

*Get Ready!***Honesty**

By: Myra Montgomery

**Text**

Acts 6:8-8:1

Key Quest Verse

“He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive a blessing from the Lord.” Psalm 25:4-6

Bible Background

Here we have a man brought to court because of lies, in response he tells the truth. Truth that would get him killed all because he really had no other choice. No other choice that is, that would have let him be honest with himself, honest with his beliefs and honest with his God.

Stephen is no one special, just a man who allowed the Holy Spirit to have the control over his life. It is simply a choice to believe and trust. Have you made a similar choice? You can.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: What the Bible tells us about honesty

Feel: Confident in making the right choices

Do: To tell the truth in words and actions

Leader's Devotion

This is a prayer to consider before starting this lesson:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I know that in Your Word You stress that one of the most important things people need to learn is to tell the truth . . . and it is one of the hardest. So many times I have believed what someone has told me only to find out later that it was not true. It was times like this that I have felt betrayed.

I know that the students in my class have felt the same way. Help me to understand how to be a good example in this area. Help me to be honest in my words and actions so that my students understand that this is an important virtue, not only when they are young, but also when they are adults.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Candle, matches, fireproof pan with paper in it, water

I just love candles, don't you? (Light the candle) When it is lit the fire is so beautiful. This fire is not only beautiful, but useful. Can you think of some things that make fire useful? (cooking, warmth, etc.) That's right. It can help you see when it is dark. If it was big enough it can keep you warm when you are cold. Sometimes fire is not useful.

Tip the candle so it lights the paper in the pan. It can be used to hurt someone or destroy something. Put the fire out with the water.

Our tongues are like this candle. Sometimes the things we say are beautiful. We can use it to encourage someone who is sad, "Thank You" when someone has helped us, or it can be used to teach someone something important. But sometimes our tongue can be used to hurt someone. This happens when we tell a lie about someone or lose our temper.

Let's look at a story from the New Testament that demonstrates how some people's tongues were used to hurt someone and how a man used his tongue to honor someone. Relight the candle. Then let's see how our tongues can be used like this candle to light the world.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: None

What is honesty? to tell the truth in words and actions. The root word of honesty is "honest" or "honor". To be honest is not to lie, cheat, or steal. It is to be honorable, truthful and trustworthy. Honesty is to tell the truth not only with your words but also with your actions. We are going to read about a man that really stood up for the truth!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Advanced Preparation: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

A long time ago there was a man named Stephen who was “full of God’s grace and power”. He assisted the disciples as they preached the message of the risen Savior. Stephen did great wonders in ministering to the people and many received the Good News about Jesus who died for their sins. But he made some great enemies among the Jews. They plotted against Stephen by persuading some men to tell lies about him. These false witnesses claimed Stephen spoke blasphemy (curses) against Moses and against God.

When Stephen was brought before the Sanhedrin (the ruling council of the Jews) he had the choice of denying his allegiance to the new church of Jerusalem or telling the truth about his Lord and Savior. He chose to do what was right and died glorifying God. How did Stephen show honesty? He chose to tell those who brought charges against him the truth about their disobedience to God’s law and their murderous deed against His Son.

Can you think of somewhere else in the Bible that it talks about honesty? The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:15-16.

Why is it important to be honest? God wants you to. If you continue to lie, who will know when you are telling the truth?

Go!**Who Has It?**

GAME

Materials: A small coin**Quest Connection**

Have you ever tried to hide the truth? How did you feel? Does the truth usually have a way of coming out? We are going to play a game to try hide something.

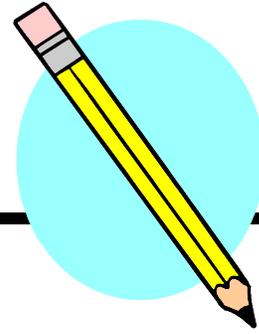
Procedure: Have all players sit in a large circle on the floor (or on chairs). Pick one player to be “IT” and stand in the center of the circle. “IT” closes his eyes and counts to 10.

As “IT” is counting, the players sitting in the circle secretly pass a small coin, such as a nickel, from one player to another. When “IT” reaches 10, the players in the circle stop passing the coin and the player with it closes it in his hands. All players hold their hands out in front of them.

“IT” tries to guess who has the coin by calling out a player’s name. When a player’s name is called, he says, “I do not have the coin!” “IT” must decide if the player is telling the truth. If he thinks he is not being honest, the player must open his hands. When “IT” guesses who has the coin, that player becomes the new “IT”.

Close

Have you ever had to tell a lie? Let us remember that God sees and knows everything that you are doing.

Go!**To Tell the Truth****GAME**

Materials: Two Resource Pages “To Tell The Truth”

Quest Connection

Photocopy the “To Tell the Truth Situations” and separate them. Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a situation. Give them time to go over the situations and to decide which contestant will tell the truth. The other two contestants must lie. When the game begins, all three contestants will say “I can _____” or “I did _____.” (Remember only one is telling the truth.)

