

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS: LYING

Exodus 20:16; Acts 5:1-11

Parents Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Exodus 20:16; Acts 5:1-11
- In This Passage: God commands his people not to lie. When Ananias and Sapphira sell their property, they lie about how much money they sell it for so they can keep some money but make it *seem* like they gave it all. Both of them are caught in the lie and die suddenly.
- Bible Point: We don't lie.
- Summary Verse: "Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind' " (Matthew 22:37).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *We don't lie*. Lying has a lot of gray areas for kids. What if I don't *technically* lie, but I lead someone to believe an untruth? What about if lying spares someone's feelings? What if I just leave out the truth? All of these are questions that may come up from kids, and you have the opportunity to show how much God values truth.
- Think About: What are some memorable lies you've told? What happened?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to reveal his truth to kids so they can fall in love with truth.

Quick Tip

- You may not have noticed it, but you find this commandment incorporated into Dig In on a weekly basis! We strive to avoid lying to or tricking kids. On the rare occasions we do, in the end we always make sure kids know it was only pretend. This is an important part of building trust and modeling for kids that truth is important.

OPENING

Welcome

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **We're learning about God's Commandments. Now you might think that sounds like a bunch of rules. But God's Commandments are like street signs, showing us the best way to go. Today we're going to learn that we don't lie. Instead, we can be truthful. The street sign for Truth Turnpike can remind us of that!**

Share

- *Tell kids something you wish were true about you.*
- *Ask kids to share what they wish were true about them.*

Summarize

Open a Bible to Exodus 20, and say: **It can be fun to imagine those things are true. But if they're not, we don't lie and say they are. Let's find out what happened in the Bible when people lied. The Bible isn't an ordinary book; it's God's book for us, full of God's truth. As we explore his Word today, we'll experience his truth. Let's start by talking with God.**

Pray, asking for his help to be honest.

TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

The Mini Masters

Say: **We're learning that we don't lie. Sometimes lying can be pretty easy. Maybe you think you could get away with lying and no one would know. That's what happens in our video today.**

Watch "The Mini Masters." (watch or download [here](#))

• **Tell about a time *you* were tempted to lie because you didn't think anyone would notice. What did you do?** (Share your own story first.)

• **What are reasons people sometimes want to lie?**

• **What could being truthful cost us? Why is it worth the cost?**

Say: **Dylan wanted to move the ball and lie about it so he could win the Mini Masters Tournament. In the end, he decided to be honest even though it meant losing the tournament. That was a big cost to him, but the consequences of lying to win would have been worse for him. He would've felt guilty about it for a long time, and he might even have been caught and gotten in trouble. Telling the truth is always the best way, so we don't lie.**

MUSIC VIDEOS

Worship God

- "Worship Christ" (1 Peter 3:15) (watch or download [here](#))
 - "Your Friend" (watch or download [here](#))
 - "To God Be the Glory" (watch or download [here](#))
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CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Supplies

- Bible
- index cards (2 per child)
- crayons, including 1 black crayon per child
- coins (1 per child)
- paper

Set It Up

Say: **We've been learning about God's Commandments. Let's find out what today's is.**

Read Exodus 20:16.

Say: **That's a fancy way of saying we don't lie.**

Ask: **What are some of the negative things that can happen when we lie?**

Say: **Lying can really mess things up! That's why we don't lie. Let's see what happened after a couple in the Bible lied.**

Write the Truth

Say: **Shortly after Jesus died, came back to life, and went to heaven, the church started to grow. And all the church members were sharing what they had! It was a great community.**

No one told people they *had* to sell things in order to share with this community, but a lot of people did.

One married couple, Ananias (an-uh-NY-us) and Sapphira (sah-FY-ruh), sold some land they had. We don't know exactly what it sold for, but let's say it sold for \$50,000.

Have your child use a colored crayon to write "\$50,000" on an index card.

Say: **Now remember, no one told them they had to sell that land or that they had to give all the money from the sale to the church. But they decided to give some of the money to the church. And here's where the lie comes in.**

Read Acts 5:2. Have each child use a black crayon to color over the numbers, pressing hard to completely obscure "\$50,000."

