

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

We need to be honest and guard our reputation.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God wants us to be people of honesty and integrity.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Be on your guard! The jungle is filled with dangerous creatures. Ananias and Sapphira learned the hard way that lying can be more dangerous than any animal. They loved money and pride more than they loved following God's ways and being truthful. Their dishonesty had a very deadly consequence that God used as an example to show us how serious lying is.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to be bold enough to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NIV)*

*"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it on screen. Then put the verse on screen and read it once more together.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

## SKIT

### BABY SNAKE DOO DOO

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two jungle explorer outfits  
A plastic snake

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

#### CHARACTERS:

Gibert - An experienced explorer  
Austin - A reluctant explorer

*Austin enters with a plastic snake stuck on his finger.*

AUSTIN: Gilbert! Gilbert!!!!

*Gilbert enters.*

GILBERT: Austin, keep your voice down. We are in the jungle! Do you want to attract every dangerous predator for five miles?

AUSTIN: It's too late! They found me!

GILBERT: Wow, look at that.

AUSTIN: Is it poisonous?

GILBERT: No, but it's just as dangerous. You are looking at a giant anaconda.

AUSTIN: Really? This is a giant anaconda? Ha! He doesn't look so scary to me.

GILBERT: A baby giant anaconda.

AUSTIN: I wanna go home.

# SKIT

GILBERT: Yes, these babies grow up to be man killers, and this little fella, bless his heart, has a taste for humans already.

AUSTIN: I wanna watch Netflix.

GILBERT: You have no idea what a lucky escape this was. Why there are so many dangerous creatures out here that could kill you—

AUSTIN: I hear they just put a new season of my favorite cartoon on Netflix. I wanna go home.

GILBERT: I'll tell you what though. You know the one thing more dangerous than an anaconda?

AUSTIN: A panther?

GILBERT: Dishonesty.

AUSTIN: I should have guessed this would turn into a philosophical discussion.

GILBERT: People think lying is no big deal, especially when it's something small. They say to themselves, "It's just a harmless, little white lie. What damage could it do?"

AUSTIN: They grow big, don't they?

GILBERT: Just like the giant anaconda! One lie leads to another, leads to another, and soon—

AUSTIN: No more Austin. Swallowed up by a full-grown, giant lie!

GILBERT: In life always remember two things. One, be honest! Even a little white lie can lead to big trouble.

AUSTIN: And the other thing?

GILBERT: Where there's a baby predator, there's a momma predator close by.

AUSTIN: Which means?

GILBERT: Which means, you should do the same thing you would do whenever you feel tempted. RUN!!!!

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A puppy or kitten

Everybody loves baby animals, don't they? Babies are cute. They are helpless when first born, and their tiny features make them simply adorable. That doesn't mean you can go up to just any baby and start petting it. If you're ever in the Smoky Mountains and you see baby bear cubs, you better get to safety immediately. Where there's a baby, there's a mamma, and that means danger!

Lying may not seem like a big deal at times, especially when it comes to so-called little white lies, but little lies, like baby bears, turn into big lies. All lies are dangerous, just as all predators are dangerous. They won't eat you, but they will devour your reputation as someone who can be trusted.

No matter what the consequences may be, it is always better telling the truth. Adding lies to mistakes only makes the mistakes grow, and they will ruin your reputation. Guard your integrity, and be a person who always tells the truth. Don't let your little lies grow into big dangerous lies.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### SLITHER BALL

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Tape  
Balloons

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Separate the kids into multiple teams. Mark a line on the stage, and have the kids get on their bellies 20 feet away from the line. Place a balloon in front of each one. The players will race to see who can push their balloon across the finish line first, using only their heads. Players must slither on their bellies as they race to the finish.

