Choose Your Character Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of the Lord rejecting Saul as king.
- The children will tell one reason why Saul did not obey.
- The children will give one reason why they should love to tell the truth.

Lesson Text

1 Samuel 15

Scripture Memory Verse

If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble.

Proverbs 17:20 (NIRV)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: To Tell the Truth

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Nothing but the Truth

Craft: Lying Tongue

Scripture Memory: Tongues in Trouble

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.







Saul and Samuel To Tell the Truth

The children will preview today's lesson by making an acronym for the word "truth."

Materials

For each child:

- 10 pieces of colored pipe cleaners, 4"
- 1 piece of colored construction paper, 9" x 12"
- invisible tape
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- 5 medium envelopes
- scissors
- black marker

Reproducible Pages:

• Page A, 1 copy for every 2 children

Preparation

- 1. Cut the pipe cleaners to the appropriate lengths.
- 2. Label each envelope with one of the letters T, R, U, T, H.
- 3. Cut out each of the statements from the copies of Reproducible Page A. Each child will need only five strips for the word "TRUTH." Place them in the envelopes using the following guide:

T	Tell the whole truth.
R	Run away from lies.
U	Use your tongue to tell the truth.
Т	Trouble comes from lies.
Н	Honesty is God's policy.

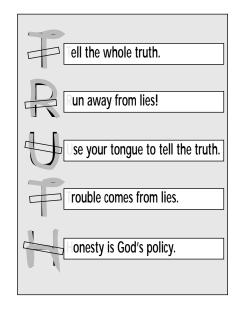
- 4. Form a pipe cleaner letter for each of the letters. Tape on the corresponding envelope from Step 2.
- 5. Down the left-hand column of the long edge of each piece of construction paper, write the letters T-R-U-T-H in capital letters, as shown.
- 6. Make a sample to show the children.

Instructions

- 1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain that in today's lesson they will be learning about the importance of telling the truth. Show the children your finished acronym.
- 2. Distribute the construction paper and glue sticks. Explain that in each of the five envelopes is a strip of paper that begins with one letter from the word "TRUTH." Tell them to glue each strip onto their construction paper next to the letter it begins with. Show them your example.
- 3. Distribute the pipe cleaners to the children and help them form the letters to the word "TRUTH" and tape them over the letters you wrote on their papers.
- 4. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

• To simplify the activity, prepare one complete set of strips for each child instead of having the children go to different envelopes to find them.





Summer 2

Choose Your Character Lesson 3



Nothing but the Truth

The children will actively listen to this story of Samuel and Saul.

Materials

For each child:

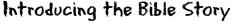
• 1 index card, 5" x 7"

For the teacher:

marker

Preparation

- 1. For each child, prepare an index card with the word "Yes" on one side and "No" on the other.
- 2. Practice presenting this Bible Story with emphasis and enthusiasm.



Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 15. Tell the children that today's lesson comes from the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel but first they will hear a short story to help prepare them for today's Bible Story.

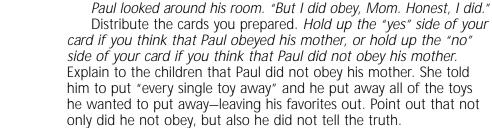
Paul was a boy who had lots and lots of toys. When Paul asked for a new toy, he got it. Paul's friends could not believe that he had so many toys. They called him the "king of toys."

One day, Paul's mother saw that his room was a mess. She told Paul to clean up all of his toys and put them away where they belong. "I do not want to see any toys on the floor," she said. "I want every single toy put away where it belongs—every one."

Paul put away puzzles, blocks, trains, books, games and dinosaurs. But he left out his Super Sam, Power Towers and his remote cars because they were his favorites.

"Mom," Paul said. "I cleaned my room! I put everything away just like you said. Come and see!" As Paul's mother came up, she heard the buzzing sound of the remote cars. She opened the door and there was Paul with his toys on the floor. "I thought you said you put all your toys away," she said looking disappointed. "I did!" Paul replied. "I just left these out because they are my favorites and I still want to play with them."

"You did not obey me, Paul. And you did not tell the truth. I told you to put them all away—every single one—and you said that you did. I am very sad that you did not obey me or tell me the truth. There will have to be a punishment for this."