Say: **Lying is like hiding the truth. You can't see what number is written on your index card anymore. So if you'd sold the land for \$50,000, that truth is covered up now. You could say you sold it for \$25,000 and only give that much to the church. Then you could keep the other \$25,000. And that's just what Ananias did.**

Reveal the Truth

Say: **But if we tell a lie, eventually the truth is revealed.**

Read Acts 5:3-4.

Have each child place his or her index card on a sheet of paper and then use a coin to scratch off the black crayon, revealing

the original amount and getting shavings all over the paper.

Ask: **What happened to your paper when you uncovered the truth? Tell about a time you told a lie. What kind of mess did you make?**

(Share your own story first.) Sharing about a lie might be embarrassing for kids, so the more authentic *you* are, the more willing they'll be to share.

Say: **Lying makes a mess. Eventually the truth comes out, and we're left with a mess like the one on your paper. That's why God's best plan is that we don't lie.**

Let's see what happened next.

Read Acts 5:5-6.

Ask: **Why do you think Ananias died?**

Say: **I don't want you to be scared. We don't really know *why* Ananias died. The Bible doesn't say *God* made Ananias die. If you tell a lie, it doesn't mean you'll die instantly—but you *will* face consequences. You'll hurt relationships with other people. You'll be less trustworthy. You'll live in a state of worry about being caught, trying to remember all the lies you've already told. So we follow God's commandment, and we don't lie.**

Ananias' wife, Sapphira, hadn't come with him when he brought the money. But she did come later.

Read Acts 5:7-10.

Have kids shake the crayon mess from the paper onto the index card, trying to cover up the numbers again. (It won't be effective.)

Say: **Sapphira didn't know the truth had already come out. She tried to cover up the truth, too, but she couldn't do it. And like her husband, she died.**

Cover Your Truth

Say: **Ananias and Sapphira had no reason to lie about their offering. Giving some of the money from the sale of their property would've still been a generous gift. They hadn't done anything wrong by keeping some of the money. But they *were* trying to make themselves look more generous than they really were, so they lied. And that was wrong.**

Ask: **What are other reasons people lie?**

Say: **Maybe you've been hiding a truth because you *did* do something wrong and you're trying to hide it. Maybe you're hiding a truth because, like Ananias and Sapphira, you want to seem more impressive.**

Whatever the reason we *want* to lie, we don't lie. Lying only hurts ourselves and others.

Give each child a new index card.

Say: **On your index card, write something true you've covered up with a lie. Maybe you told your mom you took care of something she asked you to do, but you didn't really do it. Maybe you broke or lost something**

and have been hiding it. Maybe you cheated on a test or homework assignment. Whatever the truth is in your situation, write it on your index card with a colored crayon. No one here will read what you write.

When kids have finished writing, have them cover over what they wrote with crayon.

Say: This commandment is probably one *everyone* has broken at some point. God's way says we don't lie, but I bet most of us have. Here's the great news: It's not too late for you to reveal the truth. Take your index card home and put it in your room as a reminder of the truth you're covering up with a lie. Throughout the week, ask God to give you strength to reveal the truth to the appropriate person.

I'll pray for us right now.

Pray: God, thank you that you've given us good guidelines. Thank you that you tell us not to lie because you know the truth is always best. Help us reveal the truth this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

DEEPER BIBLE

What About A Little White Lie?

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper towels
- markers

Twist the Truth

Say: Today we're learning that we don't lie. But how serious is that commandment? I mean, are *all* lies bad? What about a little white lie—a lie you think couldn't possibly hurt anybody? Or a lie you tell to keep from hurting someone's feelings? Let's dig in to that.

Give each child a paper towel and a marker. Have kids write "The Truth" on their paper towels.

Say: Your paper towel has the truth on it. Now, twist your paper towel to show how much "twisting the truth" happens when you tell a really big lie that hurts someone. For example, you borrowed your brother's laptop, broke it, and then hid it so he'd never find it. Pause for kids to demonstrate.