#### VARIATION:

An alternate game would be to have the kids crawl on hands and knees instead of slithering.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Lies are more dangerous than big snakes. We must value honesty and guard our reputations.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

We need to be honest and guard our reputation.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God wants us to be people of honesty and integrity.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira

**INTRO:**

When you think of the jungle, you think of thick trees and tangled vines. You think of heavy rain storms and raging rapids. You think of a rich and fertile land with minerals and other natural resources. You think of a vital part of our planetary ecosystem that must be preserved and protected. Right? That's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the jungle, isn't it?

If you're like most people, the first thing you think about is the incredible animal life. The jungle is home to an amazing array of life. The jungle is where you find the slow and gentle sloth and hundreds of varieties of playful monkeys. The jungle is home to tropical birds and parrots. It's home to some unique varieties of land creatures, like the African Bongo. And it's home to some stealthy, deadly predators.

The big cats and big snakes of the jungle may not be the most likely things to harm you in the jungle, but make no mistake – if you cross them in any way, they will harm you. The spotted leopards and black panthers are silent killers who can strike from above and overpower a full-grown man. And the giant pythons and anacondas may not have a poisonous bite, but if they wrap their coils around you, they can bring your expedition to a sudden and unhappy ending.

It's cool that we can go to a zoo and see these deadly animals up close, but it can give us a sense of false security seeing them on the other side of thick glass walls. Especially when they have babies! But we need to always bear in mind, these are apex predators. They are the top of the food chain. They are dangerous.

We don't have to face the threats of jungle predators in our daily lives, but there are things just as dangerous we need to avoid. One of those is dishonesty. I know, it doesn't sound right, does it?

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Who here thinks a harmless white lie is as dangerous as a jaguar? But as you will see today, one lie cost a man and his wife their very lives because they tried to lie to God.

## **READ ACTS 5:1-11**

### **MAIN POINT:**

Ananias and Sapphira wanted people to think they were kind and generous. They saw everyone around them selling their possessions and giving to the Lord, and they wanted people to think they had done the same. They kept back some of the money they made for themselves, which wasn't a bad thing to do, but they lied and said, "Here is everything we made by selling our possessions."

That lie didn't sit well with God. God wants his people to always be honest so that we can be good witnesses for Him. He didn't punish them for keeping back money. He punished them for lying about it.

Lying damages our personal reputations, and it ruins our witness for God. We need to run from lies as we would run from a jungle cat. We need to guard our reputation by always telling the truth.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

When you're in the jungle, you must be on guard against predators. A predator can take your life, and once it's over, there's no second chances.

A lie is not going to take your life, but it can take your reputation, and while you can rebuild a reputation, it's not as easy as hitting the reset button. It takes a lot of time and a lot of hard work to rebuild your reputation with people. Trust is not something people give easy, and once trust has been broken, it's much harder to get it back. That's why it's so important we keep people's trust and keep our good reputation. It isn't easy to maintain, but it is easier than trying to rebuild.

Most often when we are tempted to lie, it's because we are protecting ourselves. Maybe we've made a mistake and we want to cover it. Maybe we've done something else we weren't supposed to do, and we don't want to be caught. That first mistake may be a hit on your reputation already, but when you add a lie on top of your mistake, the damage is much worse.

Here's the thing to remember in those crisis moments. You can actually strengthen your reputation by telling the truth. We all make mistakes. We are all sinners, and everyone knows and understands this because we deal with the consequences of our bad decisions all the time. When you become a person who owns your mistakes and admits them rather than cover them up, your reputation grows in the eyes of most people.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Teachers, coaches, and bosses all appreciate people who own up to their mistakes and set things right. They would much rather see that than someone who tries to pass the blame or cover their mistakes.

Owning your mistakes shows you truly value your integrity. It shows you are trustworthy. Yes, you will still face the consequences for your mistake, but they will be far less than if you tried to lie.

A jaguar might take your physical life, but a single lie can ruin your life by damaging your reputation. When you get found out in a lie, no matter how big or small, it can cause people to never trust you again. Let's be people who value honesty. Let's guard our reputation like we guard our life and always tell the truth. Let's be good witnesses for Christ and show the world they can trust Him by becoming people others can trust.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to be bold enough to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

Which would be worse - being chased by a giant snake or a jaguar?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalms 25:5**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See who is the best at slithering like a snake and walking like a panther on all fours.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Acts 5:1-11**

What did Ananias and Sapphira lie about?

