

## TRUTHFULNESS not Deceitfulness

**Introduction:** This unit of 2 lessons consists of two Bible stories showing a common character trait--one story from the Old Testament, and one story showing that trait in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Two Bible verses will be learned as a class for this unit of 2 lessons (these verses in bold face). The teacher may give awards for those who choose to learn additional verses at home. The character traits are presented as desirable qualities in our lives, and Jesus Christ as the only one who ever fulfilled them perfectly. In the beginning of the series, refer to the word CHARACTER in the dictionary. Ask these thought questions: What are YOU really like? What is JESUS really like? We will be thinking a lot about both these questions during this series.

### Unit 1: TRUTHFULNESS

#### 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 Verses:**

*Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.*

**Preschool:** Our Bible words: *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.)

*John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.*

**Preschool:** Our Bible words for today: Jesus said, I am...the truth.

(Optional) *Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.*

**Preschool:** Our Bible words for today: *Speak every man truth.*

**Bible Stories:**

Daniel's courage to tell the truth to the king  
Daniel ch 4

Pilate questions Jesus and finds no fault in him.  
Matt. 27:11-24  
Jesus promised he would rise again, and he did it.  
Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-17

**Unit Aim:** (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.**

**Preparations Ahead of Class Time:**

**Lesson 1-** For beginning the lesson, make up an appropriate story according to the instructions under "Beginning the Lesson." Make several smiley faces and frowning faces out of flannel for the game at the end of lesson 1. Read the entire Scripture carefully to understand the story well.

LESSON 1

**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. Make up a story that is appropriate for your area.

*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 Bible lesson--**We have all been tempted to lie, and we have all said things that were not true. What does God think about this? Let's look at the story of a young man in Scripture who was tempted to lie.

**Lesson Scripture** (to be studied in preparation for the lesson) Verses to be used directly in the lesson in boldface. *Commentary is in italics. We invite you to add your own commentary as you study.* We are using the New King James Version, which we feel is very accurate, similar to the well-known King James Version, and yet not difficult to read. The verb forms and pronouns have been modernized, so it is quite easy to understand.

**Pointer:**

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.

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 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.*

**8 But at 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*: The king thinks of Daniel in the polygamous terms consistent with his own thinking and practice. He thinks of Daniel as the master of the magicians and believes the spirit of the holy gods *is* in him.**

**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 "These *were* the visions of my 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.*

**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,

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.

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 has come upon my lord the king:**

**25 They shall drive you from men, 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 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 the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace 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: "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 That 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 hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

34 And 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 king's 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.

### **7 Main Ideas to Emphasize & Suggestions for Active Participation:**

#### **1. The king had a vision that greatly troubled him.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:4-5

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.

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who is talking? (King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon)
- What did the king see that made him afraid? (He saw a dream.)
- What was his reaction to the dream? (He was afraid and troubled.)

**Act it out:** The children act as if they are greatly troubled about something.

**Sing n Dance:** The king's vision troubled Daniel. O, o, o!

**2. The king called his magicians of different kinds, but none of them could tell him what the dream meant.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:6-7

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.

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who did the king call at first to try to interpret the dream? (All the "wise men" of Babylon, like magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.)
- What kinds of similar people do we have in our community? (Teacher, listen to the children's responses.)
- What did the king tell them? (He told them the dream.)
- How many of them were able to tell the king what the dream meant? (None of them.)
- What was the name the king called Daniel? (Belteshazzar)
- What did the king ask Daniel to do? (Make the interpretation known to the king. Tell the king what the dream meant.)

**Act it out:**

Let the children pretend they are wise men of Babylon, each sadly telling the king in turn that he doesn't know what the dream means.

**Sing n Dance:**

None of the wise men knew what the dream meant.

Their power was very small. (Make a gesture for 'small' with their fingers.)

**3. The king told Daniel about his vision of a huge tree that got cut down and asked Daniel to tell him the meaning of his vision.** (We have very briefly summarized the description of the dream described in 10-17, because it is not essential to the story.)

**Read:** Daniel 4:8-9 & 18

*8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,*

*9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.*

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."

**Ask questions like these:**

- What title did the king call Daniel? (King of the magicians)
- What does this show about how the king thought of Daniel? (He realized Daniel was wiser and more powerful than all the others.)
- What the king ask Daniel to do? (Ask him to tell him the dream and what it meant.)

**Act it out:**

Let two boys act out this scene, putting it in their own words.

**Sing n dance:**

The king asked Daniel what the dream meant.  
He knew his power was great.  
Because he served the Lord.

4. **Daniel was troubled 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. He must have been tempted to say something nice to the king, but that would have been a lie.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:19a

*19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What happened to Daniel after the king asked him to tell what the dream meant? (He was astonished for a time and his thoughts troubled him.)
- Did Daniel look forward to telling the king what his dream was showing? (No, he was afraid.)
- What was the dream showing? (It was a warning to the king.)
- If you told the president that he was about to lose his presidency, what do you think might happen to you? (You could be punished.)