Say: Untwist your paper towel. Now twist it again to show how much "twisting the truth" happens when you tell a little white lie. For example, you lost a present someone gave you, and when they asked about it you said, "Oh, I love it! I use it all the time!" Pause for kids to demonstrate.



Ask: **What can you read from your paper towel?**

- **How is a big lie just like a little white lie? How are they different?**

Say: **We may put lies into categories like big and little, but just like our paper towels, any amount of twisting the truth covered it up. And God loves the truth! Let's see what the Bible has to say.**

Dig Deeper

Read Proverbs 12:22. Have kids untwist their paper towels to reveal "The Truth."

Ask: **Why do you think God delights in people who tell the truth?**

Say: **God loves the truth. But there's one Bible story that might make us wonder about that. In it, a woman named Rahab hid some Israelite spies so they wouldn't get killed. Some people came to her house looking for the spies, and here's what she said.**

Read Joshua 2:4-6.

Ask: **Is Rahab's lie okay? Why or why not?**

Say: **What's interesting about Rahab's lie is that it saved lives. And she was rewarded for it! Check this out.**

Read Joshua 2:12-14.

Say: **On the other hand, we learned about some other liars in today's Bible story. For Ananias and Sapphira, their lies didn't work out.** Have kids twist their paper towels.

Ask: **What's the difference between Rahab's lie and Ananias and Sapphira's lie?**

- **What difference might it make about *why* someone is lying?**

Say: **Rahab lied to save lives. Ananias and Sapphira lied to make themselves look better. Most of the time, the things we want to lie about are self-serving. We want to protect ourselves from getting in trouble or we want to impress other people. Our lies usually have the same purpose as Ananias and Sapphira's lie.**

It's a little confusing that Rahab's lie seems to have been okay. Even Bible experts can't always agree on why that is. But here's what we all know for sure: God values the truth, and it brings him delight. And when we lie, the truth eventually comes out.

Read Proverbs 12:19. Have kids untwist their paper towels.

Say: **The more you have to twist a lie or twist your reasons for lying to try to make it seem okay, the more likely it is that your lie *isn't* okay. I don't know about you, but I don't normally have to lie to save someone's life! So the important thing to remember is that God values truth, and that means we don't lie—not even little white lies.**

OBJECT LESSON

Lies Loop Back

Supplies

unopened cans of tuna

Roll Cans of Tuna

Say: **We're learning about the many reasons we don't lie and how lies can have big consequences. One good reason not to lie is that lies tend to come back to us. This can of tuna (hold up a can of tuna) can show us how lies turn back to us.**

- Have kids gather near the walls in the room, spreading out so each group has plenty of room to roll their can of tuna.
- In the center of the room where everyone can see you, demonstrate rolling a can of tuna on its side. Push the can just hard enough that it rolls without falling over.
- The can should roll away from you for a bit and then curve back toward you.
- Allow group members to take turns rolling their cans of tuna and observing what's different or the same about how the cans move with each roll.

Talk About It

Ask: **What did you notice about how your tuna can rolled, even if everyone in your group rolled it a little differently?**

- Take a closer look at the can. Why do you think it always rolled back?

Say: **Tuna cans have one rounded edge and one flat edge. The different types of edges will always make the can turn and roll back. The way the cans roll back is a lot like how lies come back and point to the person who's lied.**

Ask: **Tell about a time a lie came back to get you in trouble or make you feel guilty.** Share an idea of your own first, such as a time you felt guilty because you know you didn't tell the truth or you got in more trouble because you did something wrong *and* lied about it.

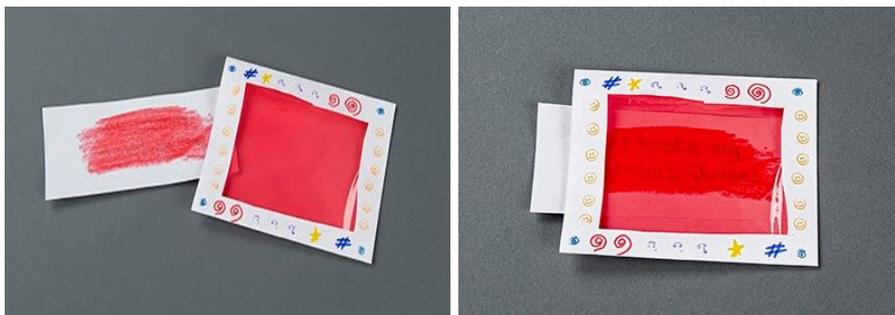
Say: **One way or another, lies come back to us and have hard consequences. That's why God's way is best when he says we don't lie.**

