

Children's Lesson Eleven

I Will Tell the Truth

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to teach the children that saying things against their neighbors or friends is wrong. God wants all of us to live our lives speaking honestly and truthfully. It is only when we build our lives on honesty and truthfulness that we have a solid foundation on which to base our actions and our very lives. We focus on behavior that deliberately tells things about others in order to hurt them or to get ahead. This intentional dishonesty has many consequences. Children must be aware that honesty and truthfulness is what God requires of all who call themselves Christians.



OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Understand the ninth commandment
- Understand that to build our lives on dishonesty is like building a house of cards. It can come crashing down any minute.
- Realize that our lives are to be built on bricks of truth.

SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 20: 16

WHAT YOU NEED

- Commandment Crest and ninth badge
- Glue
- Several decks of cards (any type of cards will do)
- Bricks of Truth worksheet
- Unlined 3"x5" index cards
- Colored tissue paper, several colors
- Black construction paper 11"x14"
- A copy of the story for each child
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Markers
- Copy of ninth commandment to place on bulletin board

SETTING THE SCENE

1. **Commandment Badge.** The children need to locate their Commandment Crests and glue the next commandment badge on.

2. **Commandment Fish Memory Review.** This memory review game is built on the principles of the game Go Fish. Using a deck of cards you will make the children try to get books (four cards with the same number on them). Once they get a book, they must say the commandment that corresponds to the number on the cards they have in the book. For example, a child has four cards with the number "1" on them. He lays them down in front of him and he must say the first commandment. If he cannot say it, his partner to the right has a chance to say it. If she can recite the commandment, then she gets the book. If she cannot, the next person on the right gets a chance. If no one can say the commandment the cards need to be reshuffled back into the deck. Play until all the books have been used and all the commandments have been said.

To make and use the cards ...

A. Use index cards or make your own cards by cutting construction paper to 3"x5". You need four cards per commandment being reviewed, so for this lesson you would need 36 cards (four cards times nine commandments).

B. Write the numbers corresponding to the commandments on four cards. (Four cards have "1" written on them, four cards that have "2" written on them, four cards that have "3" written on them and so on.)

C. This game works best with three students in a group, but you can play with as many as four or five. You will need to make as many decks as you need for the number of groups you have.

D. Give each group a deck of Commandment Cards. Shuffle the deck and hand out six cards per child in the group.

E. Review the rules of Commandment Cards. One person will start by asking another person if they have a particular number on any of his or her cards. If he or she does then he or she must give those cards to the asker. If he or she doesn't have the asked for cards he or she says "Go Fish" and the asker must pick a card from the deck. Once a child has a book, he or she must lay the cards in front of him or her and say the corresponding commandment. For example, if the player lays a book of number "1" cards down, he or she must recite the first commandment. If that person cannot say the commandment, the player on the right has a chance to steal the book of cards by saying the commandment correctly. If that player can say the commandment correctly, he or she moves the book of cards in front of him or her. If the person to the right cannot say it correctly, the next person to the right gets a chance and so on. If no one can say the commandment correctly, then the cards need to be reshuffled into the deck of cards. At the end of the game, the person with the most books wins.

3. **The Gossip Game.** This is a game that all of the children have probably played. The focus for this game and this lesson is to show how things told to each other can be distorted over

time. Rumors often start with a small grain of truth, but as it goes from one person to the next the rumor grows and grows until it is not anything like the original idea. That is why we don't want to gossip about our friends. If we begin to say bad things about them and tell a couple of friends, the rumor turns even worse. God wants us to see other people like He does. They may have their problems and hang-ups, but each one has been created in the image of God. We need to seek to find the good in people instead of passing along bad information about them.

A. Line all the children in a semi-circle.

B. Begin by telling the first person in line a sentence. It could be a Bible verse or a silly statement like "Billy Bob likes to go swimming." Almost any type of sentence will do.

C. The first person in line whispers the sentence in the ear of the second person in line. The second person in line tells the third person and so on until everyone has heard the sentence.