**Act it out:**

All the children show gestures to show how Daniel might have acted when he was troubled about telling the king what the dream meant.

**Sing n Dance:**

Daniel's heart was troubled.

Should he tell the truth?  
Would the king be angry?  
Should he tell the truth?

- 5. Daniel told the truth to the king, as politely as he could, giving the terrible but true interpretation that the king would be driven from his throne and live like an animal for 7 years until he would acknowledge that God ruled in heaven and he ruled under God's authority.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:19b, 24-26

*4:19b 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!*

*....*

*24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:*

*25 They shall drive you from men, 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 Heaven rules.*

**Act it out:**

Let two boys act out the conversation here between the king and Daniel.

**Sing n Dance:**

Oh, I wish this dream was about someone else, my king!  
Maybe about your enemies.

The dream is about you, my king.  
For you will lose your kingdom.

You will live like an animal for 7 years.  
Until you learn that the Lord God rules.

- 6. Daniel urged the King to repent of his sins so that God might show him mercy. God protected him and Daniel was not punished.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:27



*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."*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What suggestion did Daniel make to the king? (That he repent or break off his sins and do good.)
- What was he hoping for? (That maybe God would show him mercy.)
- Do we read that the king was angry at Daniel or punished him? (No, no punishment was given. This was very unusual, because Daniel could be lost his life.)

**7. In time, 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.**

**Read:** Daniel 4:28 (We will not read the detail in 4:29-37.)

*28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How do we know that Daniel gave a true interpretation? (It all happened like he said it would.)
- Can God ever say a lie? (No, because God is truth and loves truth.)
- How does God feel when His people say the truth? (He is pleased.)

**Sing n Dance:**

Our God is truth  
He always says the truth  
And He loves it when we do, 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 nooooooo!"

**Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:**

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.)

**Action Assignment--You** who have received Jesus as your Savior, I am giving you this assignment: 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 tell the truth, and 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, 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 so you will recognize correct answers.)**

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 did Daniel show great courage?

**For Younger Students:**

Who was tempted to say 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—saying the truth or saying lies?

Why was it hard for Daniel to tell the truth?

Why was he glad he did tell the truth?

**Following up on our last lesson's action assignment:**

In our last lesson, we asked you to think about all you say in the week ahead, to ask yourself if what you are saying is true. Who tried to do that? Who will tell us about their experiences?

We asked you to stop whenever you messed up and said a lie, to go back and tell that person the truth. Who did that this week? Who can tell us what happened?

**Beginning the Lesson:** In our last lesson, 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: For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*). Did Jesus ever say a lie? Even a little lie? Even when He was a child? (The questions are more for thought than for response. No, Jesus never sinned and never said a lie.)

**Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault in him.**

**Lesson Story: Matthew 27:11-24**

*11 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 the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.*

*16 And at that 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 said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"***

***23 Then 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."***

**Jesus promised he would rise again, and he did it.**

**Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-17**

*27:62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,*

***63 saying, "Sir, we remember, 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.*

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

*5 But 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 worshiped 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 worshiped Him; but some doubted*

**Jesus never sinned, so we know He never said even one lie.**

**I Peter 2:22**

**(Jesus) "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";**

**Main Ideas to Emphasize:**

- 1. Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault in Him.** Matthew 27:11-14

**Read:** *Matthew 27:18*

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

**Ask questions like these:**

- Pilate understood the real reason the Jewish leaders had handed Jesus over to them. What was it? (They envied him. They were jealous of Him.)
- Why would the leaders be jealous of Jesus? (Maybe because so many people followed Him.)

- Did the leaders turn Jesus over to Pilate because He had done wrong? (No, it was only because they were jealous of Him.)

**Read:** *Matthew 27:22-24*

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

*23 Then 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."*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did they want Pilate to do with Jesus? (Crucify Him.)
- What answer did they give when Pilate asked them what evil Jesus had done. (They did not give any evil He had done; they just cried out, "Let Him be crucified!")
- What did Pilate do to show that He knew Jesus was innocent? (He washed his hands in front of them and said he was innocent of Jesus' blood.)
- Did Pilate call Jesus an evil person or a just person? (A just person. This means He was a good person.)

**Act it out:**

All the children act out Pilate washing his hands of Jesus. Together they say, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person."

**Sing & Dance:**

The leaders wanted Jesus to be killed  
They were so jealous of Him.  
But Pilate knew that He had done no wrong.  
He washed his hands of Him.

2. **Pilate could not find fault in Jesus because Jesus never did wrong, never sinned, never told a lie. He always told the truth.** I Peter 2:22

**Read:** I Peter 2:22

*"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth" 1 Peter 2:22*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How much did Jesus sin? (He committed or did NO sin.)
- How many lies did Jesus say? (None. No deceit or lie was found in his mouth.)
- Was it possible that Pilate, or anyone else, could have found anything wrong with Jesus? (No, because Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. He only did good.)

