

Be Bold 20 Week 9

Is It Ever Okay to Lie?

Bold Bible Truth: God helps you make good choices.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Tip for Children's Ministry Director:

If you're sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you're recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken text.

Supplies

Bible, paper, flashlight

Question of the Week

Start your time together by having everyone make paper airplanes. Stand along a wall to see how far you can fly your airplane. Everyone can mark their progress and try to improve so the airplanes to go even farther.

Question Collection

Say: **Today, we're talking about lying. So let's finish this question. One of my questions is, is it okay to lie if...**

Add an end to that question.

Say: **Now it's your turn. When do you wonder if it might be okay to lie?**

Allow time for kids to share.

Say: **Thanks for sharing these situations. I'm glad we're all in this together, because it seems like there are a lot of questions about when it might be okay to lie!**

Earlier we made airplanes and tried to get them to go as far as possible. Sometimes lying can be like that. We might try to see how dishonest we can be before we're officially "lying." Even our starter question tries to see how far we can go when lying is still "okay." Is that the right way to look at it? We'll explore what the Bible says about lying and dive into our question: Is it ever okay to lie?

Before we dive into the question, let's play a game that'll help us think about how hard it can be to remember a lie.

Don't Forget!

Have everyone tell a story, with one person starting the story with a lie and everyone after that adding one more sentence.

You have to repeat everything that was already said before adding your sentence. (It's okay if the story isn't repeated verbatim, but have everyone try to sum up the gist of the whole story each time.)

See how many times you can go around before you can't remember the details anymore.

(Children's Ministry Directors: If you're teaching this via a video chat, the game works great! If you're teaching via a pre-recorded video, start the story with 2-3 details and then have families pause to keep it going. You might start with "I was walking down the street and I noticed all the cars were upside down. Then I saw a pink-polka dotted elephant walking toward me. It smelled like tacos!"

If the game ends quickly, play again and try to get your story to go on for longer.

- **What happened as our story got longer and longer?**
- **How did this game remind you of trying to keep a lie going?**
- **Which is harder: keeping track of a lie, or telling the truth? Explain.**

Say: Lying can get tricky! When we tell the truth, it's easy to remember what we said. But when we're lying and making things up, the longer our lie gets the harder it is to keep it going. Eventually we'll slip up and someone will catch us in the lie! So if lying can be such a problem, is it ever okay?

Let's dive in and see what the Bible says.

Is It Ever Okay to Lie?

Say: Let's start by seeing what God thinks about people who lie and people who

tell the truth.

Have someone read Proverbs 12:22.

Say: Well, that sounds pretty straightforward. Maybe our question is answered already! Except...it gets a little more complicated when we look at examples.

Example 1

Say: In this first one, two men from Israel, God's chosen group of people, sneak into a city as spies. They need to see how easy it will be to win a battle and take over the city. They end up meeting a woman named Rahab. Let's read what happens next.

Have someone read Joshua 2:4-6.

- **What do you think about Rahab's lie...okay or not? Explain.**

Say: While God himself never weighs in on Rahab's lie, here's what happens after the men's lives are saved.

Have someone read Joshua 2:12-14.

Say: Those men kept their promise to Rahab and saved her when they took over the city. So, it seems like God rewarded her for her lie!

Example 2

Say: But then there was Ananias and Sapphira.

Have someone read Acts 5:1-5, 7-9.

- **What do you think about this lie...okay or not? Explain.**

Say: Okay, so the Bible doesn't say God struck Ananias and Sapphira dead. But it's pretty clear their lie was not okay.

- **What was the difference in motivation between these two lies in the Bible?**
- **If God detests lying lips, why does it seem like Rahab's lie was okay?**

Say: It's confusing for sure. God doesn't like lying, and he delights in the truth. But there's at least one situation where it seems like lying might be okay. Let's think about some other ones.

Vote With Your Feet

Read the following statements and have everyone vote with their feet by stepping forward if they think it's okay to lie and stepping backward if they think it's not okay. For each example, let someone explain his or her vote.