D. Ask the last person in line to tell the class what he or she heard. More than likely it will not be anything like the sentence you told the first person. Tell the class what you told the first person. You may want to do this several times. The point of this game is to focus on the uses of language and how the words we say to others can change from one person to the next. We do not want to deliberately say anything to anyone that would hurt our neighbor, not even one person.

4. **House of Cards.** Lying is like building a house of cards. With several decks of cards on a table, let the children try to build houses made out of cards. The teacher may want to show them how to do it. After some time of trying to build the houses, ask **Was that hard to do? Why? Lying is like trying to build a house of cards. Why do you think so? When we build our lives on falsehoods and lies our lives can crumble at any minute.**

TRANSITION

Say **God wants us to build our lives on truth and honesty, especially when dealing with other people. Let's see what The Commandment Kids have to say about this commandment, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."**

STORY

Distribute the story, then read it let the students read the parts of the story.

QUESTIONS

1. **Have you heard rumors before?**

2. **Why do you think people start telling false stories about other people?** (They are hurt or angry; they want others to feel bad like themselves.) **Why is it wrong to start rumors?**

3. **Do you think Kassy should have handled the situation differently?**

4. **What would you do if someone was spreading false testimony about you?**

ACTIVITIES

1. **Stained Glass.** The children need to know that not only are they to refrain from spreading lies about a friend, to fully keep this commandment they need to start looking for the good in people. If they are looking for the good things in people, then they won't have time to search for the bad. It is kind of like a stained glass window. In the dark the window looks normal, but when the sun shines we see beauty in the window. God is like the sun and we are like stained glass windows. If we can begin to see people in the light of God's love, then we can concentrate on the good things of life. The children will create a stained glass picture to hang in their windows at home to remind them to see people in God's light.

A. Hand each child a black piece of construction paper 11"x14".

B. They need to fold it in half so the result is a 5 ½"x14" folded piece of paper.

C. Using scissors, the children need to cut through both layers of the construction paper, creating holes in different shapes all over the paper. The children need to make sure the paper stays together when they cut it, so the shapes will be uniform for both pieces of paper. For the younger children, the teacher may want to tape the corners to help keep the papers together. Shapes could include squares, circles, diamonds, clover-shapes, etc.

D. When enough holes have been cut to make a design, the children need to open the paper back up and begin to glue colored tissue paper over the openings on the inner side of the bottom sheet. Have them put the glue on the surrounding black part of the hole so the glue won't show through on the colored paper. The children need to use as many colors as they can, to make it look like a stained glass design. To facilitate this the teacher may want to precut the tissue paper in various sizes before class.

E. Once they have glued colored tissue paper on the hole designs, then fold the top black sheet over and glue along the sides. They now have a stained glass design to take home and tape on their windows.

2. **Bricks of Truth.** If the children tried to build a house made of cards, they know that cards are not that easy to work with. The analogy was that everyday the children are building the foundation for their lives and if they build it with lies, rumors and bad feelings for others, their world can come crashing down at any minute. Lies are not what we want them to be building their futures on. We want them to be building their futures on the truth and practicing telling the truth and looking for the good in people. For this lesson, the children will use Bible verses to discover the promises of what happens when they tell the truth and develop a honest and truthful life.

In pairs, have the children look up the Bible verses found on each brick on the Bricks of Truth worksheet. Then each child needs to write in the bricks the promise of what happens to those who are truthful and honest. When the children are finished, discuss together the promises found in Proverbs concerning those who are truthful and honest.

Remind the children that there is one more commandment to study. Encourage them to continue memorizing all Ten Commandments.

End with a prayer.

