



INTEGRITY | WEEK 2 | OCTOBER 8, 2023

Elementary Lesson

A Matter of Trust

Monthly Virtue: Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

Bible Story: A Matter of Trust (Naaman and Elisha's Servant) • *2 Kings 5*

Key Question: Why is it important for people to trust you?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

Memory Verse: Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. *Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)*

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

God is always good. Since the very beginning, God has been faithful and true. If God makes a promise, God keeps that promise. We are created in God's image . . . and when we live with integrity, we reflect God's integrity. When Jesus lived on earth, He lived a perfect life and showed integrity in ways we can't because of our sin. Jesus makes it possible for us to live as new creations. Through the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed into people of integrity. Who we are in private should match who we are in public. When we trust in God, we can make the wise choice and be truthful in whatever we say and do.

Key Question: Why is it important for people to trust you?

Our words and actions have consequences, including whether or not people are able to trust us. Kids might not quite yet understand why this is important. We hope that through this question, kids will discover how integrity and trust are connected. We pray that they'll become trustworthy with their own words and actions.

In week 2, we head to **2 Kings 5**, where we find the prophet Elisha and his servant named Gehazi. Gehazi seized the chance to use dishonesty to take advantage of Naaman's gratitude and get riches for himself. Gehazi went behind Elisha's back, denied his actions, and inevitably lost Elisha's trust.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors
Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group
Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group
Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) “What holiday is coming at the end of this month? That’s right, 5th Sunday Funday! Oh, and it also happens to be Halloween...but that means that you and a friend get to come to church in your costume! If you’re really cool, you and your friend will have coordinating costumes. Like Batman and Robin or Snow White and the Seven Dwarves! Whatever you come up with, please no full-face masks, props, or scary costumes. I get frightened easily! MOST importantly of all, you need to invite your friend to church! That’s what 5th Sunday is all about!

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (4 Min)

TRUTH OR LIE?

(No Supplies)

I’m so happy to see all of you here today. We have a high-octane thrill ride of a day planned for you here at KidCity. We’re talking about how we should be DRIVEN by our relationship with Jesus. And that means we should be driven by integrity.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

“It means that you live your life in a truthful way, wherever you are and whatever you do. Sometimes in life, we might be tempted to act differently depending on who’s around us. Sometimes it might seem like we can get ahead by not telling the WHOLE truth. But integrity means that we choose to live truthfully, no matter what.

But ironically, our game today is called TRUTH or LIE??? I need my volunteers that I've already chosen to come up to the stage.

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **BEFORE LARGE GROUP:** Pick about 4-5 kids and SGLs to come play the game. Prep them by telling them that they will need to say either a lie or a truth about themselves (it is a good idea to tell them what you want them to do so you don't end up with all lies or all truths).
- **CALL VOLUNTEERS UP:** Explain that you are going to have each of them tell either a lie or a truth about themselves. If they are telling a lie, they are trying to trick the audience into believing that it's true!
- **AUDIENCE VOTES:** After each contestant says their truth/lie, have the audience judge whether or not they think that person is telling the truth. If they think they are telling the truth, then they should stand up. If they think the person is telling a lie, then they should squat. After the vote, have the player say if they were telling a truth or a lie.

That was tricky! Remember though, we should always be people who tell the truth for real. Now, let's all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing.

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: READY SET MOVE, BURN)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

"I've played the game 'Two Truths and a Lie' -which is similar to what we played for our game earlier - countless times over the years. It's a fun activity to get to know each other while also trying to figure out what really happened and what's made up! Some individuals are better at coming up with believable deceptions than others, which makes the game even more interesting.

"The funny thing is, in 'Two Truths and a Lie,' you're rewarded if you can deceive your audience. That's really not how it's supposed to go in life though, huh? Most of the time, if you're caught in a lie, you end up facing the consequences of not telling the truth. Though the specific consequences may vary, one consequence is a given: a loss of trust.

