

Character Building from the Bible Lessons From Every Child Ministries

TRUTH not LIES

Learning about the word TRUTH, TRUE:

Definition: TRUE 1. Agreeing with fact; not false. 2. Real; genuine.
TRUTH 1. That which is true.

Opposite: Lie, false, fake, pretend.

Object Lesson: Show two watches--a real, attractive, working watch, and a cheap plastic toy watch. Ask which is the TRUE watch. The other watch is pretend, false, not genuine, fake. It will not really help you tell time because it is not a REAL or TRUE watch. Wearing it is like telling a lie. You are saying it is a real watch, but it is not TRULY a watch. It is only pretend. As you listen to the first two lessons, think about what is REAL and TRUE, and what is only PRETEND.

Bible Memory Verse for Lessons 1 & 2:

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truly are his delight.

Grades 1-2 Lying lips are UUUUCCKK! to the Lord. (Or use the word abomination, demonstrating its horrid meaning by a sick, exaggerated tone of voice and look on your face, or bodily movements indicating something utterly disgusting.)

Bible Stories:

Daniel has courage to tell the truth.

Daniel ch 4

Jesus always told the truth.

Matt. 27:11-24, 35a, 50, 62-66, 28:1-17

Aim for the week: (Each group of two lessons has the same lesson aim, illustrating through two different lessons for reinforcement.) **At the conclusion of these lessons, the students will KNOW that God is truth and loves truthfulness in His people. As a result, the Christian student will begin to consider everything he says and does in the light of whether it is truthful or not and make a conscious effort to turn away from lying and deceitfulness.**

LESSON 1

Character Building from the Bible Lessons
From Every Child Ministries
Truth not Lies
www.teachingforafrica.com



DANIEL TELLS THE KING THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT IS HARD

Beginning the Lesson:

Every child has struggled with the temptation to be untruthful, so let's focus on that struggle in the introduction.

*Younger children--*Tell a very short, simple story in which a child is tempted to lie. (During our team orientation time in Ghana, you will be paired with a Ghanaian teaching partner. Together you will come up with a story and present it to the group for evaluation. This will help you become familiar with the kinds of stories appropriate to Ghanaian city culture, and it will help train your Ghanaian partner in the selection of introductory stories for other lessons he or she can use in the continuing ministry.)

*Older children--*Ask the children to tell you about a time they were tempted to lie. Let one or two children tell their stories briefly, not longer than two minutes.

*Transition to the lesson--*We have all been tempted to lie, and we have all said things that were not true. What does God think about this?

Lesson Scripture (to be studied in preparation for the lesson) Verses to be emphasized are in green. We are using the New King James Version, an updated version of the King James, which is the most commonly used translation in Ghana. Feel free to use other modern versions for your study, but become familiar with the wording of this version as well.

(Commentary is in italics. We invite you to add your own commentary as you study.)

Daniel 4:1: Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied to you.

2 I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

3 How great are his signs, And how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace.

5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

6 Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

7 Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation.

Practitioners of occult arts have some power. The king recognized that. Yet their power was limited. They could not tell the king the interpretation, or they were afraid to do so. It was not only one kind of practitioner that failed, but all the various categories of occultists.

Character Building from the Bible Lessons

From Every Child Ministries

Truth not Lies

www.teachingforafrica.com



8 But at the last Daniel came before me, (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying,
 9 Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

10 Thus were the visions of mine head while on my bed; I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.

11 The tree grew, and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth/

12 Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it.

13 I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher a holy one, coming down from heaven.

14 He cried aloud and said thus, Chop down the tree, and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches:

15 Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, Bound with a band of iron and bronze, In the tender grass of the field, Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth.

16 Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him.

17 This decision is by the decree of the watchers, *And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.

**Compare vs. 17 where the watcher and holy one are plural with vs. 13 where they are singular.*

18 This dream I, king Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you.”

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished* for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you. Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!

**Daniel is afraid and troubled because of the dream and its implications.*

20 The tree that you saw, which grew, and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens, and which could be seen by all the earth,

He does not let his fear overpower him, nor does he become so polite that he cannot tell the truth

21 whose leaves were lovely, and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home-

22 It is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown, and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.

