

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 2, 2025

SUBJECT: BEING WELL-PLEASING TO THE LORD: Truthful

AIM: To show the children that we should be truthful and not tell lies.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-5; Acts 4:32-35; 5:1-11; Proverbs 12:22; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 19:5, 9; 30:8a; Exodus 20:16; Numbers 23:19a; Matthew 5:37; Hebrews 6:18m; John 8:44; Ephesians 4:25, 15a; 3 John 4; Psalm 141:3

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Proverbs 12:22 (Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah, but those who deal faithfully are His delight.); Psalms 120:2 (O Jehovah, deliver my soul from lying lips, from a tongue of deceit.); Psalms 141:3 (Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips.); Ephesians 4:25a (Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor...); Colossians 3:9a (Do not lie to one another...); Matthew 5:37 (But let your word be, Yes, yes; No, no; for anything more than these is of the evil one.); Psalms 86:11 (Teach me, O Jehovah, Your way; / I will walk in Your truth.); Proverbs 30:8a ("Remove far from me falsehood and lies.")

SUGGESTED SONGS: 4 (Be Careful What You Do); 10 (Inside Me); 11 (O Be Careful Little Eyes); 53 (God is Light); 54 (God Knows Everything); 9530 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor Song #10* (Speak Truth); 4308 (Lying Lips Are An Abomination to the Lord); 180 (If We Confess Our Sins)

APPROACH: (1) Ask the children to explain the meaning of the word lie. It means speaking something that is false with an intention to deceive. (2) Ask the children what are some of the reasons people lie? (To avoid getting into trouble, to try to get ahead, to make a good impression on others, to help other people avoid punishment, etc.) (3) Ask the children why we should tell the truth.

CONTENT:

Note to serving ones: An earlier version of this lesson included the story about Ananias and Sapphira lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 4-5). However, based on fellowship with several serving ones, we felt that this story is heavy and may not be age appropriate for children. Therefore, we revised this lesson.

God is the source of truth and cannot lie. The Bible tells us that it is impossible for God to lie. (Numbers 23:19a; Hebrews 6:18m). Jesus is the reality and always speaks truth. (John 8:45; 14:6).

God hates lies. What does the Bible say about lying? The Bible uses very strong words to show us how much God hates lies. For example, Proverbs 12:22 says, "Lying lips are an **abomination** to Jehovah, but those who deal faithfully are His delight." Abomination means something horrible, shameful, that brings about a feeling of intense dislike or disapproval. Lying is something that the Lord hates very much; we should also hate lies.

Satan is a liar and the father of it. Lies are from God's enemy, Satan. According to the Bible, the devil is "a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44). Satan is the source of all lies. In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we see the first lie told by the liar Satan. When God created Adam and put him in the garden of Eden, God commanded him, "Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, / But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

The crafty serpent, who was really Satan, spoke to Adam's wife, Eve. He twisted God's words and caused Eve to doubt what God said. The serpent said, "Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?"

Eve continued the conversation with the serpent, “Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; / But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” (Genesis 3:2-3) The serpent lied to Eve, “You shall not surely die! / For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5).

Satan lied to Eve, and she and her husband Adam both believed the lie. As a result, they both ate of the fruit from the tree that God had specifically commanded Adam not to eat. As a consequence of Satan’s lie, and Adam and Eve’s believing of the lie, Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden; they had to toil and labor for their living, and sin entered into man.

Lies are very serious. They are from Satan, and even half-truths or seemingly minor lies can lead to serious consequences.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

These applications are to help engage the children. Please fellowship with the serving ones in your group as there may be additional examples not listed here.

- **We should always tell the truth.** God is the true God and his Word is truth. We also should always tell the truth, even if that means we get into trouble. Some examples to consider:
 - When we are talking with our family at the dinner table about what occurred during the day, we should speak truthfully and accurately.
 - If we are telling someone about what we saw or experienced, we should describe it exactly.
 - When we are sharing the facts of Bible stories, we should tell them accurately.
 - We should tell the truth even when no one else is. There is sometimes peer pressure in school to hide the truth because other people are also lying. We should stand for the truth.
- **We should avoid lies.** We can be well-pleasing to the Lord by telling the truth and not lying. Our conscience should be sensitive and feel extremely uncomfortable inside whenever we lie. We should apologize to the person and to the Lord. There are many types of lying. Here are a few examples:
 - **Double-tongued**—saying one thing in front of a person, but saying a different thing behind their back. Maybe we treat a classmate nicely to their face, but then we say bad things about them to other people. We should not be double-tongued. “But let your word be, Yes, yes; No, no;” (Matthew 5:37). We can be truthful, but still polite and respectful.
 - **Half-truth**—lying by omitting important facts. For example, your mother asks if you finished your homework. You did in fact finish your math homework, but not your writing homework. You say “yes” because you want to go out and play. Telling only part of the truth is lying. We should tell the complete truth.
 - **Exaggeration**—overstating or going beyond the actual facts, using strong words to magnify the truth. For example, we may say, “My brother *never* has to do dishes” or “You *always* make me do it.” Is that accurate or are we exaggerating? We have the tendency to enlarge the faults of others and to minimize our own. We should avoid exaggeration and speak accurately.
 - **Spreading rumors**—telling other people things before we have verified its truth. Perhaps we might hear something interesting about something or someone, and immediately we want to tell other people. But is it true? Sometimes we spread false rumors because we are not listening carefully to what someone said, so we inject our own thoughts and pass it on to other people. We should be careful to make sure what we say is true. At times, even if something is true, it might be better not to spread gossip about other people.

Adapted from the Church in New York City children’s meeting lessons: 2/1/87; 8/21/16