"When you say you'll show up to your friend's big game but don't, you'll lose trust with your friend. When someone turns in a research paper but copies the work from someone else on the internet, they'll lose trust with their teacher. If you tell your mom you're not sure what happened to all the potato chips, but she finds the empty bag under your bed . . . yep, you'll lose trust with your mom.

"I realize I'm probably not saying anything you don't already know. But I am curious as to why us humans can struggle with telling the truth when we KNOW we'll lose the trust of those around us

if we get caught? Is it because we underestimate the consequences? Do we just not care about the consequences? Do we not really care for the people on the other end of our dishonesty?

“Wow. Those are big questions! And the *truth* is, this is something all of us will struggle with. More than likely we’ll each have moments in our lives when we can choose to be truthful or not. So what do we do about it? How can we get better at choosing to be truthful and live with integrity?

“Thankfully, we have a source of truth: the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced the truth of God in their lives. God inspired them to write down these moments so people could know more about God and how God wants them to live. These stories from thousands of years ago are still true today. Let’s check out one of them now.”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY – 4 MIN)

This is such an interesting story. On the one hand, we were able to see Elisha demonstrate God’s power and care as God healed Naaman of a horrible disease. Elisha had no relationship with the commander, who came from a rival territory, and yet, the prophet chose to help.

“On the other hand, we can witness the lies and unraveling of Gehazi’s story. The servant saw an opportunity to dishonestly accept gifts intended for someone else. Then Gehazi implied money could be exchanged for God’s free gift of healing. When Gehazi was caught in his dishonesty, he tried to cover up the error with more dishonesty. But in the end, Gehazi faced a serious consequence. Not only did he lose the trust of Elisha, but Gehazi received the dreaded skin disease, which included a life of pain.

“Obviously, this story is not implying we’ll receive a terrible skin disease if we’re untruthful. But it does demonstrate that lies carry consequences. I realize that it’s not always easy to be truthful, but it’s still easier than dealing with the problems that lying creates. For example, when you choose to copy words from Wikipedia for a research paper and not cite it as a source. Like when your parents ask if you studied for your spelling test, and you say yes but all you’ve done is play video games.

“If you decide to be untruthful, you might be able to get by for a short while. But eventually, the person you lied to will discover the truth. And in that moment, you’ll lose trust. Thankfully, we have an amazing example of one Person who fully embraced living honestly with integrity—Jesus! We should look to Him and follow the way He lived. His actions and the way He treated others was always with truth—even when it was difficult.

Remember this...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) ‘I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

This means that I don’t have to try to pretend to be someone I’m not. God knows you inside and out and loves you right where you are. But He loves you so much that He doesn’t want you to stay there. He wants you to always be growing in integrity. I realize it’s not always easy to be honest and truthful. Sometimes telling the truth can lead to consequences as well. However, it’s never

wrong to do the right thing. And Jesus demonstrated with His words and actions the importance of being truthful. In moments of difficulty, lean on God. Ask God for strength and courage to live with integrity!

Let's take a look at the Key Question and answer it with the person next to you.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) 'Why is it important for people to trust you?'

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

I heard some great ideas floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray and dismiss.

Dear God, thank you for the story of Naaman, Elisha, and Gehazi. It helps us see just how important it is to be truthful. Help us always remember that we need to make the wise choice and live with integrity. Give us the courage to be truthful in everything we say and do. We love you, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

KEY QUESTION (K-5th)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers, but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: Why is it important for people to trust you? *(Answers will vary: You want to do the right thing, you want people to know that they can depend on you, the more trust you gain the more responsibility you get, if you keep earning trust then you have deeper friendships, etc.)*

WHO HAS THE MONEY? (K-5th)

