

2.30 SPEAK TRUTH

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: Speaking Truth

3G. Integrity, Honesty, and Justice

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When students are asked about lying, they will say that it displeases God and often leads to conflict.

Attitude: Students will practice telling truth at all times.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise book

Exercise book

Scripture:

References: Acts 5:1-11

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Do not accuse anyone falsely." Exodus 20:16

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Is it all right to tell lies?
2. What is lying?

Bible Story:

3. We learn from Acts 5:1-11 about a man and his wife who lied. Listen to their story.

Suggested Discussion Questions

4. Early Christians were sharing all things in common. Some were selling their property and bringing the money to the disciples for distribution. What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was different?
5. Why do you think they lied?
6. How did people find out they had lied?
7. To whom had they really lied?
8. Is it possible to speak lies without being found out?

Application:

9. Is it hard to speak the truth at all times? Why?
10. What can happen when you lie?

Evaluation:

11. How can we help each other speak truth?
12. What does God say about lying?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. No it is not all right to tell lies. Let students discuss.
2. Lying is saying something that is not true or giving the wrong impression of another.

Bible Story:

3. Students will hear how Ananias and Sapphira lied.

Possible Answers to Questions:

4. They sold their property for a certain price but agreed together that they would claim they were giving it all to the disciples when they kept back some.
5. They wanted to keep some money for themselves. They wanted to appear to be giving like the others.
6. God revealed it to Peter.
7. God
8. Rarely. At some point it will be discovered.

Application:

9. Yes. The truth is sometimes unpopular. Discuss.
10. Lose friends. Conflict can arise. No peace in heart.

Evaluation:

11. Be a good example of speaking truth to one another.
12. Memorize and live by memory verse.

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “Do not accuse anyone falsely.” Exodus 20:16
2. In exercise book, have students write at the top: Living Out Our Faith. Underneath write: “Honesty First”. Beneath that, write: “Lying can lead to conflict.”
3. True or False. This is a quick way to reflect on the importance of being honest. State the sentence and have students respond true or false. If the answer is false, reword the statement to make it true.
 - a. Telling the truth causes misunderstanding, confusion or conflict. False. (Correction: Telling lies causes misunderstanding, confusion or conflict.)
 - b. Telling the truth protects innocent people from being blamed or punished. True
 - c. Telling lies makes you feel secure and peaceful inside. False. (Correction: Telling the truth makes you feel secure and peaceful inside.)
 - d. Telling the truth means you don’t have to tell (and remember) more lies to keep your story straight. True
 - e. White lies are okay on occasion such as telling a young man that your sister isn’t home when she is, even though she tells you to tell him she is not. False. (Correction: White lies are lies. Your sister is home. Speak truth. My sister is home but chooses not to see you right now.)
 - f. If I know about a lie and keep quiet about it I allow the lie to live on. True.
 - g. Speaking truth regularly gains you the good reputation of someone people can trust. True.
4. Play “Wink the Truth” game. The purpose of this game is to create a group story that’s half true and half lies—and you’ll discover how hard it is to keep a story straight if you need to remember many facts and lies. You’ll need a group of at least four people (more is better). To play:
 - a. Begin by agreeing on what the story will be about. Try to keep the topic simple. Examples: A day at school; something specific that happened at school or near the school; how the game was played last night.
 - b. The first player starts the game by saying two sentences about the topic. One sentence is true, and one is a lie. It doesn’t matter what order the player says them in, but he or she must wink when telling the lie. E.g. “Mrs. T was standing at the door of the school this morning when we arrived.” (True.) “She was wearing red shoes.” (A lie; wink.)
 - c. The second player repeats the first player’s sentences and adds two more sentences to the story, winking for each lie.
 - d. The third player repeats all four sentences said by the first two players, adds two more sentences, and winks three times.
 - e. Continue until the story gets very complicated and people start forgetting which parts are true and which parts are lies. Afterward, talk about the game. Is it hard to keep a story straight if you have to remember many facts and lies?

[Game taken from What Do You Stand For? By Barbara Lewis. Free Spirit Publishing Inc.: Minneapolis, 1998, p. 121-122]

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

Background: The church was very young. Believers shared their possessions so no one was in need. It meant that some of them sold what they did own such as their houses. They would bring all the money received from the sale and turn it over to the disciples who would distribute it according to the needs of the people.

1. There was a man named Ananias (not the same one who went to Saul) who had a wife named Sapphira. They sold some property that belonged to them. But they agreed they were going to keep back part of it and turn the rest over to the apostles.
2. When Ananias took the money to Peter, it was revealed to Peter that Ananias was not telling the whole truth about the money. He asked Ananias why he lied to the Holy Spirit by keeping part of the money he received for the property. Apparently, Ananias wanted people to think that he was as good as others who were bringing all the money from the sale of their properties to be shared with those in need. But in fact, he wanted to keep some of it for himself. He was being dishonest before God.
3. Ananias was severely punished for what he did.
4. Peter later asked Sapphira what the full amount was that she and her husband had received for the property. She agreed with what her husband had told Peter. She too told a lie and was also punished for it.
5. Speaking truth always wins. When one lies, at some point, the truth will come out and the liar will have to pay the consequences.

Key Point

God desires truth in our innermost being. Speaking truth, even when it is hard, prevents conflicts and violence. Speaking truth keeps your conscience at peace which is very important. To gain a reputation as one who speaks truth is a great value.

Tips for Being More Truthful

After discussing this lesson and the value of speaking truth, ask the students if they want to commit to being more truthful. Here are some tips to help them do it.

1. Make a commitment to yourself to tell the truth. Then honor this statement and be truthful in all situations.
2. Tell someone about your commitment—a close friend, a parent, a teacher, someone you can trust. Talk with that person on occasion and let him/her know your progress.
3. Think before you give a dishonest answer, explanation, or reason. Consider the consequences. It's probably easier to tell the truth.
4. Be careful not to twist the truth or leave out part of it.
5. Don't indulge in white lies. They are lies.
6. Watch out for silent lies—when you know about a lie but keep silent.
7. When you catch yourself lying, correct it immediately.
8. Be careful about exaggerating. Don't give wrong information.
9. When faced with a difficult situation, talk to yourself (not out loud). Ask yourself what you really feel about this? What's the best thing to do? How can I keep my commitment to myself?

10. Celebrate with someone who understands when you speak truth in a difficult situation.

[From What Do I Stand For? by Barbara Lewis. Free Spirit Publishing Inc: Minneapolis, 1998, page 116-117.]

Teacher Evaluation

Have I been dishonest with any of my students, peers, family, friends? If so, how am I going to correct my dishonesty? Will I strive to model speaking truth at all times? Do people trust me to be someone who speaks truth or are there doubts about my honesty? Is it time I make a commitment to always speak truth?