Tell the children that in today's Bible Story, they will hear about something like this that happened to Saul and Samuel.

Presenting the Bible Story

Tell the children that Samuel was a prophet or a "man of God" whose job was to help the people obey God's laws. Explain that Saul was the king of Israel at the time of this story.

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them" (1 Samuel 15:1-3).

Tell the children to use their "yes" and "no" cards to answer the following questions:

- Did Samuel have a message from the Lord for King Saul? (Yes)
- Did God want to punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel? (Yes)
- Did Samuel tell Saul to attack the Amalekites and destroy only some of what belonged to them? (No-he told them to totally destroy everything that belongs to them.)

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.



Choose Your Character Lesson 3

Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night (1 Samuel 15:7-11).

- Did Saul obey God? (No-he destroyed everything that was weak, but he left alive the king, the best of the cattle and everything that was good.)
- Was Samuel happy with Saul? (No-he was deeply hurt that Saul did not obey God.)

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions."

But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

"Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night" (1 Samuel 15:13-16).

• Did Saul tell the truth when he said that he had obeyed the Lord? (No)

Samuel knew that Saul disobeyed the Lord and Samuel told this to Saul. Later, Saul admitted it was because he was afraid of the people that he did not obey. Because of Saul's sin, God rejected him as the king.

Share and Tell

Tell the children that God takes obedience and telling the truth very seriously. Ask the children if they have ever disobeyed and then lied about it. Tell the children that no matter how badly they may ever disobey, they should always tell the truth about it.

Encourage the children to share today's Bible Story with their parents and talk about ways that they can obey and tell the truth at home. Close with a prayer for the children to love to obey and tell the truth.

Teacher Tips

• Some children may take exception to the introductory story of Paul, insisting that he cleaned his room. Help the children to see that when God says "everything" he means "everything"—not "everything that we think is enough." Encourage the children that God wants them to do their best and ask for help if they need it to do something that they have been asked to do.





Lying Tongue
The children will make a craft reinforcing the Scripture Memory Verse and its meaning.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 paper plate, 9"
- invisible tape
- crayons
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors
- red construction paper, 1 piece (9" x 12") for every 4 children
- utility knife
- cutting board or cardboard (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the pictures of Saul from the copies of Reproducible
- 2. Cut out the right side of the copies of Reproducible Page B, and glue it to the red construction paper. Cut out the tongues. Cut one tongue for each child.
- 3. Cut a 1"x 2" piece of red construction paper for each child.
- 4. Make a sample of the craft to show the children.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you are learning about the story of God rejecting Saul as king because of Saul's disobedience. Samuel gave Saul a command of God, but Saul did not completely obey his command—and then he did not tell the truth about it. Because Saul was afraid of what people thought, he disobeyed and God rejected Saul as king. Today, you will make a craft that will remind you to always tell the truth. Show the children your sample craft.
- 2. Distribute the plates, glue sticks, crayons and the pictures of Saul. Have the children glue the pictures of Saul to the center of their plates. Have them color Saul and write their names on their plates.

- Choose Your Character Lesson 3
- 3. As the children are coloring, cut a 1" slit in the center of Saul's mouth where marked. See Figure A. IMPORTANT: Exercise extreme caution using the utility knife when the children are around you.
- 4. Distribute the tongues you prepared, the 1" x 2" pieces of red construction paper and the tape. Have each child push the tongue through the slit, as shown in Figure B.
- 5. Have the children turn over their plates. Have each child tape the 1" x 2" piece of red construction paper to the tongue making a capital "T," as shown in Figure C. This will keep it from falling out.