(Quarters, Bibles)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Call on a volunteer to stand off to the side, turn their back to the group, close their eyes, and cover their ears.
- Direct the rest of the group in the circle to put their hands behind their backs and close their fists.
- Quietly give one kid the quarter and direct them to hold it behind their back.
- Tell the group to act natural, even though one of them is holding the quarter.
- Call on the kid volunteer who is out of the circle to open their eyes and return to stand in the center of the circle.
- Share that they have three chances to guess who has the quarter. After three guesses, switch them out with another kid.
- In between rounds, say the true/false statements below. Have kids give a thumbs up if it's true and a thumbs down if it's false.
- True/False Statements:
 - We can trust God no matter what. *(true)*
 - Naaman had a horrible skin disease. *(true)*

- Naaman was poor and didn't have enough money to pay for a doctor to cure him. *(False: Naaman was not poor. However, there was no known cure for his skin disease, so no matter how rich you were you could not pay to be cured.)*
- A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak for God on earth. God gave words to the prophets to speak truth to God's people. *(true)*
- Gehazi was a prophet. *(False: Elisha was God's prophet. Gehazi was Elisha's servant.)*
- Naaman was instructed to wash in the Jordan River seven times to be healed. *(true)*
- Naaman was so grateful to be healed he wanted to give Elisha silver and Elisha accepted payment. *(False: Elisha refused to accept payment for God's work. Elisha was the messenger of God. It was God who healed Naaman.)*
- Gehazi thought Elisha was wrong to reject Naaman's offer, so Gehazi lied to Naaman to get riches. *(true)*
- When asked where he was, Gehazi confessed his lie to Elisha, and he asked Elisha for forgiveness. *(False: Gehazi continued to lie about his actions.)*
- Gehazi had serious consequences for his lies. *(true)*
- When you are not truthful, you lose trust. *(true)*

What You Say:

This is a crazy story, but it shows what can happen when we choose to lie instead of telling the truth. Gehazi lied to Naaman in order to receive money and clothes. And he KNEW he was wrong because he hid the gift. Then he lied to Elisha about what he'd done when he said, 'I didn't go anywhere!'

"Because of his dishonesty, there were physical consequences. Gehazi was struck with the same painful skin disease that Naaman had before. But there were relational consequences, too! Elisha couldn't trust Gehazi because of the lie he'd told. And the same is true for us! When you choose to tell the truth, you build trust. But **[Bottom Line]** when you're not truthful, you lose trust."

[Make It Personal] *(Tell your few about a time someone lied to you and it broke trust. Choose a kid-friendly example. How did the lie they told affect your relationship?)*

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th)

(Floor Tape or Hula Hoop, Straws, Pom Poms, Bibles, Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Put down a tape circle or hula hoop.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Direct them to look up Proverbs 10:9.
 - **Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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 10. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 10.

- Invite the team who finds the verse first to read it aloud to the group.
- Choose one kid from each team to blow the pom pom around the circle. Have one team go at a time.
- On 'GO', have the kid with the straw start blowing the pom pom around the track. While they do that, the rest of the kids are going to try to say the verse *together* as many times as possible before the pom pom makes it around the track. If they start not saying it together, have them stop and start over from the beginning of the verse.
- Keep track of the number of times that they did it, and then have the next team go.
- *Optional: If you don't want to use straws, either use a stiff piece of paper to fan the pom pom or use your nose to push it.*
- Play best two out of three to declare an overall winner!

What You Say:

"What made this track harder? (*Invite responses.*) All the turns! If I'd asked you to make a simple straight tape line, it would have been SO much easier to get that pom-pom from start to finish.

"When we live with integrity and make choices that honor God and others, it's like walking a straightforward path! That's what God wants for you and for me because when you're not truthful, you lose trust. And the best part is that we don't have to try on our own. God promises to help us choose to be truthful so others can trust us."

PRAY

"Dear God, thank you for being truthful in all you say and do. We know that **[Bottom Line]** when **you're not truthful, you lose trust**. When we're tempted to lie, help us remember that our relationships will suffer. We want to be kids who are trustworthy! Thanks for loving us and helping us follow you each day. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."