

Spot the Truth – Real Life Downloaded

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Upper Elementary

- Lesson 7
- Winter 2023-24
- By: RLD Editorial Team
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Lesson Focus:

Any power not from God is false power.

Bible Basis:

Acts 19; 1 John 4:1-3

Materials Needed:

Step 1:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils
- Internet access

Step 4:

- Internet access
- Student smartphones or devices
- Optional: Index cards (if students cannot take notes on their phones or devices)
- Optional: Pens/pencils (if students cannot take notes on their phones or devices)

Summary & Links:

Students will do an activity and watch a short video to learn how to identify God's power from false power.

Memory Verse:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

—1 John 4:4

Echoes Memory Verse

“Go into all the world and preach gospel to all creation.”

—Mark 16:15

Step 1:

Students will do an activity and watch a short video to learn how to identify God’s power from false power.

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

As students come into the classroom, have them write down two truths about themselves and one lie. Make sure they don’t tell/show anyone what they’ve written. Once finished, play the game “Two Truths and a Lie.” Have students take turns reading their two truths and a lie. Their classmates should try to guess which of the three statements is the lie. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

- **How hard was it to spot the lie from the truth?** *(Answers may include: It was really easy; some people were better than others at making us believe their lie was real; I couldn’t tell the difference, etc.)*
- **Did you have a strategy to figure out each person’s lie?** *(Answers may include: I watched their facial expressions; when someone lied they smiled funny or looked a different way, etc.)*
- **How good are you at spotting truth from lies when it comes to what you’re watching, reading, listening to, or talking about?** *(Students may express that they think they’re good at knowing what’s good and what’s not, or they may admit they don’t know if they’re good at it.)*

Let’s check out this short video that shows some ways to tell whether or not someone is being truthful.

Share the following video with your students [2:55; stop at 2:20].

[5 Easy Tricks to Spot a Liar and Protect Yourself](#)

These were helpful tips for distinguishing truth from lies. As a Christian, being able to identify truth from lies is extremely important. Many times, lies can be wrapped up in pretty little packages making us think they’re okay, when really they may not be.

The people of Ephesus thought they were doing the right thing. It wasn’t until Paul came to town and preached that they realized the lies they were living. Let’s go back to the beginning and find out exactly what was taking place in the city of Ephesus.

Step 4:

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

Earlier we learned false powers are not from God. Those evil powers can surround us through books, TV shows, movies, people, and places. The people of Ephesus experienced the same thing and burned their magic scrolls, spells, and incantations to show they were done with those evil powers. We also learned that God has all power over everything. And that same God and His same power lives in us who believe. His power is greater than the one who is in the world. Our job is to learn to spot false powers from the true power of God.

If you've spent any time scrolling through television channels, social media, or bookshelves, you're sure to discover very quickly that our culture is obsessed with magic. Whether it's titles like *Twilight*, *American Horror Story*, or *Supernatural*, Hollywood loves the idea of dark and mysterious powers beyond our control.

- **What are other books and shows that depict these same types of powers?** (Answers may include: *Wizards of Waverly Place* the TV show; *Harry Potter* (the books and movies); *Hocus Pocus* the movie, *Voldemort* the movie; *Eragon* and *School of Wizardry* book series, etc.)
- **What does God think about using these types of powers?** (Answers: He wants His followers to have nothing to do with these false powers, etc.)

While these magical powers may seem innocent, we have to be able to know that this type of power and magic isn't from God! Although media today paints witchcraft and magic as nothing more than harmless fiction, there is some very real and dangerous evil at play in our world. Magic and dark power are so captivating that some people have lived their lives in pursuit of mastering them.

When we see magic and powers like these displayed in media, we can ask ourselves these questions: Is wizarding or casting spells something we're supposed to be involved with? Where do these powers from? Powers that don't come from God are evil.

What are some ideas for media (books, TV shows, movies, songs, etc.) that will glorify God instead of evil or dark magic? (Students may share some ideas, however some may not be aware there are alternatives.)

If students cannot take notes on their smartphones or devices: Hand out one index card to each student and a pen/pencil. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their papers and pens or pencils ready.

Allow students time to use their smartphones (if applicable) or work as a group using the classroom computer to search for God-honoring media (examples can be include books, video games, television, YouTube videos, and Netflix). As preteens find alternative resources, they should record options they find interesting or want to look into further outside of the classroom with their parents' permission. When everyone's finished, have students share their finds and make a class list for future reference.

You have an amazing list of God-powered alternatives to look into this week. Go home, talk to your parents about what resources we've found here today, and start working toward incorporating God's power into your daily life in a very practical way. Just as the Ephesians were surrounded by false powers, so are we! We have to constantly ask ourselves, where is that power coming from? And if it isn't of God, should I be participating in it? What are other Christian alternatives I can turn to? Remember, the incredible true power source from God lives in us who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ask God to give you His eyes to spot His Truth wherever you are.

Pray to close.