us the courage to always tell the truth, even when it’s hard. Above all, help us remember what is most true: that You love us and sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for us and for all the things we do that make You sad. Thank You for forgiving us and for always loving us. We love You. Amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.

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:

Invite the kids to put their offerings in the container, and then ask them to tell you about the best promise someone ever kept to them. It might have been a promise to take them to a game, give them a certain gift, or simply go out for ice cream. Be sure to acknowledge each promise equally.

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Now You See It

What You Need: cotton balls, bandanna or blindfold, metal or plastic bowl

What You Do:

Guide the kids to play a group hot/cold game. Choose a child to be "It." Blindfold "It" and give him a bowl. Scatter the cotton balls widely around your area. At your signal, "It" will move to find the cotton balls and put them in the bowl. The other kids can help "It" by clapping fast when he is closer to a cotton ball and clapping more slowly if he is farther from one. As time allows, let the kids take turns being "It." (To reduce the spread of germs, use a different blindfold for each kid.) *Note: Before the game, be sure to remove any items that pose a hazard for "It"!*

What You Say:

[Transition] "That was a fun game! The person who was 'It' knew the cotton balls were there, but couldn't see them. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something else we can't see but we can **KNOW** is true. Let's go to Large Group to learn more." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1

Shine! (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: neon markers, white paper

What You Do:

Give each child a sheet of white drawing paper. Lay out the neon markers. Invite the kids to draw their favorite thing about the Easter story.

What You Say:

Our Easter pictures really *GLOW*, don't they? Sometimes it can be a little hard to believe in Jesus when we can't see Him like we can our pictures. But even though we can't see Him, we can have faith that He is there and that He loves us very much! And when we believe, we find out that Jesus is more beautiful and amazing than we could ever imagine! He shines and glows just like our pictures!"

[Apply] "It can seem hard to believe in Jesus when we can't see Him, but we **CAN** believe in Him. We can believe in Jesus because of the true stories people told about Him; we can believe because we can see the wonderful world He made; we can believe because He tells us in our hearts that He is real; and we can believe because **[Impress]** when Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true. It proved that He is the Savior of the world and that if we believe in Him we can have life forever with God."

Catch On #2

Treasure (application activity / great for boys)

What You Need: Bible, Easter eggs filled with "John 3:16" (Activity Page) strips

What You Do:

Divide the group into teams of three to four kids per team. Guide the kids to close their eyes while you scatter and hide the eggs around the room. When you finish, invite the kids to open their eyes. Assign each team a color of egg. At your signal, guide each team to hunt for its color eggs. When the kids find all the eggs, lead the kids in each group to work together to open the eggs and put the verse strips in order. When all the groups finish, guide the kids to point to the words as you read the verse aloud. If the kids are able, they can read the verse aloud, too.

What You Say:

“God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. He sent Jesus, His own Son, to pay for *all* of our sins. Jesus did this when He died on the cross.

“When you or I believe in our hearts that Jesus is who He says He is, and when we ask Him to forgive us of our sins, He will! Then we will receive God’s gift of eternal life; we won’t die but instead get to live in heaven, with God forever! God gives us this promise in John 3:16. (*Open the Bible to John 3:16 and read the verse aloud with the kids*) John 3:16 says, ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ (NirV)

[Personalize] (Briefly share your own salvation story.)

“Easter is God’s best gift ever, because Easter means one thing—Jesus is ALIVE! Easter is proof that **[Impress]** **when Jesus came back from the dead, it proved what He said was true.** It proved that He is the Savior of the world and that if we believe in Him we can have life forever with God.

“It’s okay if you don’t understand all of this now. But if you have any questions, please talk to your parents, me, or any of the other leaders. We’ll be *very* happy to talk with you and help you understand as much as you can!”