

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God wants us to be honest.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will say why being honest is important to God.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 20:1-16, Abraham and Abimelek

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

**SUMMARY:**

It wouldn't be wise to lie to mission control if we forgot to do all of our preflight checks before taking off for Mars. Abraham learned the hard way that he needed to be honest at all times. When we lie, we are showing that we don't trust God's plan and we are trying to do things our way.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us the courage to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

*"Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."  
Psalm 119:105 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

## SKIT

### THE ASTRONAUTS: FINAL SYSTEMS CHECK

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Astronaut suits  
Chairs

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:** 2M, 1F

#### CHARACTERS:

Mick and Dwayne - Astronauts  
Mission Control

*Mick and Dwayne sit in chairs, as if in the cockpit of their rocket. They are doing final checks before blast off. Mission Control is not seen, but just a voice heard over the speakers from off stage.*

CONTROL: Mission Control to Mars Mission, we are at T-minus five minutes. Ready to begin final checks.

DWAYNE: Copy, Control, proceed.

CONTROL: Fuel systems.

DWAYNE: Check.

CONTROL: Navigation.

MICK: Check.

CONTROL: Communications.

DWAYNE: Check.

CONTROL: Air supply.

*Pause. Mick gets a funny look on his face. Dwayne looks at Mick.*

# SKIT

CONTROL: Air supply?

MICK: Ummm, check. Yep, make that a check.

DWAYNE: You sure about that, Mick?

MICK: Sure I'm sure.

DWAYNE: Mick, you did check the air supply, right?

MICK: I glanced at it.

DWAYNE: You glanced at it?

MICK: We're good to go, Mission Control, proceed.

DWAYNE: No, Mission Control, do not proceed! Mick, did you check the air supply?

MICK: Well, I... meant to.

DWAYNE: You didn't check it?

MICK: I forgot, okay? Sorry.

DWAYNE: Sorry? Mick, we are going to be in space for two years. We need that air supply!

MICK: I know, I know! I'm sorry, it's just we're four minutes to blast off, and I don't want to delay the mission because I forgot one little detail.

DWAYNE: This isn't one little detail, Mick! It's oxygen! Kind of a big detail.

MICK: I know, I'm sorry. I should have checked it.

DWAYNE: Mick, we all make mistakes. Don't make it worse by lying. If we need to stop the countdown and check the air, let's check it.

MICK: You're right. Mission Control, we did not check the air supply. Please pause the countdown while we finish final checks.

CONTROL: Copy, Mars Mission. Thank you for your honesty.

MICK: Thanks, Mission Control.

# SKIT

DWAYNE: Thanks, buddy. Now get that check done so we can get off this planet!

MICK: You got it. Mars, here we come!

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A road map (or a maps app on a phone)

You know what the biggest lie is on road trips? The one lie that's told on more vacations and business trips and long drives than any other? The biggest lie ever told on any vacation is almost always the same:

"I know where I am going."

Those words have derailed more vacations and road trips than any other. "I know where I am going," has caused more people to be late, get lost, and get angry than any other phrase ever spoken in a car. It only takes a quick glance at a map, on paper or on a phone, to show you where you need to go, but people would rather lie than ask for help.

People lie to get out of trouble, to avoid trouble, or just because they are prideful, and lying never ends well. Being honest may not always be easy, but in the end it's far less trouble than lying. And telling the truth won't ruin your reputation with others like lies will.

Don't fall into the trap of lying. Be honest always. It may cost you in the short term, but it will steer you straight on your journey with Christ.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### STRAW ROCKETS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Drinking straws

A hula-hoop

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game.

Set a hula-hoop on the floor, 3 feet from the player. The player will have 60 seconds to blow a straw wrapper off the end of the straw into the target area, inside the hula-hoop. If they can land one straw wrapper in the hoop before time expires, they win.

#### VARIATION:

Have a two person competition to see who can blow a straw wrapper the farthest. Each player gets 3 chances to allow for misfires.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

God wants us to keep our story straight and always be truthful.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God wants us to be honest.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will say why being honest is important to God.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 20:1-16, Abraham and Abimelek

**INTRO:**

It takes a lot to become an astronaut. Astronauts have to be in tip-top condition. They have to pass rigorous physical and medical tests to show that their bodies are fit enough to endure the stress and strain of space travel. The astronauts who will one day journey to Mars will have to pass even greater tests than any astronauts before them in order to make such a challenging mission.