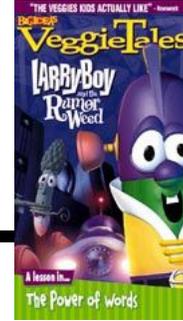
After all three questions have been asked and answered, players write the name of the player they think is telling the truth on their Tally Sheet. See who in the class has the most right!

Close

Was it difficult to figure out who was telling the truth? It is important for us to live our lives that no one would ever question our word.

Go!

Veggie Video



VIDEO

Material: VCR, “Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed” Veggie Tales video

Quest Connection

Junior Asparagus and Laura Carrot learn just how easily rumors get started when they accidentally launch a whopper about Larry-Boy's butler, Alfred! Before they know it, their little story is spreading all over Bumblyburg like a weed! Can Larry-Boy stop the rumor before Alfred gets hurt? Can *anyone* stop the rumor before Larry-Boy gets hurt?!?

In the end, the kids learn that God doesn't want us to tell stories that can hurt. He wants us to spread nice words.

VeggieTales is a kids' video series that teaches timeless values like honesty, kindness, and forgiveness in a delightfully wacky way! Hosted by Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber, each video in the series teaches a life lesson—without ever being preachy. These hilarious stories feature top-quality computer animation, infectious songs, and lovable characters.

Close

How are rumors dishonest? Have you ever heard a rumor? Did you stop it or spread it to someone else? An option would be to play the game “telephone”.

Go!**One of the Top Ten****OBJECT LESSON/DISCUSSION**

Materials: Copy and print the statements on sheets of paper from the Resource Page “One of the Top Ten” (1 per sheet) and crumple the paper. Throw the 16 wads of paper around the meeting room floor. The area should look “trashy”.

Quest Connection

When the children enter the room, ask them if they know who left this trash on the floor. Ask if they think we should leave the trash where it is—or clean it up. Tell them for right now, we will just leave it. Explain that one of the 10 Commandments is “Thou shalt not lie.” God told us the way HE wants us to show Him we love Him by giving us some things to do . . . or not do. When we do not obey God’s commandments, we are trashing God, His Word, and messing up our lives . . . Just like the trash on the floor. Here are some of the commandments we can obey so that God KNOWS that we love Him.

(Expound on each of these—interacting with the children as you go.)

Honor your father and mother.

Honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not lie.

Thou shalt not covet . . . (explain covet).

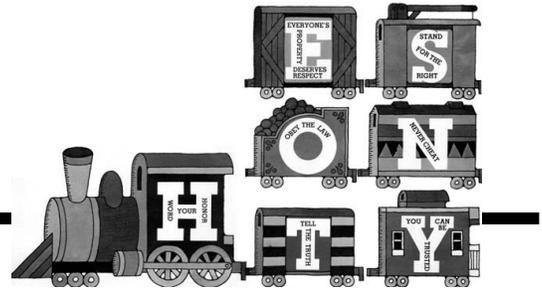
Love your neighbor as yourself.

Thou shalt not take the Lord’s name in vain.

Close

**Should we obey God’s commands? Why?
What happens when we do not obey God?
Is it time to clean up your life?**

Go!



On the Right Track

Art/Crafts

Materials: Scissors, one blank sheet of paper for each student, glue stick, one copy per student of Resource Page “On the Right Track”

Quest Connection

Being honest means many things. The dictionary suggests that an honest person will not lie, cheat, or steal. Some words associated with honesty are *honorable, truthful, fair, trustworthy, and genuine*. You are on the right track to happiness if you practice being honest.

Procedure: Cut out locomotive and cars. Put them in order to spell *honesty*. Glue the train to the blank piece of paper. As you put each car in place, think of something that you have done or can do that would be an example of the principle written on car.

1. Let children describe experiences that they have had with the principle of honesty. Decide which statement on cars matches which experience most closely. Write child’s name on that car, or make small paper doll with his name on it and put it on top of car.
2. Other cars could be added with statements that children feel are also associated with honesty.
3. Discuss questions: “How do I feel when I am dishonest/honest?” For older children, explain meaning of counsel given by George Washington: “Honesty is always the best policy.”

Close

Let’s ask God to help us be honest throughout our daily lives. Before we tell someone something, we need to be sure that it is absolutely true.