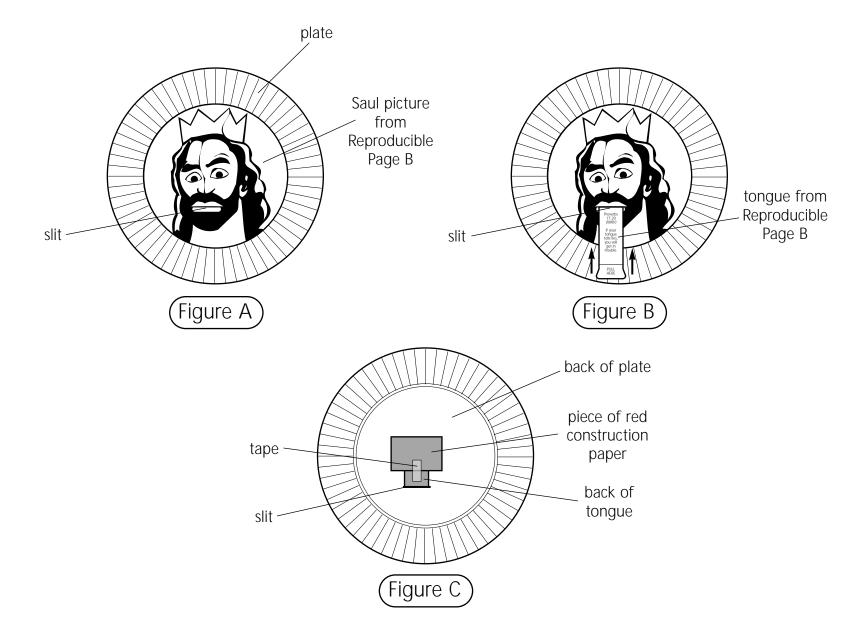
Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God wants us to always tell the truth. Encourage the children that no matter how hard it may seem, God wants them to tell the truth. Close with a prayer asking God to help you always tell the truth.

- Display your sample so that all the children can see it.
- Use a cutting board or a piece of cardboard to protect the work surface when you use the utility knife.



Choose Your Character Lesson 3







Tongues in Trouble

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse in this fun activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble. Proverbs 17:20 (NIRV)

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 potato
- 7 index cards, 3" x 5"
- black marker

Preparation

- 1. Neatly print one letter from the word "T-R-O-U-B-L-E" on each index card.
- 2. Memorize this week's Scripture Memory Verse.
- 3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you are learning about the story of God rejecting Saul as king. Samuel gave Saul a command of God, but Saul did not completely obey his command—and then he did not tell the truth about it. Because Saul was afraid of what people thought, he disobeyed and God rejected Saul as king. Today, you will learn a verse that will remind you not to tell lies because they will get you into trouble.
- 2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times while they follow along silently. Point to each word as you say it. Ask the children to say it together with you three more times. Ask each child to stand and say the verse together with you to the rest of the group.
- 3. Have the children sit in a circle and show them the potato and the cards you prepared. Explain that on each index card is a letter from the word "trouble." Place the index cards in the middle of the circle. Tell the children that they will say the verse one word at a time as they pass the potato. The child who is holding the potato when they say the word "trouble" must take a letter

- Choose Your Character Lesson 3
- from the center of the circle. That child will pick the next child to begin passing the potato. Reverse the direction of the passing with each new round.
- 4. When all of the letters have been collected, have the children who collected letters stand and say the verse together from memory.
- 5. Collect the letters and place them in the middle of the circle again. Repeat this activity one more time or as time permits.

Conclusion

Ask the children if they have ever gotten in trouble for not telling the truth. Ask them how it makes them feel to know that God cares. about whether or not they tell the truth. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible that helps us to love the truth.

- Begin the verse each time with the children saying the reference first, i.e. Proverbs 17:20, If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble.
- Think of additional fun ways for the children to repeat this Scripture Memory Verse.

If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble.

Proverbs 17:20 (NIRV)



Choose Your Character Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of the Lord rejecting Saul as king.
- The children will tell one reason why Saul did not obey.
- The children will give one reason why they should love to tell the truth.

Lesson Text

1 Samuel 15

Scripture Memory Verse

If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble. Proverbs 17:20 (NIRV)

Lesson	Plan
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Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Hidden Truth

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Lovers of the Truth

Game: Truth Tellers

Bible Skills: Truth Seekers

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre class









Hidden Truth

The children will preview today's lesson by revealing a message about truth.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons, including black crayon
- wooden coffee stirrers (or small craft stick or unsharpened pencil)
- glue stick
- 1 piece of construction paper, 6" x 9" For the teacher:
- scissors
- large writing surface
- newspaper

Reproducible Pages:

Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut the 6" x 9" piece of construction paper for each child.