**Act it out:**

Divide the children into two groups. One group asks the other, "How many times did Jesus lie?" The other group responds, "Zero. Zero. Zero."

**Sing & Dance:**

Oh, He never, never, never, never said a lie.  
'Cause He always told the truth.

Jesus!

**3. Jesus always did everything He promised to do. People remembered that before He died, He promised He would rise again. Matthew 27:62-66**

**Read:** Matthew 27:62b-63

*62b the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,*

*63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'*

**Ask questions like these:**

- After Jesus died on the cross, who remembered that He said He would rise again after three days? (The chief priests and Pharisees)
- Who did they tell about this? (Pilate)
- The Bible says Jesus is faithful. Since He is faithful, if He promises something, does He always have to do it? (Yes, He must. He will always do what He promised. If He didn't, He wouldn't be faithful.)
- Let's remember again. What did Jesus promise to do, when He was still alive? (Rise from the dead after three days)

**Act it out:**

Let some boys act out the part of Pilate, the chief priests & Pharisees, telling Pilate that Jesus had promised to rise from the dead.

**Sing & Dance:**

We remember  
He said He'd rise again.

**4. He rose from the dead just as He said He would do. Matthew 28:1-6**

**Read:** Matthew 28:5-7a

*5 But 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,*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who went to the tomb? (Women. Verse 1 says it was the two Marys.)
- Who met them? (An angel.)
- What did the angel tell them? (*"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead."*)
- Why wasn't Jesus there in His tomb? (Because He had risen from the dead.)
- What did the angel want them to look at? (the place where He had lain)
- What message did the angel tell them to give to the other disciples? (He has risen from the dead.)
- Jesus promised to rise from the dead. Humanly speaking, that was impossible. No one had ever done it before. Did Jesus fulfill His promise? (Yes, He did what He promised to do.)

**Act it out:**

Let some girls act out the encounter between the two Marys and the angel at the tomb.

**Sing & Dance:**

Jesus said He'd rise again  
And He did just what He said. (repeat)

**5. Jesus wants us who believe in Him to tell the truth, too. Ephesians 4:25**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:25 *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What are we to put away? (Put away lying.)
- What does it mean to put away an action? (Stop doing it.)
- Instead of lying, what good, positive act should we do instead? (Speak the truth with one another.)
- Amongst believers, who should say the truth? (Every man. The word for man means person. Men and women, boys and girls are included—everyone who believes in Jesus.)
- We are members of whom? (Members of one another. Paul is saying we are like one big family.)

**Act it out:**

Say the verse, Ephesians 4:25, with gestures. Act like you are putting something away, out of sight. Then put your fingers to your lips and pull your hand out to symbolize speaking the truth. Finally, put your arms around one another in a circle to symbolize being members of one another.



### **Sing & Dance:**

Oh Christian, stop your lying  
Just say the truth. (repeat)  
Because Jesus is the Truth.

### **Bible Game--Discerning the Truth:**

Make up a very short, simple situation a child is in that might tempt him to lie. Make up cards to put on the flannelboard, bent over like little folders hanging with the bottom side up. On the outside, paste a picture of a person, and a question he or she might ask about the situation. On the inside, write a response the child might make. Some should be true according to the story, and some should be lies. The children will take turns choosing a picture. Older children will read the question and the answer inside. Then the group will decide the response the child gave is the truth or a lie. Finish by deciding what the child in the story should do if he said lies like the ones we read in some of the folders.

### **Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:**

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 how they were tempted to lie, and what helped them to say the truth. Congratulate these children and pray for them.

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 spoke the truth. One of His promises was, "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37b). If you come to Jesus, He promised, there is no way He will turn you out! Jesus will take you into 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 appendix following these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

## APPENDIX

**The Sinner's Prayer (Please note!** This is given as a model prayer that includes the important elements of turning to Christ for salvation. The exact words are not important. It could be said in many different ways. The important thing is that one in his heart of hearts is turning to Christ.

*Dear Father,  
I know I am a sinner. I have done so many wrong things that have not made you happy.  
I do now believe in Jesus Your Son. I believe He left Heaven and came to earth for me. I believe He died on the cross and rose again from the dead.  
I ask You Jesus, to come into my heart and my life right now. Take away my sin and make me a real Christian.  
Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me a home in heaven.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Idea: Address God

Idea: Confess or admit sin

Idea: Confess faith in Jesus

Idea: Invite Him in.

Idea: Thank Him.

Idea: End in Jesus' name.

Teacher, if someone comes to receive Christ, verify the reason they came, ask them a few questions to see if they believe the basic facts of the Gospel, and encourage them to pray a brief prayer similar to the one above. Then ask them what they just did and what Jesus just did for them. Write down their name and if possible, contact information so that you can pray for them and follow them in their faith.

God bless you in your ministry of teaching and evangelism!