

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

BOTTOM LINE: When you're not truthful, you lose trust.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE: *Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.* **Proverbs 10:9** (NIV)

LIFE APP: Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

BASIC TRUTH: I need to make the wise choice.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray specifically for the kids who are currently in situations of dishonesty. Ask God to give them the courage to face the lies they've told, tell the full truth, and ask for forgiveness. Ask God to give those kids the strength and humility to rebuild the trust they've lost. For other kids, pray that God would use today's content and conversation to encourage them not just to be honest, but to work toward honesty in everything they do.

ACTIVITY #1 – DO YOU HAVE THE BUTTON?

WHAT YOU NEED: Button

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage the kids to sit on the floor in a circle.
- Select one kid to be "It" for the first round.
- Instruct all the kids to close their eyes.
- The kid you chose will walk around the circle, tap a friend on the shoulder to open their eyes, then hand off the button to that friend.
- Then the kid who is "It" will turn their back to the circle, close their eyes, and slowly count to 20.
- In that 20 seconds, the kid with the button has the option to hand the button off to another friend or keep it.
- After 20 seconds are up, the kid who is "It" will stand in the center of the circle, point to each kid and ask, "Button, button who's got the button?"
- Each kid will answer, "No."
- If the kid who is "It" correctly identifies the "liar," they win.
- If not, the group wins.
- Play as many rounds as time allows, selecting a different kid to be "It" for each round.

WHAT YOU SAY: In this game, you were all forced to be dishonest. It didn't feel good, did it? Yes, we were playing a game, but we've all been looking at each other asking, 'who is the liar?' You couldn't really trust what anyone said. Because lying BREAKS trust. But being honest with our words and actions does the opposite. Living with integrity BUILDS trust. So this week, remember this silly button game and how it felt to be lied to or to 'have' to lie. Remember that **[Bottom Line]** when you're not truthful, you lose trust. Let's choose to be honest in what we say and do so that we can BUILD trust.

ACTIVITY #2 – CROOKED VS. STRAIGHT

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, markers or pipe cleaners, ping pong balls, straws, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to Proverbs 10:9 and review this month's memory verse together.
- Use the pipe cleaners or markers to create lanes for two different paths—one lane that is straight and one that is crooked.
- Line up the pipe cleaners or markers and tape them to the floor. *(Enlist kids' help in making the paths!)*
- Make sure the two paths are of equal length.
- Divide the group into two equal teams. If you have an uneven number, the smaller team can designate one kid to go twice.
- Line up each team in front of a path and hand out a ping pong ball and a straw to each kid. *(Make sure they use only their own straw!)*
- The first two kids in line will get down on the floor and blow the ping pong balls all the way to the end of the path, as the rest of the group repeats this month's verse.
- Make sure kids understand that they can only move the ball by blowing through the straw, NO hands!
- Once the ball reaches the end, it's the next kid's turn to go.
- Play continues until one team is declared the winner. *(It will most likely be the team assigned to the straight path.)*
- If time allows, let teams switch paths and race again.

WHAT YOU SAY: Which path was faster, the crooked or the straight path? The straight path for sure! Just like our verse reminds us, anyone who lives without blame or lives with integrity, walks a safe, straight path. But the opposite is true, too. As we've been learning today, **[Bottom Line]** when you're not truthful, you lose trust. Anyone who takes a crooked path—that's anyone who chooses to be dishonest with their words or actions—will get caught. Let's choose integrity so others can trust us!

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead the kids in the following call and response prayer below.

WHAT YOU SAY: Dear God, thank You for always being truthful. *(Kids repeat.)* Help me to be truthful *(kids repeat)*, in all I say and do. *(Kids repeat.)* So others will trust me. *(Kids repeat.)* Amen. Remember, living with integrity is impossible on our own. We need God's help for sure. And the good news is, God hears us when we pray, and He is with us always. So this week, let's choose to be truthful knowing that **[Bottom Line]** when you're not truthful, you lose trust.