- 2. Cut out the pattern boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
- 3. Make a sample to show the children.
- 4. On the large writing surface, write the following words: Tell the truth.
- 5. Cover the work area with newspaper.

Instructions

- 1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell the children they are going to review this week's lesson about telling the truth. Show the children your sample, reading the words written on the sign.
- 2. Distribute the pattern boxes and crayons. Have the children completely color their pattern boxes as colorfully as possible.
- 3. Distribute the black crayons. Have the children completely color over the pattern using the black crayons.
- 4. Distribute the coffee stirrers. Have the

- children copy the words "Tell the truth" on the pattern by using the coffee stirrer to scrape the words.
- NOTE: When the letters are scraped off, the color underneath will be revealed.
- 5. Distribute the construction paper and glue sticks. Have the children glue their signs onto their construction paper. Make sure they put their names on their paper.

- Have the children draw other designs around the words.
- Glue a small piece of magnetic stripping on the pictures to hang and display them.

Lovers of the Truth

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they think of reasons to love to tell the truth.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- glue stick
- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12" *Reproducible Pages:*
- Page D, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

- 1. Glue one of your copies of Reproducible Page D to a piece of construction paper and then cut out the cards.
- 2. Read 1 Samuel 15 to review the events of this week's Bible Story.
- 3. Practice leading this activity.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 15. In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the story of God rejecting Saul as king because of Saul's disobedience. Samuel gave Saul a command of God, but Saul did not completely obey his command—and then, he did not tell the truth about it. Saul said that he did not obey because he was afraid of what people thought, and God rejected Saul as king.

Use the following questions to prepare the children for their activity.

- Why do you think that people disobey?
- Why do you think that people lie?
- Do you think that a person who loves God would also love to obey? Why?
- Do you think that a person who loves God would also love to tell the truth? Why?
- Do you think that God cares if you disobey or tell lies?
- Do you think that Jesus loved to obey and tell the truth?

Life Application

Show the children the cards you prepared. Explain that on the cards are five reasons to love to tell the truth. Read one of each card and then distribute all of them to the children. Tell the children to listen as you call out a reason (using your second copy of Reproducible Page D). The child or children holding that card should stand up. Do this until every child has had a chance to stand.

Collect and shuffle the cards. Distribute them to the children. This time, call on a child and say: *Michael, can you tell me one reason why I should love to tell the truth?* Have Michael respond, using the card(s) he is holding. When he is done, have him call on another child in the group and ask the same question. Continue until every child has had a chance to answer.

Collect and shuffle the cards and repeat, if time permits.

Conclusion

Ask the children when they think that it is hardest to tell the truth. (Answers may include: when friends are telling you to lie; when the truth may result in punishment; when the truth might hurt someone's feelings; when someone threatens you if you tell the truth; etc.) Remind the children that God is happy when they tell the truth even if nobody else is. Close with a prayer for the children to love to tell the truth.

Teacher Tips

• Help the children understand that telling the truth does not mean saying things that may be true just for the sake of saying it, e.g. "You are fat," or "I don't like your new haircut." Remind the children that God wants them to "speak the truth in love" and to think about how a person might feel about their words. Suggest that they ask their parents for help if they don't know whether they should say something that could hurt someone's feelings.





Truth Tellers

The children will review key ideas from the Bible Story as they consider the consequence of not telling the whole truth.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 52 index cards (unlined), 3" x 5"
- marker
- large writing surface

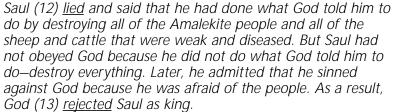
Preparation

- 1. Neatly print four each of the following words (and their corresponding numbers) on four index cards, as shown on the back of this Lesson Card:
 - 1) Old Testament 6) battle 11) disobeyed 2) Samuel 7) Amalekites 12) lied 3) King Saul 8) soldiers 13) rejected
 - 4) God5) Israel9) King Agag10) sheep and cattle
- 2. Neatly print the same thirteen words on the large writing surface.
- 3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the story of God rejecting Saul as king because of Saul's disobedience. Because Saul was afraid of what people thought, he disobeyed God. Therefore, God rejected Saul as king. In your game today, you will review important ideas about being obedient and telling the whole truth.
- 2. Show the children the words on the large writing surface. Use the following summary to review the Bible Story. Point to each word on the large writing surface as you come to it in the story:

