

## Lesson

# 5

# Rule: Tell the Truth!

### BIBLE BASIS

God commands people to tell the truth (Exod. 20:16). Micaiah tells what he knows to be true (2 Chron. 18).

### BIBLE TRUTH

God's rules say that we should tell the truth.

### MEMORY VERSE:

Do not lie to each other. Colossians 3:9

### LESSON AIM

That your students will want to be honest even when it is hard to tell the truth.

# 1

### LIFE NEED (5–10 MINUTES)

**Play a game that involves telling the truth.**

# 2

### BIBLE LEARNING (15–20 MINUTES)

**Bible Words:** Learn about three important people from this week's Bible story.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 19, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles

**Bible Story:** Hear a story about a prophet who told the truth.

■ Materials: Bibles

**Bible Review:** Identify true statements about the Bible story and discuss the commandment Micaiah obeyed.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 20, Bibles, yarn, pencils

**Memory Work:** Use an activity to learn the memory verse.

■ Materials: Bibles, index cards—prepared before class

# 3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

**Describe ways present-day people can be honest in difficult situations.**

■ Materials: "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid, *My Bible Book* pp. 21–22, whiteboard and marker, pencils

# 4

### LIFE RESPONSE (5–10 MINUTES)

**Memory Work:** Use a game to practice being truthful.



■ Materials: *Elementary Kid Crafts* Lesson 5, tape, craft sticks, marbles, small bouncy balls or ping pong balls, straws, envelopes or plastic zip-top bags, *Friends* for Lesson 5



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



# Understanding the Bible

**Overview of This Quarter:** This is the final lesson in our unit on the Ten Commandments. We've studied God's command to honor Him, to have a special day to worship Him, to honor our parents, and to not steal. Today we learn about God's command to tell the truth. Next week we begin a study of God's redemption and our response to His love. Our final unit teaches us how to build healthy relationships.

**This Week's Bible Story:** After King Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel split apart. The northern kingdom was called Israel. The southern kingdom was called Judah. Ahab (see last week's story), king of Israel, made a deal with Jehoshaphat. In today's story Ahab wanted to go to war and asked Jehoshaphat to be his partner.

Before agreeing to Ahab's request, Jehoshaphat told Ahab to seek God's guidance. So Ahab called together about 400 prophets and asked them whether he should go to war. The prophets told him to go to war and promised God would give him victory. Jehoshaphat was not sure. He may have thought that the prophets were

telling Ahab only what they thought the king wanted to hear. Ahab admitted that there was another prophet he could call, but he complained that this prophet never had pleasant things to say. Jehoshaphat wanted this prophet, Micaiah, to come anyway.

The messenger told Micaiah to give Ahab a good prophecy. Micaiah was a true spokesman for God. His message was different from the other prophets. He told him that the armies would lose and Ahab would die.

Micaiah was put in prison for telling the truth. Ahab tried to ignore Micaiah's prophecy by pretending to be someone else during the battle. But his costume did not work. He died in the battle, and Micaiah was finally believed.

It's not always easy to tell the truth, and sometimes people get angry with you. But when we tell the truth, we obey the Lord and He is pleased with us.

5

## Understanding Your Students

Your elementary students love games! They may not be ready for the mental challenge of some games, but most of them thoroughly enjoy activity games, simple board games, cubes to toss, or question-and-answer games. The game suggested in this week's Life Need section is an excellent attention-getter. But this isn't the only value of a game. Some games can enhance Bible learning and review, while others can help students practice biblical behavior.

## Classroom Tips

**The following suggestions can help you make games a fun part of teaching.**

- Let the game be for fun instead of a contest to see who comes in first. It's best when everyone can be a winner!
- Don't let any game go too long. It's good to stop while the children are still enjoying it. Then they'll want to try it again later!
- In team games, avoid pitting boys against girls, or second graders against third graders.
- Familiarize yourself with the game ahead of time. And be sure all the pieces are present and ready to use.
- Occasionally you'll find simple board games in your teaching aids packet or in the *Kid Crafts* book. After your children have used this type of game as part of a given lesson, keep it on hand for future use in review or pre-session. Soon you'll have a nice classroom game library!