Astronauts also have to have specialized training for the various positions on the crew. Astronauts come from a variety of backgrounds and careers. The pilot and flight crew typically come from a military background with hundreds of hours of experience in a cockpit, while the research crew comes from a variety of science backgrounds including botany, zoology, astronomy, physics, and medicine.

But there's more to being an astronaut than having the right body and the right education. You also have to have the right mind. Astronauts have a very dangerous job. They leave the safety of Earth in a multi-million dollar spacecraft. They not only need the training to do the job, they need the maturity and the wisdom to do it right.

Astronauts have to have good character. They have to be trustworthy and responsible. They are people who own up to their mistakes and don't cut corners.

Suppose an astronaut broke a piece of equipment needed for a walk on Mars. What if instead of sharing their mistake, they lied? What if they covered it up, and one of their fellow astronauts ended up in danger because of that lie? Is that the kind of person you want on a mission to Mars?

Telling the truth is a very important quality not only for an astronaut, but a follower of Christ.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Today's story about Abraham (our old friend Abram) shows us just how serious God is about honesty.

## **READ GENESIS 20:1-16**

### **MAIN POINT:**

Abraham lived in a time when kings ruled the Earth. Kings had absolute power and answered to no one, and if a king wanted something, he took it. That was his right as king.

Abraham feared the king, and because his wife was beautiful, he was afraid the king might kill him to take Sarah away. Abraham lied to avoid a potentially dangerous situation, but his lie caused more problems than it solved.

Abraham was a man of great faith, but in this instance, he didn't trust God enough to protect him. His lie cost him his reputation with the king. It isn't always easy to tell the truth, but Abraham's story is a warning to us. No matter what it costs you up front, it is always best to tell the truth!

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Lying on a space ship about broken tools and equipment is different than lying in school. If you lie about your homework, no one's going to die. But just like Abraham, lying about anything to a teacher, a friend, or anyone else can do damage to your reputation.

How many of you remember the Summer Olympics in Rio? Four American swimmers lied about an incident that happened to them one night at a gas station. They were embarrassed by the actions they had taken, but rather than take responsibility, they tried to cover it up. When the world found out they lied, it not only ruined their reputation, it damaged the reputation of the entire American team. The four swimmers were there to represent the United States, and when they looked bad, we all looked bad.

As followers of Christ, it is our job to show the world who Jesus is. The words we say and the actions we take are how people learn about Jesus. When we lie to other people, it doesn't just make us look bad. It makes Jesus look bad!

It's tempting to lie when we know we will get in trouble. When we make a mistake, intentionally or accidentally, lying looks like the easy way out. But lies have a way of being found out, and just like God tipped off Abimelech, the people we lie to almost always find the truth.

Telling the truth may cost you in the moment.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

It may mean paying for something you broke. It may mean taking a zero on homework. But telling the truth, owning your mistakes, and suffering the consequences preserves something far more important: your reputation as a person and as a Christian.

Astronauts bound for Mars need to be trustworthy. God expects the same of everyone who calls themselves a Christian. Whatever it costs you, whatever price you have to pay, never be afraid to be honest. You will guard your reputation as a believer, and you will bring honor to the name of Jesus.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us the courage to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is your all time favorite space movie?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 119:105

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Put a 3-4 foot piece of masking tape on the floor. Have the kids take turns seeing who can roll a ball the farthest down the tape before it veers right or left.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Read Genesis 20:1-16

Who was Abimalek?

What lie did Abraham tell Abimalek?

Who told Abimalek the truth about Sarah?

What should Abraham have done instead of lying?

Why is being honest so important to God?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to tell the truth, no matter what.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is your all time favorite space movie?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 119:105

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Put a 3-4 foot piece of masking tape on the floor. Have the kids take turns seeing who can roll a ball the farthest down the tape before it veers right or left.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Read Genesis 20:1-16

Why did Abraham lie about Sarah?

Why did God tell Abimelek the truth about Sarah?

What consequences did Abraham suffer for lying?

When is it most tempting to tell a lie?

Why is being honest so important to God?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to tell the truth, no matter what.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### TRUE OR FALSE

Abraham was Sarah's brother.