Before you read the list below, start with the examples from your Question Collection time. Pay attention to which situations some people say it *is* okay to lie.

Is it okay to lie if your friend asks you if you like her new shirt, and you think it's ugly?

Is it okay to lie if you're planning a surprise party and don't want the person to know?

Is it okay to not tell the truth if it's not technically lying?

Is it okay to lie if your own life is in danger?

Is it okay to lie if your mom or dad asks you to?

Is it okay to lie if someone says they'll shoot you if you say you love Jesus?

Is it okay to lie if you're lying to a little kid about something they're too young to know the truth about?

Is it okay to lie if you tell the truth later?

Is it okay to lie to avoid being a tattletale?

Is it okay to lie if it helps someone get to know Jesus?

Is it okay to lie if you're posting the lie online?

- **Which situations were the hardest to decide?**

Say: **Whew! That was a lot of moving forward and backward and tough debates!**

Figuring out when it's okay to lie is tiring! The good news is, God helps us make good choices. We're not in this alone! Let's read some more verses that will help us know how and when to tell the truth.

Reevaluate

Have someone read aloud each of the following verses.

Ephesians 4:15

Proverbs 12:19

2 Corinthians 4:2

Colossians 3:9

- How does the verse you read help you think about one of the situations we just voted on?

Now let's look at those situations again, in light of the Scriptures we just read. If you said it was okay to lie before, think about this question and share your ideas.

- What's a way you *could* tell the truth...in love?

Re-read the situations where some people said it's okay to lie.

Say: **God helps us make good choices, and these verses give us good guidance on telling the truth. For example, if we think the truth might hurt someone's feelings, Ephesians 4:15 helps us know we can speak the truth in love.**

- What's a loving answer you could give if someone asks if you like her shirt, and you don't?

Say: **God's Word also tells us not to trick anyone about the Bible. And it says that lies eventually come out. Remember, God delights in the truth.**

So instead of asking "Is it ever okay to lie?" maybe there's a better question. Maybe we could ask, "What's the right way to tell the truth?" Then we can turn to God for the answer because God helps us make good choices.

Pray

Say: **We discovered today that God helps us make good choices. That while there may be the rare occasion, like Rahab's, where lying is okay, God delights in truth and can help us be truthful. Let's turn to him for help now.**

Turn off the lights and turn on a flashlight. Move it over your head as you pray: **God, we want to delight in the truth as much as you do! But sometimes we get confused about the right way to tell the truth. Shine a light on the dishonesty in our lives, and reveal the truths we've been hiding. And when we face tough situations, help us know what to say. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Bold Blessing

Have everyone stand in a circle with their hands in the center, like a sports team. Tell them that when you finish the Bold Blessing, they'll raise their hands and shout "Let's be bold!" (Doing this over video chat? Put your hands in toward the camera!)

Say this Bold Blessing: **Receive this Bold Blessing and carry it with you: May God bless you with honest lips that bring delight and blessings to everyone around you. *Let's be bold!***

Mystery Mission

Say: **We discovered today that God helps us make good choices.**

When we're faced with lying or telling the truth, God delights in the truth and can help us know what to say.

Now it's time to see how God helps you make good choices about not lying this week!

Read everyone the Mystery Mission below, and challenge them to live out their faith this week by doing this mission. (Children's Ministry Director, if you're leading this over video and you have the card, fold and seal it in advance and open it on the video to create the sense of mystery! Then send out the mission via email.)

Your super-secret Mystery Mission is this: Look at the clock right now. Write down the time. Commit to only telling the truth—no matter what—until exactly that same time tomorrow.

PLAN AHEAD

*In week 10, we'll be grappling with the question "What Does the Bible Say About Suicide?" This is an emotional and difficult topic that has affected many families and preteens, so we recommend giving parents a heads-up that you'll be discussing it. Read the lesson ahead of time so you can answer parents' questions about how you'll be dealing with the topic. **If you are leading this lesson via video recording or live video session, invite parents to join you.***