This week's Bible Story comes from the (1) Old Testament book of 1 Samuel. The prophet (2) Samuel gave (3) King Saul a message from (4) God. All of (5) Israel was to go to (6) battle and totally destroy their enemies, the (7) Amalekites. They went to battle but instead of destroying everything, Saul and his (8) soldiers saved (9) King Agag and the best of the (10) sheep and cattle. When Samuel realized what had happened, he went to Saul and asked him why he (11) disobeyed God's command.



- 3. Show the children the cards you prepared. Explain that each of these same words appears four times in the deck. Shuffle the cards and deal all of them to the children. Tell them to look for matches in their hands and place the matches in front of them. For each child's match, ask the child to tell one thing from this week's Bible Story that relates to the word on the matching card. For example, if a child has two cards with "Samuel" he must say one thing about Samuel as it relates to the Bible Story. Encourage the children to help each other.
- 4. After all the matches are down from the first deal, choose a child to pick a card from any other child. If it gives him a match, he must say how the word relates to the Bible Story; if it does not match, then the child to his right may pick a card from another child. Play continues until all the children have matched all the cards and reviewed all the words from this story. NOTE: Some children will run out of cards sooner than others. Have the children that first run out of cards pair up with children who still have cards to match.

Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God wants them to tell the whole truth—and not just part of the truth. Close with a prayer for the children to love to tell the whole truth.

- Adapt and modify this game to best meet the needs of the children in your group.
- Numbers are also provided on the cards to help young or struggling readers find matches. Be prepared to assist these children with reading the words on their matches.



Choose Your Character

Truth Tellers

Print four each of the following:



Old Samuel King Saul God Israel battle

1 2 3 4 5 6

Amalekites	soldiers	King Agag	sheep and cattle	disobeyed	lied	rejected
7	8	9	10	11	12	13



Truth Seekers

The children will look for the word "truth" in the Bible.

Materials

For the teacher:

• 2 pencils

Reproducible Pages:

Page E, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

- 1. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page E.
- 2. Practice leading this activity.

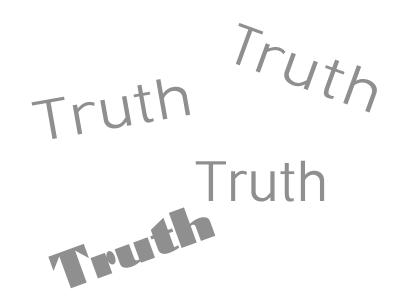
Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the story of God rejecting Saul as king because of Saul's disobedience. Samuel gave Saul a command of God, but Saul did not completely obey his command—and then, he did not tell the truth about it. Because Saul was afraid of what people thought, he disobeyed God and God rejected Saul as king. God wants us to love to tell the truth-no matter how afraid we may be. In your activity today, you will look for verses that have the word "truth" in them.
- 2. Divide the children into two teams, being careful to mix the strong readers with those who are younger or struggling readers. Explain that each team will receive a list of references. The object of the activity is to be the first team to look up all the verses and circle the ones that have the word "truth" in them.
- Distribute one copy of Reproducible Page E and a pencil to each team. Encourage the children to work together to find the verses and the words. When a team finds a verse with the word "truth" in it, they should circle the reference on their page. Encourage the teams to keep their papers out of the view of the other team.
- 4. When both teams are finished, go over their answers together. Using the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card, read each verse to the children and correct their answers.

Conclusion

Ask the children why they think that the Bible has so many verses about the importance of telling the truth. Close with a prayer for the children to love to seek the truth.

- This activity is based on the NIV version of the Bible. Children with a different translation should share a Bible with a child who has an NIV.
- Adapt this activity to the skill level of the children in your group. To increase the challenge, time each team to see who can complete the activity in the fastest time.





Truth Seekers

Answer Key

Old Testament

1. Exodus 21:24

...eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot...

