

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

WHAT, ME LIE?

Topic: Lying

Purpose of this Session:

Preschoolers and younger children love to make up stories—to pretend. They have difficulty telling the difference between reality and fantasy. Most people don't worry about their half-truths. But during the 4th–6th grades, lying can become a serious problem and, if left unchecked, a dangerous pattern can develop. Lies at this age are like those of adults, often told to deceive, conceal, or manipulate. And lying leads to more lying. Use this TalkSheet to discuss the consequences of lying and the advantages of honesty.

To Introduce the Topic:

Before the meeting begins, ask three volunteer young people to write down four statements about themselves, three that are true and one that is false. Make sure these statements are in good taste. They can be about anything from the color of their eyes to where they spent their last summer vacations. Have each kid read his or her statements to the group. After each kid finishes, challenge the group to pick the statement that is a lie. Announce that you will be talking about lying.

The Discussion:

Item #1: This question establishes the fact that kids lie. You do not need to admonish the young people when they begin admitting to all the lies they tell and to whom they tell them. In fact, research indicates that punishment, especially harsh punishment, does not deter kids from lying. Rather, it increases the incidences of lying.

Item #2: Explore all the reasons why kids lie as well as why adults lie. Then talk about the consequences of lying related to each of the reasons. For example, if someone lies to protect a friend, is the friend really protected, or can this kind of lie actually hurt a friend in the long run?

Item #3: Contrast the difference between how kids feel when someone lies to them versus being told the truth. Discuss the difference between how kids feel when they lie to others versus telling them the truth.

Item #4: Use this situation to discuss again the consequences of lying versus the advantages of honesty.

Item #5: You can also talk about our God of truth and honesty (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 7:28; Psalm 146:6) and how we can depend upon him and trust him because of this. Also talk about God's forgiveness when we lie.

To Close the Session:

Point out that God wants us to be honest because honesty protects us in the long run. Remind the group of the story of the boy who cried wolf. His word could no longer be trusted. This hurt him in the long run because when he needed the townspeople, no one believed him. Create a list with the group of all of the benefits of telling the truth. Encourage them to consider these benefits the next time they are tempted to lie. Young people need to know that honesty really is the best policy.