STORY

- Narrator: The Commandment Kids were on the playground one day when Charlotte heard something that didn't make her very happy.
- Charlotte: Kassy, I don't know if you know it, but someone is spreading rumors about you. I just heard someone say that you don't play fair when you play soccer and volleyball and that you are mean to your teammates. Now, I know that is not true, but I thought you might want to know what's going on.
- Kassy: (too shocked to really speak) Oh, Okay.
- Charlotte: Kassy, are you all right? You look kind of funny.
- Kassy: No, I'm okay, but who would say those things about me? Everyone knows I'm a Christian and I play fair.
- Charlotte: I don't know who started the rumor, but those girls over there (pointing to a group of girls by the swings) were talking about it.
- Kassy: I don't know what to do. Should I go talk to them? Oh, there's the bell to go in.
- Narrator: Kassy noticed the stares and the pointing fingers as she made her way into the classroom. This hurt her because she knew that what people were saying was wrong. Later that day The Commandment Kids tried to help Kassy figure out what to do.
- Frankie: We know and lots of other people know that those are just lies someone is spreading. Don't think anything about it.
- Kassy: It's hard not to do anything. I feel like I need to say something to someone, shout it off the school roof, but I don't know who started the rumor. If I did maybe I could talk to them.
- T.J.: How about if we ask around and talk to some people to see if we can find out who started the rumor. It's probably best to talk to that person first.
- Kassy: Okay.
- Narrator: The Commandment Kids for the next couple of days did some snooping around, asking questions quietly here and there and found out that Natalie was the one who had started the rumors about Kassy. Natalie was in a different grade and Kassy didn't know her very well which surprised all of

The Commandment Kids.

Kassy: I hardly know her. Why would she say those things about me?

Chelsea: I don't know, but maybe you could talk to her and see what's going on.

Narrator: Kassy talked to her parents that night and they said they would do something about it, but Kassy decided she wanted to try and handle it herself. The Commandment Kids managed somehow to get Natalie to the oak tree that very next afternoon. Kassy never found out how they did that, she only knew that she stood face to face with the girl spreading false stories about her. She was now wishing that she had let her parents handle this.

Kassy: Hi, Natalie.

Natalie: Yeah, Hi.

Kassy: I don't know what to say, Natalie. I'm not sure what's going on. Why would you want to spread lies about me?

Natalie: Oh yeah, like you don't know?

Kassy: No, why?

Natalie: You really don't know do you? What soccer team are you on?

Kassy: The Bombers.

Natalie: And you tried out a couple weeks ago, right? Well, my parents found out that you and me were the contenders for the last spot on the team. Well, we know who made the team don't we?

Kassy: Natalie, I was not aware of that. I didn't know how they picked the team or who was even in the running for the team until they posted the team member chart. I'm sorry you feel like I have wronged you, but we both tried out and we knew before we tried out that we might not make it. You'll have other chances, won't you?

Natalie: No, that's it for me. Remember I'm a year older than you. All I ever wanted was to be part of that team and you ruined it for me.

Narrator: At that time The Commandment Kids who were listening to what was being said had to jump in to defend Kassy.

Charlotte: Natalie, you know Kassy plays fair and if she made the team it was because she earned it fair and square. It's not fair to her for you to be saying those

things about her.

Natalie: I don't care. I'm mad at Kassy. (As she said this she stalked off leaving The Commandment Kids astonished by her actions.)

Kassy: Now what am I to do?

Geoffrey: Kassy, Natalie is just mad at you and she knows you won that spot on the team fair and square, she just wants to take her anger out on someone.

Kassy: Yeah, I just wish it wasn't me.

T.J.: That she is doing is wrong. It breaks the ninth commandment. Charlotte, do you have your Bible?

Charlotte: Yes, sir, right here. The ninth commandment says, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." That is exactly what Natalie is doing. She is spreading rumors, false ideas about Kassy.

Frankie: You know, you can't do anything about her. All you can do is keep your head held up high and go on with your daily routine. Anyone who knows you knows those rumors are false.

Kassy: I know, but there is one thing I can do. I can pray for Natalie. I can pray that she will see I mean no harm to her and that I want to be friends.

Chelsa: Well, if you can do that after everything she has done, the least the rest of us can do is pray with you. How about it Commandment Kids?

Narrator: All The Commandment Kids agreed to pray for Natalie and that Kassy would not let the false stories affect her. Rumors affect not only the people the stories are about, but everyone else, especially those who start the rumors because they want to be mean.



BRICKS OF TRUTH

Proverbs 14:3

Proverbs 24:26

Proverbs 21:23

Proverbs 12:22

Proverbs 13:3

Proverbs 12:6

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 12:20



CARVED IN STONE ARTWORK, LESSON ELEVEN - I WILL TELL THE TRUTH, BRICKS OF TRUTH WORKSHEET