Who did they lie to?

What was their punishment for lying?

How is telling the truth about a mistake and getting punished better than lying about it?

How can we become better at always telling the truth?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Forgive us for our lies, and help us to strive to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

Which would be worse - being chased by a giant snake or a jaguar?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalms 25:5**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See who is the best at slithering like a snake and walking like a panther on all fours.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Acts 5:1-11**

Why did Ananias and Sapphira lie?

Why did God punish them so severely for lying?

How can lying damage your reputation?

How is telling the truth about a mistake and getting punished better than lying about it?

How can we become better at always telling the truth?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Forgive us for our lies, and help us to strive to always tell the truth.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

Ananias sold some property and kept some of the \_\_\_\_\_ for himself.  
MONEY

Ananias \_\_\_\_\_ about how much money he was giving the church.  
LIED

\_\_\_\_\_ struck Ananias dead for his lie.  
GOD

When she backed up Ananias' lie, \_\_\_\_\_ died too.  
SAPPHIRA

We must always tell the \_\_\_\_\_, even when it costs us, to protect our reputation.  
TRUTH



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Unexplored Bible Stories Lesson 6

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DANGEROUS CREATURES



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Be on your guard! The jungle is filled with dangerous creatures. Ananias and Sapphira learned the hard way that lying can be more dangerous than any animal. They loved money and pride more than they loved following God's ways and being truthful. Their dishonesty had a very deadly consequence that God used as an example to show us how serious lying is. Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids when they are most tempted to lie, then share your answer with them as well. Ask them what you can do to encourage them to be more truthful with you and with others. Listen to them, and be gentle enough to encourage them to tell the truth, even when it means admitting they broke another rule.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Ananias and Sapphira lie?
- What message did God send when he punished Ananias and Sapphira for their lie?
- How can lying ruin our reputation?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)*



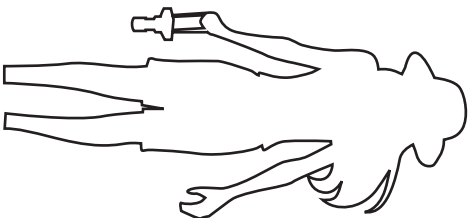
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

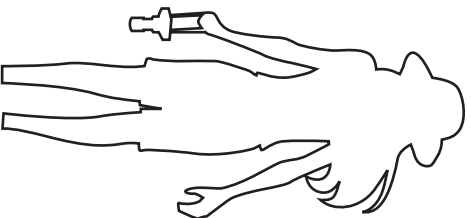
If we want kids to tell the truth, we must create an environment where it is safe for them to do so. Yes, they will still be punished when they own up to breaking rules, but make a distinction between that punishment and when they lie about what they have done.

## CRAFT ACTIVITY

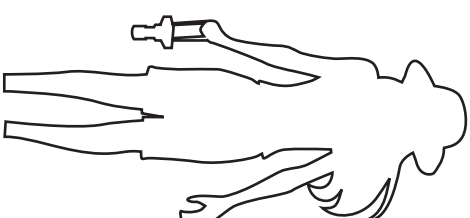
Have the kids make a lion's head by coloring a paper plate. The outer fringe will be the lion's mane. Tell the kids this is the only "lion" allowed in their homes, and encourage them to be truth tellers instead of lie makers.



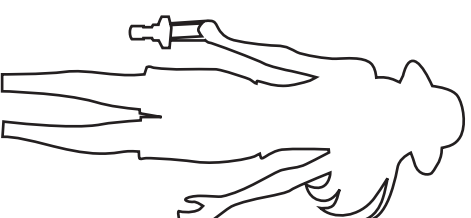
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You are God my Savior. I put my hope in  
you all day long."  
- Psalm 25:5 (NIRV)



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