These are key words that must have pierced the heart of the king. As Daniel was afraid at first, the king must have been struck with terror when he heard the words, "It is thou, O king."

Character Building from the Bible Lessons

From Every Child Ministries

Truth not Lies

www.teachingforafrica.com



23 And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;
24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

25 They shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he chooses.

The evil that will come on Nebuchadnezzar is severe but limited in duration, severe but pointed in scope. It will continue until Nebuchadnezzar learns the lesson God wants to teach him.

26 And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after You come to know that the heaven rules.

27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.

We are not told Nebuchadnezzar's immediate response. Apparently Daniel was neither punished nor rewarded. Knowing he told the truth in a difficult time was its own reward.

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of the of Babylon.

30 The king spoke, saying, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?

31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: O king Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you!

32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he chooses.

33 The very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hairs had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws.

34 At the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, And his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven, And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand, Or say to him, What have You done?

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and his ways justice. And those who walk in pride he is able to put down.

Background for your understanding and enrichment:

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king, ruler of the mightiest empire of his time. Previous chapters of Daniel show he knew something about the Lord, yet he threw 3 of Daniel's friends into a fiery furnace because they refused to bow to him in the way he wanted. The interpretation of the dream is true because it comes from God, but it is unflattering to the king, a message of judgment on him. One could easily expect a sentence of death for saying such things to the king. This is the basis of Daniel's fear.

Main Ideas to Emphasize:

- ◆ The king asked Daniel to tell him the meaning of his vision.
- ◆ Daniel was upset when God told him the meaning of the vision, because the vision was a warning against the king.
- ◆ Daniel probably was afraid to tell the king the truth about the vision. He could be punished severely if the king did not like what he said.
- ◆ Daniel told the truth anyway, and God protected him.
- ◆ Everything happened just like God said it would in the dream. God always tells the truth, and He is pleased when His people tell the truth, too.

Discussion for Older Students:

- ◆ Why was it so tempting for Daniel to tell a lie?
- ◆ When are you most tempted to tell lies?
- ◆ What happened to Daniel when he told the truth? (Nothing is stated, either good or bad.)
- ◆ What could have happened if he had lied?
- ◆ Someone has said, "Telling the truth is its own reward." What do you think this means?

Role Play: Situations in which they may be tempted to tell lies

Going back to someone they've lied to, confessing their sin and telling the truth

Game for Younger Children:

Give three children a flannelgraph smiley face and a sad face each.

Describe three simple situations in which a child told the truth or told a lie. (Decide on the situations ahead of time with your African teaching partner.) Each child comes forward and places a smiley face on the flannelboard if the child told the truth, or a sad face if he told a lie. If the child told the truth, everyone claps and cheers for him. If he told a lie, they all say, "Oh noooooo!"

Pointers:

Don't get bogged down in the detail of the dream and its interpretation. The important thing in this lesson for our purposes is that Daniel was afraid to tell the king the truth about the dream (vs. 19), yet he told the truth anyway, and God honored his truthfulness.

Character Building from the Bible Lessons

From Every Child Ministries

Truth not Lies

www.teachingforafrica.com



Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:

Assignment--Are you aware right now of some specific lie you have told? God says this is sin, so ask Him to forgive you. If you can, go this week to the person you lied to and tell them the truth. Ask them to forgive you, too. (Ask children to raise their hand if they remember a specific lie. Pray for those children.) This week, try to be thinking about everything you say. Is it really true? Ask God to help you tell the truth this week. If you mess up and do tell a lie, ask God to forgive you right away. Then go back right away and tell the truth.

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:

God loves the truth and He is the truth. He always tells the truth, so we know He has told us the truth about how to be saved and live in fellowship with Him. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). When a person receives Jesus as his Savior, Jesus will give him eternal life. Jesus will bring him into fellowship with God the Father. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, we invite you to pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

Lesson 2**JESUS ALWAYS TOLD THE TRUTH**

Review Questions for Older Students: (For use with a variety of Bible games)
(Teacher, try to answer these yourself. We will discuss good answers when we get together in our preparatory time.)