# Pre-session Activities

Choose from the following activities for early arrivers.

- Have students mark their attendance.

**Materials:** Summer Attendance Chart

- Hide food treats around the room. Then make several large direction sheets telling how to find the treats. Give false information on some sheets and true directions on others. When a direction sheet is proven to be false, students may draw a sad face on it.



"Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid

The first child to discover the treats may distribute them to the class.

**Materials:** treats, construction paper, and markers

- Let your students use the poster "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid to review the rules they've been learning.

**Materials:** "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid

- For Worship Time: Sing "Rules Are His Tools" from the Diskit CD.

**Materials:** Diskit CD, CD player



## 1

# Life Need 5–10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will practice telling the truth.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about telling the truth.

**It's time to play a game. In order to play, you must tell the truth. Okay?**

Have students sit in their chairs in a circle. Then name some things they may or may not have done. If the statement is true for them, they are to stand up and say, "True." If it is not true, they are to stay seated and say nothing. Include statements that most children would agree with and some in which the truth might be hard to admit.

For example:

**I love ice cream!** (General agreement.)

**I know how to swim.** (Mixed.)

**I remember telling a lie.** (Hard to admit.)

Other possibilities: **I have a brother.**

**I like to play baseball.**

**I do everything my parents tell me to do.**

Some students may have difficulty telling what is true and not true for them. Do not question their honesty. This lesson should help them grow in that area.

If a student tries to accuse a classmate of lying, state that God helps people know when they aren't telling the truth. Since we usually don't know for sure that someone isn't being truthful, it's best not to make judgments or cause embarrassment.

**It's not too hard to tell the truth in a game like this, is it? When are times when you've had a hard time telling the truth?** (Let volunteers tell their experiences and whether they ended up telling the truth or not. After each example, have the class share how hard or easy it would be for them to tell the truth in that situation.)

**In today's Bible story, we'll hear about someone who was asked to tell the truth, even though it would be hard.**



# 2

## Bible Learning 15–20 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn from the example of Micaiah that it's important to tell the truth even when it's difficult.



My Bible Book, page 19

Distribute *My Bible Book* to your class and have students look at page 19.

**There are three important people in today's story. We met one of them last week.**

Read the name "Ahab" and the first question under it. Have students raise their hands if they remember King Ahab from last week's story. Then read the rest of the paragraph.

■ **What are some things you remember about Kind Ahab?** (*He coveted Naboth's vineyard, he let Naboth be killed, he stole the vineyard that belonged to Naboth.*)

**Here's someone else who knew King Ahab.** Point to the picture of Jehoshaphat. **His name is Jehoshaphat** (jah-HOSH-uh-fat). **That's quite a name! Let's practice saying it together a few times. Now let's see who he was.** Let a volunteer read the description aloud.

**And here's another new person—Micaiah** (my-KAY-uh). Either you or a volunteer may read the paragraph about Micaiah.

■ **What was special about a prophet?** (*He told people what God wanted them to know.*)

**Before we hear what happened when these three people got together, let's find where today's story is in the Bible.** Invite a child to find the Old Testament and the Book of Exodus on the Bible Overview Chart.



Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

Ask another volunteer to find 2 Chronicles in the Old Testament. In their Bibles, ask the children to bookmark 2 Chronicles 18:33-34. Talk about how 2 Chronicles tells more about the kings of Judah, God's disobedient people, and how God punished them while still loving them.

You can tell the story in your own words, basing it on the following version or simply read the story.

### BIBLE STORY

King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat were having a feast together, enjoying all the good food.

King Jehoshaphat was a good king. He loved God, and God helped him know the right things to do.