CRAFT

Truth Revealers

Supplies

- light blue crayons
- red crayons
- paper
- tape
- red cellophane (available with wrapping supplies)
- scissors
- markers



Tip

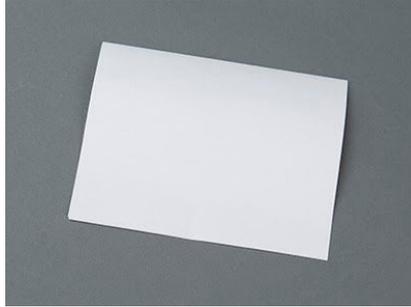
- Although various shades of red will obscure the light blue, we found that regular red and sky blue crayons work together best.

Say: **We're learning that we don't lie. When we do, the truth always gets revealed! Want to see what I mean?**

Show kids the sample craft you made, letting them try to read the colored paper without the sleeve and then with the sleeve.

Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make Truth Revealers.

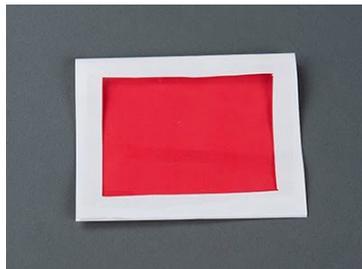
- Cut a piece of paper in half so it's 5½ inches by 8½ inches.
Fold the paper in half to make a roughly 4x5½-inch square.



- On just one half of the folded paper, cut out the center to create a frame.



- Open the paper and tape a piece of red cellophane onto the back of the frame.



- Refold the paper. Tape the top and sides of the frame to make a sleeve with just one opening.
- If you want, decorate the frame with markers.



- Cut slips of paper small enough to fit inside the frame.
- On the slips of paper, use sky blue crayons to write truths people might lie about. Write lightly. (Examples could include stealing money, breaking something, not doing their homework, or cheating on a test.)
- Color over the truths with red crayon. Press hard! The red crayon is like the lies we tell that cover up the truth.

Slide the truths into the sleeve to reveal what they say.

Talk About It

Ask: **What do you have the hardest time being honest about?** Examples could include using an electronic device when it's not screen time, sneaking food, or lying about schoolwork.

- **Tell about a time you told a lie that was “held up behind a red reveal”—so the truth came out.** Share your own story first.
- **You covered up the truth on your craft with red crayon, but you couldn't hide it forever. What happens in life when the truth that you'd tried to cover up with a lie is revealed?**

Say: **We don't lie**, because God values truth. And sooner or later, the truth comes out! Take your Truth Revealers home as a reminder to reveal the truth instead of trying to hide it behind lies.

LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

The Truth About You

Say: **We've been learning that we don't lie.** Sometimes lies come in a different form. Rather than us telling lies, sometimes we *believe* lies about ourselves. Lies like “I'm weird” or “I'm ugly” or “Nobody could ever like me.” **As we close in prayer, I'm going to pray truths over you.**

- **Bless kids by praying one of the following truths over each child. Feel free to add your own.**
- **Pray:**
 - o God, thank you that you made [name of child]wonderful!
 - o God, thank you that [name of child]is your masterpiece.
 - o God, thank you that you have an important purpose for [name of child].
 - o Jesus, thank you that you gave your life for [name of child].
 - o God, thank you that you love [name of child]so much.
 - o God, thank you for making [name of child]in your image.
 - o God, thank you for giving up everything because you wanted to be best friends with [name of child].
 - o God, thank you for the beautiful heart you've given [name of child].

Wrap Up

Pray: God, help us believe the truth and tell the truth so that **we don't lie**. In Jesus' name, amen.
Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.