- ◆ Tell me any three things you know about King Nebuchadnezzar.
- ◆ How was Daniel tempted to lie to the king?
- ◆ What was so scary about telling the king the truth about what his dream meant?
- ◆ How did Daniel show good will to the king, even though he had to tell him hard things?
- ◆ Why did Daniel's dream come true?
- ◆ How does Daniel show great courage?

For Younger Students:

- ◆ Who was tempted to tell a lie?
- ◆ Does a king want to hear good things or bad things about himself?
- ◆ What kind of things did the king's dream tell about himself?
- ◆ How did Daniel please God?
- ◆ Why did the king's dream come true?
- ◆ Which does God like--telling the truth or telling lies?
- ◆ Why was it hard for Daniel to tell the truth?
- ◆ Why was he glad he did tell the truth?

Character Building from the Bible Lessons
From Every Child Ministries
Truth not Lies
www.teachingforafrica.com



Follow up from application of Lesson 1--Ask who went back and told the truth about something after they had told a lie. Ask if anyone would like to tell about it (briefly). Congratulate and pray for all who did so.

Ask how many thought about telling a lie since our last lesson, but remembered to tell the truth instead. Ask if anyone would like to tell why they were tempted to lie, and what helped them to tell the truth. Congratulate these children and pray for them.

Beginning the Lesson: When we were together before, we talked about how we have all been tempted to lie, and how we have told things that were not the truth. Can you think of a time when YOU told something that was not the truth? (Pause a moment.) What about Jesus? The Bible says He was tempted like we are (Hebrews 4:15). Did He ever tell a lie? Even a little lie? Even when He was a child? (The questions are more for thought than for response.)

Pilate questions Jesus and finds no fault in him. Jesus refuses the temptation to escape death by saying He is not the Messiah. He tells the truth about who He is.
Matt. 27:11-24, 35a, 50

Now Jesus stood before the governor, And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say".

12 And while he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against You?"

14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

15 Now at that feast the governor was accustomed to releasing one prisoner whom they wished.

16 And at the time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all say to him, "Let him be crucified!"

23 And the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let him be crucified!"

24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

35 Then they crucified Him...

Character Building from the Bible Lessons

From Every Child Ministries

Truth not Lies

www.teachingforafrica.com



50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Jesus told the truth when He promised that He would rise from the dead.

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 saying, “Sir, we remember how while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead’. So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.”

66 So they went, and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow:

4 And the guards shook for fear of Him, and became like dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead, and, indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him. Behold, I have told you.”

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy; and ran to bring His disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”. So they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

13 saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night, and stole Him away while we slept.’

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure.”

15 So they took the money, and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

17 When they saw him, they worshipped Him: but some doubted.

Main Ideas to Emphasize:

Character Building from the Bible Lessons

From Every Child Ministries

Truth not Lies

www.teachingforafrica.com



- ◆ Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault in Him.
- ◆ He could not find fault in Jesus because Jesus never did wrong, never sinned.
- ◆ He could not find fault in Jesus because Jesus never told a lie. He always told the truth.
- ◆ Jesus could have escaped death by just saying He was not the Messiah. But He would have been lying, for in truth He really was the Messiah. Jesus did not lie about it, even though it meant suffering and death.
- ◆ Jesus always did everything He promised to do. He promised that after 3 days, he would rise from the dead, and He did.
- ◆ He rose from the dead just as He said He would do.
- ◆ Jesus always told the truth, and He wants us to tell the truth, too.

Bible Game/Role Play--Discerning the Truth:

Tell the children to watch carefully while a few students (or teachers) act out a pre-arranged skit. A mother gives a child money to buy dried fish at the market. The child loses part of the money along the way, so he is only able to buy a small amount of fish. When the child returns home, he has to explain to his mother and answer her questions.

The children act like a jury, to decide if what the child tells is the truth or not. If it is not, they must decide why it is not the truth, and what the truth is. Then have a child role play how he could tell his mother the truth.

Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:

Assignment: Ask the children to pray every day this week, asking God to strength to tell the truth in everything, even when it is hard.

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:

Jesus always told the truth. He said, "he that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37b). If you come to Jesus, there is no way He will turn you out. Jesus will take you in to His family--He promised! If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)