King Ahab was not a good king. He did many things that were wrong. At the feast Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let's capture the big city across the river. It used to be ours."

But King Jehoshaphat said, "First I want to know what God wants us to do."

So King Ahab called together his 400 prophets, who were supposed to tell people what God wanted them to know. King Ahab said to the prophets, "Shall we go to the city and capture it?"

These prophets wanted to please the king. They were not true prophets of God, so they did not tell the truth. They said, "Go and take the city. God will give it to you."

But King Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there another prophet—a prophet of God—who we know will tell us the truth?"

"There is a prophet of God named Micaiah (my-KAY-yuh)," said King Ahab. "But I hate him. He always tells me I should not do the things I want to do. I don't like to listen to him."

"The king should not say that. Let's talk to him anyway," said King Jehoshaphat.

So they sent a messenger to find Micaiah. The messenger said to Micaiah, "Prophets have already told the king good things. I hope you will say good things to him also."

"I will say what God tells me to say. I must tell the

truth whether it is good or bad," said Micaiah bravely.

Micaiah went and stood before the kings. He said, "If you go to the city across the river, you will not live. Your men will be scattered like sheep without a leader."

Oh, how angry King Ahab was! He turned to King Jehoshaphat and said, "Didn't I tell you he would say something bad?"

Micaiah explained to the king. "The other prophets have lied to you. I am telling you the truth."

Then King Ahab said, "Put Micaiah in prison."

King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat took their soldiers and went to the city across the river. Soon they were in a big battle, and both of the kings were in danger.

King Jehoshaphat called out to God, and God helped him get away.

But something different happened to King Ahab. Let's read 2 Chronicles 18:33-34 aloud together. *After the children read from their Bibles, continue with a brief summary.*

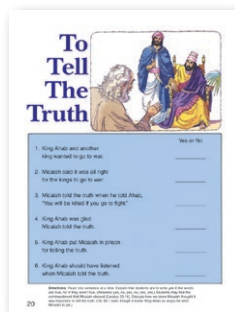
King Ahab was shot with an arrow, and he died just as the sun was going down.

God had tried to warn King Ahab through a good man who told the truth. But wicked King Ahab would not listen.

## BIBLE REVIEW

Play a game to review today's Bible story. Put a length of yarn across the floor. Designate one side as "truth." Designate the other side as "not the truth." After you read each of the following statements, give students time to decide if the statement is true or not by jumping over the yarn to the correct side. When a statement is not true, ask students to suggest ways to make the sentence true. The statements are the same as the ones on page 20 of *My Bible Book*.

- King Ahab and another king wanted to go to war.
- Micaiah said it was all right for the kings to go to war.
- Micaiah told the truth when he told Ahab, "You will be killed if you go to fight."
- King Ahab was glad Micaiah told the truth.
- King Ahab put Micaiah in prison for telling the truth.



*My Bible Book, page 20*

■ King Ahab should have listened when Micaiah told the truth.

Have students turn to page 20 in *My Bible Book*. Ask students to identify the people in the picture at the top of the page and describe what they think is happening. (Micaiah is telling King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat not to go to war against the city across the river.)

Give children time to complete the page on their own. Students should write "yes" in the blank if the sentence is true and write "no" in the blank if the sentence is false. Answers are: yes, no, yes, no, yes, yes. When a sentence is false, ask students to suggest ways to make the sentence true.

**It must have been really hard for Micaiah to tell the truth when no one else did. Micaiah made a tough choice. He chose to obey God's rules. Let's look at the commandment Micaiah obeyed.**

Look up Exodus 20:16 in your Bible and read it aloud.

■ **How do we know that Micaiah thought it was important to obey God's rule to tell the truth?** (*He did it even though all the other prophets lied, he told the truth even though he knew it would make King Ahab angry, Micaiah didn't change his story even when King Ahab had him thrown into prison.*)

## MEMORY WORK

Ask the children to find Colossians 3:9 in their Bibles. Remind them to look in the table of contents in the front of their Bibles to find the page number for Colossians.