Resource Page

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I studied my
Bible verse this
week.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I made an "A"
on my English
test.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I can make
Brownies.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I do my home-
work as soon as
I get home from
school!**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I did my chores
without being
reminded!**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I stayed up
late to watch a
movie.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

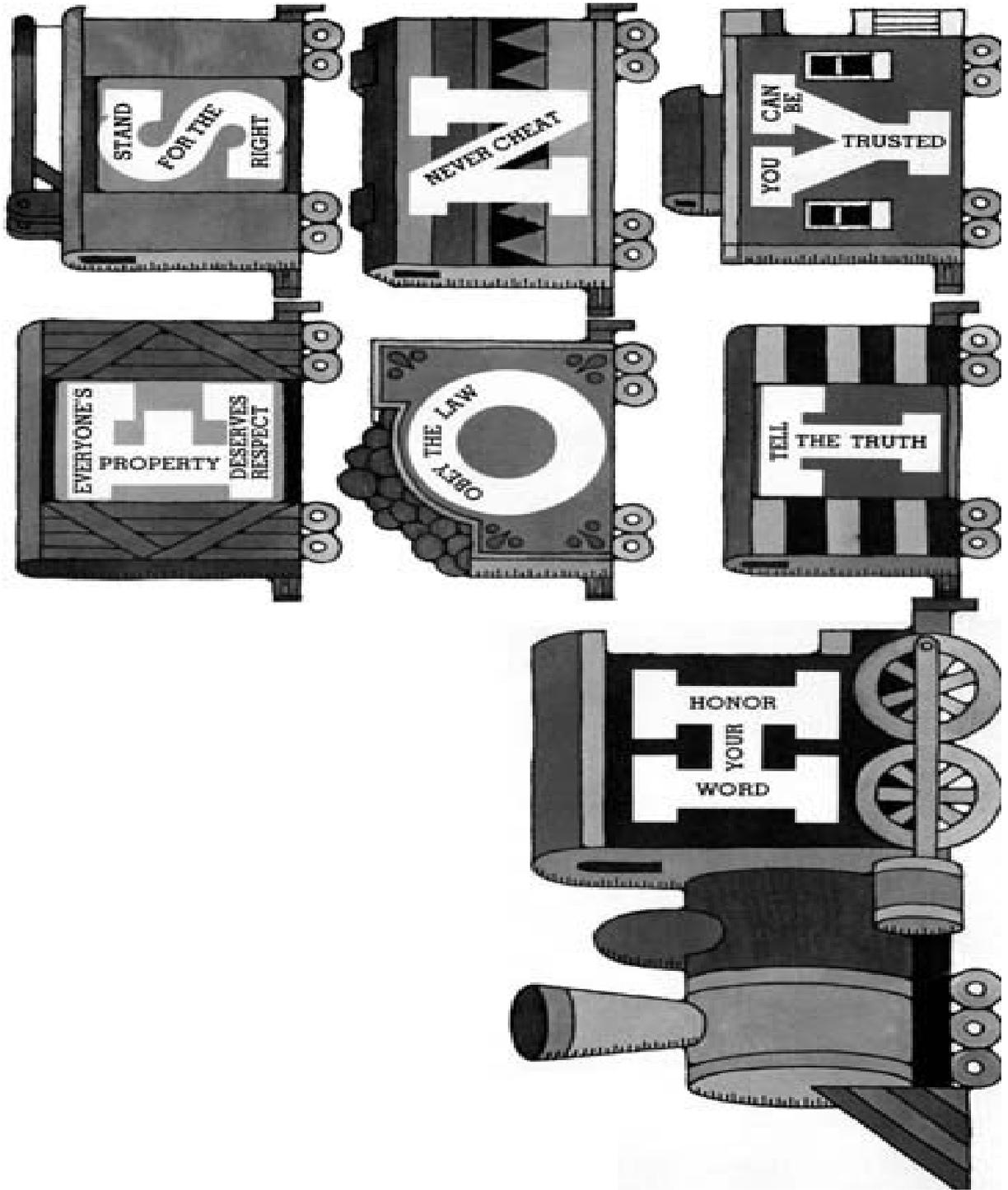
**I can do a
cartwheel.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

**I read my Bible
this week.**

**To Tell the Truth
Situation**

Think up one!



One of the Top Ten

Copy and print the following statements (1 per sheet) and crumple the paper. Throw the 16 wads of paper around the meeting room floor. The area should look “trashy”.

I tell lies. My friends don't care.

I called my Mom and Dad mean names.

I pretend I'm sick so I don't have to go to church.

I took a friend's eraser at school.

I want to go fishing—not to church.

I took a candy bar from the grocery store. They won't miss just 1 candy bar.

I'll hide from my Mom. I don't want to take out the trash.

I told Dad that I already cleaned my room—but I didn't.

My sister makes me so mad, that's why I hit her.

Those people next door are weird. I won't help them do anything. Someone might see me helping them.

I'll beg Dad to get me a bike like my friend's.

Mom won't let ME buy my clothes like my friend has.

Mom will love the flowers that grow in the park. I will pick them for her.

I can cuss all I want to—when Mom can't hear me.

My friend says bad words—and I think he is funny.

My neighbors are old—I wish they would move away.

Nobody pushes me around—I will beat them up.

She is ugly. I don't like the way she dresses.

I don't do what Mom and Dad tell me until they get REAL mad.

HONESTY

Think about it!

What are some lies you might tell yourself?

Why is it important to be honest with yourself?

How can you change from telling lies to being honest?

Why is it important to be honest?