



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 12

Stay with the Truth

Primary Scripture: John 8:32

Key Verse: John 8:32, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids find it easy to cover up their mistakes with excuses or lies. It is important they know that the truth will set them free, even if they have a consequence for their actions. A bigger picture of truth is given to us in Jesus Christ. As we follow Jesus and do what he says, we truly are set free with his truth.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus said he is the truth, the way, and the life. Because of his death and resurrection in our place, he is the only true way for us to get back together with God

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us power to live in his truth. The truth of Jesus fills our lives and gives us freedom to live for him, and for him to live in us.

Jesus through us: In our freedom we can serve others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

One time Jesus was having a discussion with a lady. She talked about where was the best place to worship. She thought true worship was decided by what building you were in. Jesus said something to her that is very important and he says the same to us. True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for people like this to worship him.

Do you think that God the Father is going to find worshipers like this here today? Will you worship him in spirit and truth? Worshiping in spirit and truth means that in your spirit you are opening up your heart to let God's message of love come in and you believe his truth for you. The greatest truth is that Jesus gave his life for us and we can celebrate that today. Let's worship God in spirit and truth!

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Have a time of general confession. Ask the children to remember various sins that they might have done that need to be forgiven.

This is a time to tell the truth to God. When we do tell God the truth, he can handle it. He will forgive us and help change us.

Have a prayer of absolution, offering kids forgiveness for their sins.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: two pennies

Show kids the two coins and say:

Remember the lady who gave only two pennies? Jesus told her that she had given more than all the other people who were giving large sums of money. He said this because she was very poor and the two pennies were almost all she had. Jesus was able to look at her heart and see the truth of how much she loved him. She was worshiping God in truth.

When we give our offering today, it is not the *amount* that is important. What is important is that we give with our hearts and that we are willing to say, "I want you, God, to be number one in my life."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

*Supplies needed: overhead projector, a transparency with the word "**LIE**" should be printed in large type. Next to this word have "lie" printed in very small type, Veggie Tales movie, Larry Boy and the Fib From Outer Space produced by Big Idea Productions*

Using the transparency, present a word puzzle on the overhead. Ask the kids if they can guess what this word puzzle means. The answer is "a little lie." If the kids cannot guess it, you might give them clues:

- **This is something that once you say it you can be in big trouble.**
- **It is something that is wrong but does not seem to be very serious at the time.**
- **Sometimes it is called a fib.**

After the kids have guessed the riddle, show the Veggie Tales movie, *Larry Boy and the Fib From Outer Space* produced by Big Idea Productions. Here is a synopsis of the story for your preparation...

Junior Asparagus accidentally breaks his father's favorite bowling plate, and a tiny blue creature from outer space called Fib offers him a way out: tell a tiny, tiny lie and say his best friend broke it!

When Junior lies again, he becomes more and more enmeshed in his untruths, until he can no longer escape them. And he can't escape Fib either, who has grown to monstrous size... and only Larry Boy, the cucumber with toilet plungers on his head, can save the day.

At the end is a bonus—"Larry Boy," a bizarre music video.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Teach on John 8:31-36. You may abbreviate the concepts that you select from these verses. What should be understood is that the enemy would want to convince us that “little lies” are harmless. Satan is the father of lies. He wants us to think that following Jesus and doing what Jesus says is not all that important. Satan’s biggest lies are:

- that Jesus is not truly God's Son; and
- that we need something more than faith in Jesus to be saved and go to heaven.

Discuss these lies and the importance of following Jesus and his truth. Particularly discuss the importance of the truth of trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Application:

What is it that sets us free? *(Verse 32. The truth will set you free.)*

If we live a sinful life, what are we slaves to? *(Verse 34. We are slaves to sin.)*

How can we be absolutely free? *(Verse 36. Through trusting and believing in Jesus.)*

If you were a parent, how would you feel or what would you think if your child was always telling fibs or lies to you? Discuss.

Can we get in a habit of telling untruth? *(Yes.)*

Encourage the children to confess in prayer their lies. Be sure to confirm to them that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness of sins.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

If you can remember a childhood experience of lying, tell your story to the children. Then invite kids to share examples of how they have gotten into bigger trouble with “little lies.” Also explain how, with Jesus’ forgiveness, we are free to have a new start.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord’s Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Offering:

- two pennies

Learning Game:

- overhead projector
- transparency with the word “**LIE**” should be printed in large type; next to this word have “lie” printed in very small type
- Veggie Tales movie, *Larry Boy and the Fib From Outer Space* produced by Big Idea Productions

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