Write each word of the memory verse on a separate index card. Write the reference on a card. Set the cards in order on the floor. The children say the verse, doing a jumping jack for each word. Choose one child to turn a card facedown. The children say the verse and jump again. Another child turns over a second card. The children repeat the verse and jump. Continue until all the cards are turned over.

# 3

## Bible Application 5-10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will think of ways people can be honest, even when it is difficult.



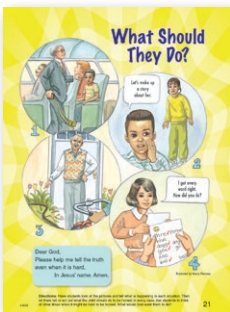
"God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid

Gather around the "God's Ten Commandments" poster one more time.

Review all of the commandments as time allows, focusing especially

on Commandment 9, which corresponds to today's lesson. Talk about the picture and ask questions such as these: **These girls have lied about where they have been. Have you ever done this? We should never lie to anyone—it's one of God's Ten Commandments!**

Pages 21 and 22 of *My Bible Book* give students opportunities to think about decisions present-day children face related to telling the truth. The following directions tie these two pages together. However, if your students enjoy creative writing, try to save most of your time for page 22.



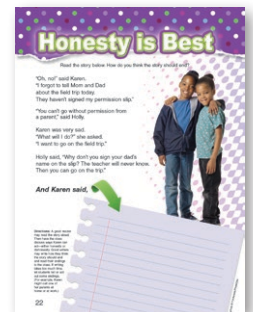
*My Bible Book*, page 21

Divide your students into groups of four. Have students turn to page 21 in *My Bible Book*. Let a volunteer describe what is happening in Picture 1. Then ask the title question, "What Should They Do?" Ask for a volunteer to tell or act out something the child could do to be honest. (1—Tell the man he dropped some money; pick up the money and give it back

to the man.) Repeat this procedure for the remaining three pictures. (2—Tell the boy that would be lying; tell the boy no; 3—Admit that he rode through the flowers; apologize; 4—Admit misspelling four words; say you

didn't do well, study more for the next test or ask your friend for help.) If time is short, discuss one or two of the pictures and then move on to page 22.

**Very good! Now let's see if you can help a girl named Karen. I'll start the story, but I want you to finish it.** Read the story "Honesty Is Best" from page 22 of *My Bible Book*. As time allows, students may write their own endings for the story in the space provided, or the class can discuss possible endings and write one ending together. You could print the ending on the board for students to copy later. **What would God want Karen to do?**



*My Bible Book*, page 22





# 4

## Life Response 5-10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will indicate their desire to be truthful.

Before class, assemble a sample “Truth Telling Goalie” game from *Elementary Kid Crafts*. Use the game for students to practice being truthful.

**Learning to be honest is one of the best ways to live at peace with your family and friends. But being honest is not always easy. Let's create and play a game that can help us practice being honest.**



*Elementary Kid Crafts,*  
Lesson 5



*Elementary Kid Crafts,*  
page 31

Distribute *Kid Crafts* Lesson 5. They will also need the cards from page 31 in their *Kid Crafts* books. Have students make the game according to the directions at the bottom of page 15. Read the directions for how to play on page 15. Then, students can play the game with a partner. Using a straw, students try to blow the marble into the goal. After making a goal, students talk about the scenario on one of the cards.

You may want to provide envelopes or plastic zip-top bags for students to keep their game pieces in.

### CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather the class back together. Use the prayer on page 21 of *My Bible Book* as a group prayer.

You may send home *My Bible Book*, pages 19-22 and the “Truth Telling Goalie” game and pieces. Encourage students to use their games at home to tell friends and family about the importance of honesty.



*My Bible Book*, page 21

