

The Ten Commandments – Do not lie

Theme: You must not tell lies about your neighbour. (Exodus 20v16 NCV)

Game: Head It / Catch It: Stand the group in a circle with one player in the centre. The one in the middle throws a ball to each player in turn with the command to either 'Head it' or 'Catch it'. The player has to do the opposite to what is said. If they get it wrong they must kneel on one knee until their next turn. Emphasise that the leader is telling them the opposite of what they mean.

True or False: Two leaders should tell the children three facts about themselves. One should be true, the others false. Ask the children to guess which is which. Get some children to tell one true thing and one false thing about themselves; children to guess which is which.

Game: Tell the Truth or Tell a Lie: Label one side of the room 'Tell the Truth' and the other 'Tell a Lie'. Use the scenarios in the resources and ask the children to decide whether they would tell the truth or tell a lie for each scenario. Say that there is no right or wrong answer, but just what they would decide to do. At the end, discuss which ones were hardest to decide on and why that might have been.

Introduction: Think about the 'True or False game'. What is another name for telling someone something that is not true? Ask the children if they have ever told a lie to someone. Was the lie discovered? How did they feel?

Story: Genesis 27:1-41 Jacob and Esau
Tell from the Bible or read the story game from Resources.

Memory verse: "Speak the truth so that you cannot be criticised." *Titus 2v8a*
Write each word in the speech bubble template from the resources section (*you could number the back to make sorting easier*) and put them at the other end of the room to the children. If you have a large dice available, stick the word 'Truth' on the even numbers and 'Lie' on the odd numbers. Children have to roll an even number, or a 'truth', to run and get a speech bubble. They then have to arrange them correctly.

Application: In the story today, who was it that lied? (*Jacob*) Even though his mum had told him to do it, this did not make it right. Have any of the children ever told a lie? Were they found out? There are consequences to lying, such as lack of trust, as people may not believe us when we **are** telling the truth. In Jacob's case, he was separated from his family. But God did not give up on Jacob and in the end he came back, said he was sorry and was friends again with his brother.

We sometimes tell lies to boast or show off, to make ourselves look good, as well as when we try to hide something we have done wrong. But telling lies is often hard because we have to remember what we said that was not true, and the lie can grow bigger. God wants us to tell the truth because it is the best way for us to live.

Song: 'Every Move I Make' *David Ruis* Kerpow CD 1 track 1
or 'If We Confess' *Trevor Ranger* The Kids Colossal Jumbo Box Set CD 3 track 3

Prayer: Sit the children in a circle. Put the 'truth' speech bubble from the memory verse in the middle. Ask the children to think about times when they have said something that was not true. After a time of quiet, finish with a prayer to thank God that He forgives us when we say that we are sorry, and that we can still be His friends.

Resources: Funsheet; story; truth or lie scenarios; speech bubbles

Story

Put the children into two teams, lined up in the middle of the room in pairs. Name one team **Jacob** and the other **Esau**. When they hear their team name in the story, they have to run away from their twin and try to touch the wall behind them before their twin tags them. If they are tagged, their twin gets a point. Children are to keep their own individual score over the course of the story. Read and pause whenever you say **Jacob** or **Esau** so the children can run!

Isaac and his wife Rebekah were very old. They had two twin sons, **Esau**, who was a skilful hunter with hairy arms, and **Jacob**, who was quieter and stayed at home. Isaac had now gone blind and knew he would soon die, so he told his older son, **Esau**, to go out hunting, cook him a meal and bring it to him so he could give **Esau** his blessing, which meant that he would rule the family after Isaac's death. Rebekah heard this and she wanted **Jacob**, their younger son, to get Isaac's blessing. So she made a tasty meal and told **Jacob** to pretend to be **Esau** by wearing his clothes and covering his arms with hairy goat skin. **Jacob** did as his mother said and went to see Isaac, who, because he could not see, thought that **Jacob** was really **Esau**, so he blessed him. When **Esau** came back from hunting and went to Isaac with the food he had made, he found out what had happened and was really angry with **Jacob**. **Esau** begged Isaac to give him a blessing too, but it was too late. **Esau** hated his brother **Jacob** so much for what he had done that he wanted to kill him. So Rebekah had to send **Jacob** away for many years to keep him safe from **Esau**.

Truth or Lie Scenarios

1. You broke a cup by accident
2. You broke a cup on purpose
3. You left your homework at home
4. You forgot to do your homework
5. You saw a friend take someone else's sweets
6. You saw someone you don't like take someone else's sweets