2. Psalm 119:30

I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.

3. Proverbs 25:19

Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.

4. Proverbs 16:13

Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.

5. Zechariah 8:3

This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain."

New Testament

6. Matthew 5:38

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'"

7. Matthew 17:20

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

8. Mark 5:33

Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

9. Luke 21:3

"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others."

10.John 6:47

"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life."

Summer 2

1 copy for every 2 children

R E P R

В

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PAGE

A

un away from lies! the whole truth

se your tongue to tell the truth

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6

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Choose Your Character Lesson 3

Core/Craft
1 copy for each child

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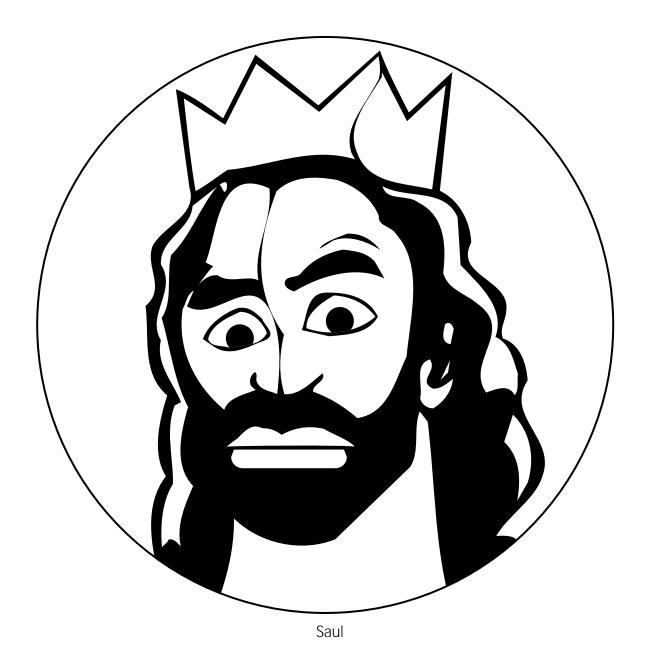
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В





Proverbs
17:20
(NIRV)

If your
tongue
tells lies,
you will
get into
trouble.

PULL
HERE

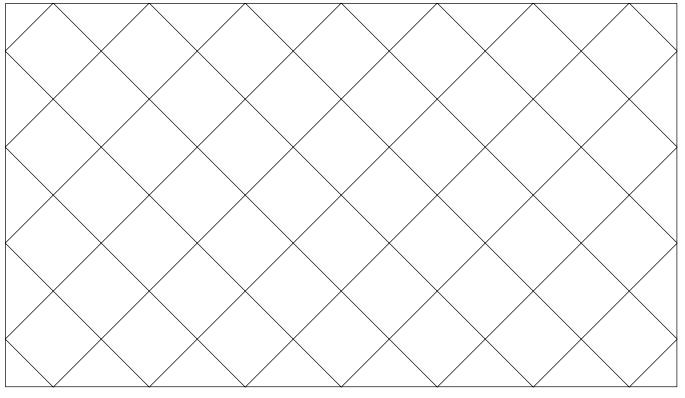
tongue

R E Р

Supplement/Preclass 1 copy for each child

Choose Your Character Lesson 3





pattern box



R E P R D В E **PAGE**

Supplement/Life Application

2 copies for the teacher

Choose Your Character Lesson 3



It makes God happy.



It helps us to be like Jesus.



It shows that we can be trusted.



It makes our parents happy.



It makes other people feel loved.



It makes God happy.



It helps us to be like Jesus.



It shows that we can be trusted.



It makes our parents happy.



It makes other people feel loved.



R E P R В E PAGE E

Supplemen	t/Bible	Skills
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2 copies for the teacher

Choose Your Character

the teacher

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Truth Seekers

Instructions: Look up each of the following references and read the verse. If the word "truth" appears in the verse, circle the reference on this page.

Old Testament

- **Exodus 21:24**
- Psalm 119:30
- Proverbs 25:19
- Proverbs 16:13
- Zechariah 8:3

New Testament

- Matthew 5:38
- Matthew 17:20
- Mark 5:33
- Luke 21:3
- 10. John 6:47

