

# LETHAL LIES [slander — Psalm 5, 12, 109]

## THIS WEEK

Everyone knows that it's wrong to lie—and it's no fun to be lied to. This TalkSheet will foster an open discussion on lying, being the target of lies, and what God says about it all.

## OPENER

For this activity you'll need three index cards—on an card write, "Give a false answer to every question, but try to make your lies sound believable." On another write, "Give a truthful answer to every question." On a third card write, "Lie on the first three questions; tell the truth on the rest. Try to make your lies sound believable." Pick three volunteers to sit at the front of the room, and give each volunteer one of the cards, instructing them to do as it says.

Then ask the following questions of each volunteer, allowing each to answer the first question before going on to the second, and so on.

- ⇒ Are you related to a famous person? If so, who?
- ⇒ Have you ever won anything worth more than \$100? If so, what was it?
- ⇒ What is your favorite hobby?
- ⇒ Where is the most interesting place you've ever been?
- ⇒ What is your favorite color?
- ⇒ Have you ever been mentioned in a newspaper or on TV? If so, what was the reason?

After your volunteers have answered, reveal which contestant was always telling the truth, which was always lying, and which did both. Your group can then check their charts for accuracy. The student who was the best at distinguishing lies from the truth wins.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Let some of your group members share their experiences. What were the consequences of their lies? How did these situations turn out? Point out that the negative consequences of lies outweigh any positive benefits.
2. What did these verses say about lying? What are the Biblical consequences of lying? How does this apply to the lives of your kids today?
3. Take some time to talk about the characteristics of the people who lied to King David. You may want to make a list of these for the group to see. How do these liars relate to the liars in the lives of your kids?
4. Break your group into pairs or groups of three and assign a passage to each group. Help students to understand David's response to the

liars. He prayed for them, did good to them, and showed them friendship. Though David expressed his desire to see these liars come to ruin, it's important to note that David never tried to bring that about himself. Instead, he turned it over to God to handle.

5. The purpose of this is to discuss the different approaches to handling lying. Each reaction could bring a different result. Talk about each response and the pros and cons of each one. In your kids' opinions, what is the best way to handle a situation like this?

6. Point out that Ephesians 4:25 speaks about replacing the negative (lying) with the positive (telling the truth). In essence, Paul is telling people how to get rid of a bad habit—don't just stop it, replace it with something godly. Verse 29 tells people to replace any unwholesome speech (lies, gossip, berating) with words that encourage and build up another person.

## THE CLOSE

Every one of your students has been the victim of a lie, in some form or another. Question 4 explains how to handle it. What can your kids do if they hear a lie about someone else?

What difference can your kids make through their actions today? Ask them to take a look at their lives. How would they rate themselves on a scale of 1-10 (1 being "I'm a true liar", 10 being "I'm 100% honest")? Challenge them to change their approach to lying and see how it affects themselves and their relationships with others.

## MORE

- In consideration with this discussion, how does lying affect relationships with others? How has the media portrayed lying? What myths have been formed about lying from commercials, TV shows, or movies? How have on-line chat rooms and Web pages made it easy to disguise oneself and lie about others? What other examples of slander and lying have your kids seen in the media and in society today? And how does this apply to the psalm that you've discussed?
- Too often people aren't praised for being honest and trustworthy. Challenge your kids to thank their friends and family members for being honest with them. Encouragement makes people feel good! Encourage your kids and thank them for being honest with you. Imagine how God feels when he sees people upholding the truth!