FALSE

Abraham told the king that Sarah was his sister.

TRUE

God told Abimelek the truth about Abraham and Sarah.

TRUE

Abraham was better off lying than telling the truth.

FALSE

Telling the truth helps us keep a good reputation with God and others.

TRUE

# MAKE IT STICK

## 5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: STAY ON TARGET



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

It wouldn't be wise to lie to mission control if we forgot to do all of our preflight checks before taking off for Mars. Abraham learned the hard way that he needed to be honest at all times. When we lie, we are showing that we don't trust God's plan and we are trying to do things our way. Genesis 20:1-16, Abraham and Abimelek



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Encourage your kids to look for lies and half truths around them this week.

*(Commercials on TV and radio may be a very good source for this.)* Ask your kids why people tell lies, then ask them why telling the truth is important to God.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Abraham lie about Sarah?
- What happened because Abraham told a lie?
- Why is it important to always be truthful?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

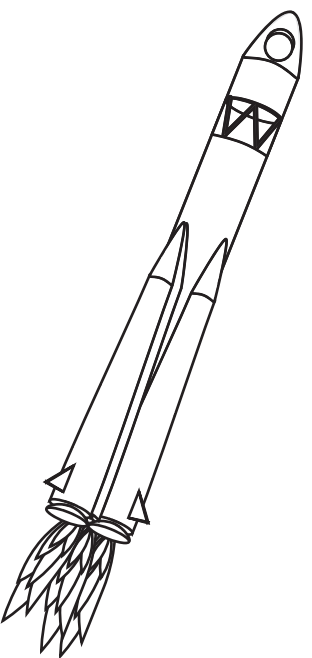
*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*



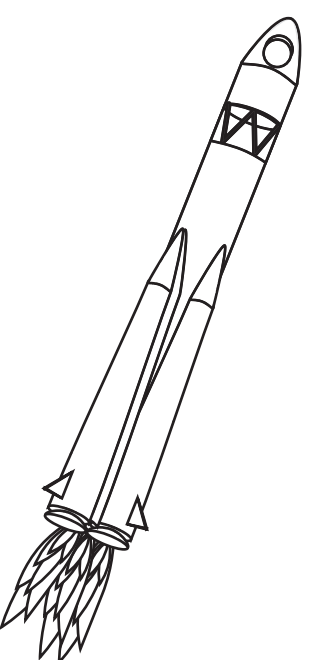
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

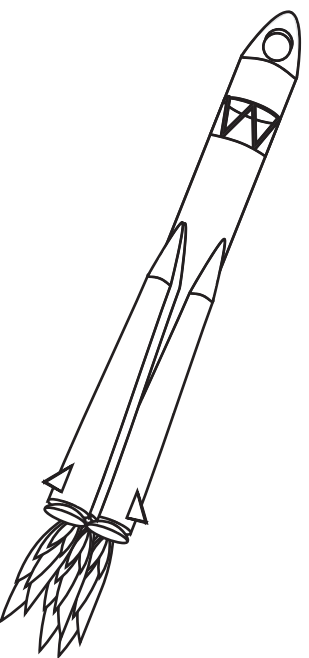
In a world filled with lies and deception, being truth-tellers is a great way to show that we are true followers of Christ. Encourage your kids to tell the truth, and praise them when they do, even if it means they must suffer consequences for their actions.



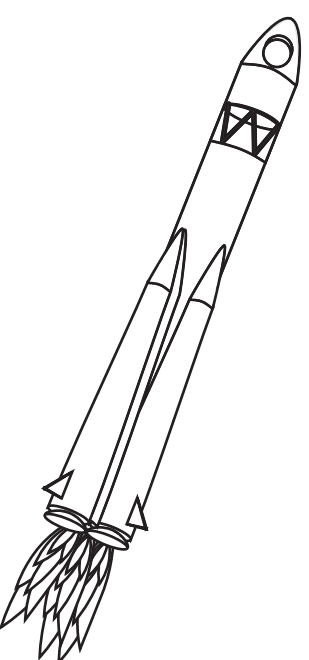
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## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make UFOs by gluing a paper or styrofoam bowl, top down, to the bottom of a paper plate. Test them out to see if they fly straight, and ask the kids how telling the truth can keep them on a straight path with Christ.