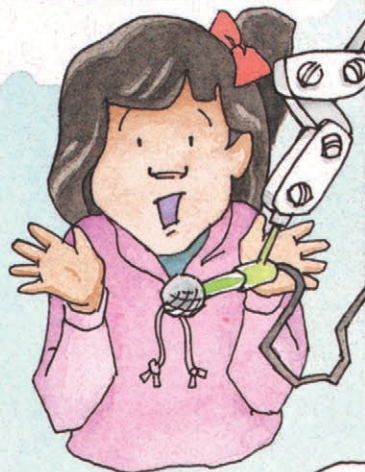


in Disguise

Not all lies are easy to recognize. We hide them with half-truths or things we "forget" to mention. How many disguised lies can you detect in Margie's story?



It wasn't my fault. Honest! I was taking the groceries past the playground, and a bunch of kids were playing ball. Somebody batted the ball through a window, and this mean man came out and started chasing the kids. They ran into me and knocked me down, and I dropped the groceries. Then this dog tore open the bread and eggs.



Can you detect the disguised lies? Use a marker to make an X by anything Margie left out of the story. Underline any half-truths or exaggerations in the story.

TRUTHFUL LIVING



¹Pharisees studied God's law and decided how it should be kept. They tended to believe they were better than those who didn't or couldn't keep all their interpretations of the law. Many Pharisees were good, God-fearing men. Nicodemus and Paul were Pharisees.

One day Jesus was teaching a large group of people. Among them were some angry Pharisees.¹ They didn't believe Jesus was the Savior, and they were worried because people were following Jesus instead of them.



²The Bible often uses images of light and darkness to picture Jesus' power over evil and sin.

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants³ and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Read John 8:12-13. What did Jesus call Himself?² Why didn't the Pharisees believe Him?

Jesus continued to talk about Himself and His heavenly Father. He spoke boldly because He was sure of His relationship with God. More and more people began to believe that Jesus really was the promised Savior.

What do you think Jesus meant by "the truth"? How can the truth set us free? Name a time when telling the truth has set you free.

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

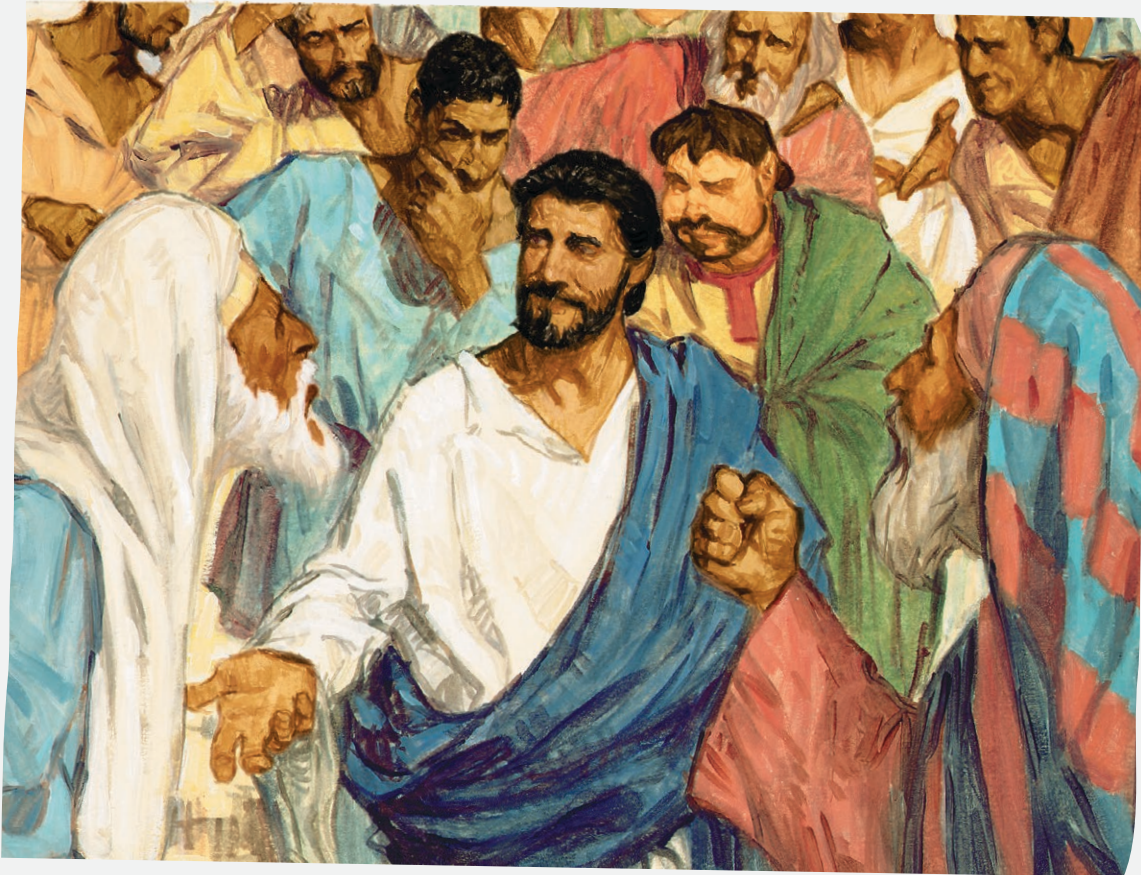


John 8:31-36

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

What were the Pharisees slaves to? How could Jesus set them free?

The Pharisees said they were children of God because Abraham



was their father—their ancestor. But Jesus said that if they were God’s children they would love and believe Him, because God sent Him. If they were God’s children, they would hear what God says just as Abraham did.

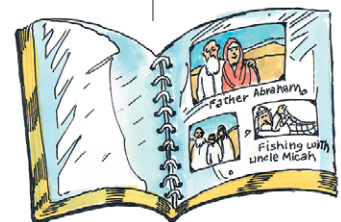
Read John 8:44. Who did Jesus say was the father of the Pharisees? Why? What did Jesus call the devil?

The Pharisees could find no fault in Jesus. But they refused to believe He was the promised Savior. By doing that, they didn’t believe God’s truth.

Look up Ephesians 4:25 and 1 John 3:18-19. What do these verses tell Christians?

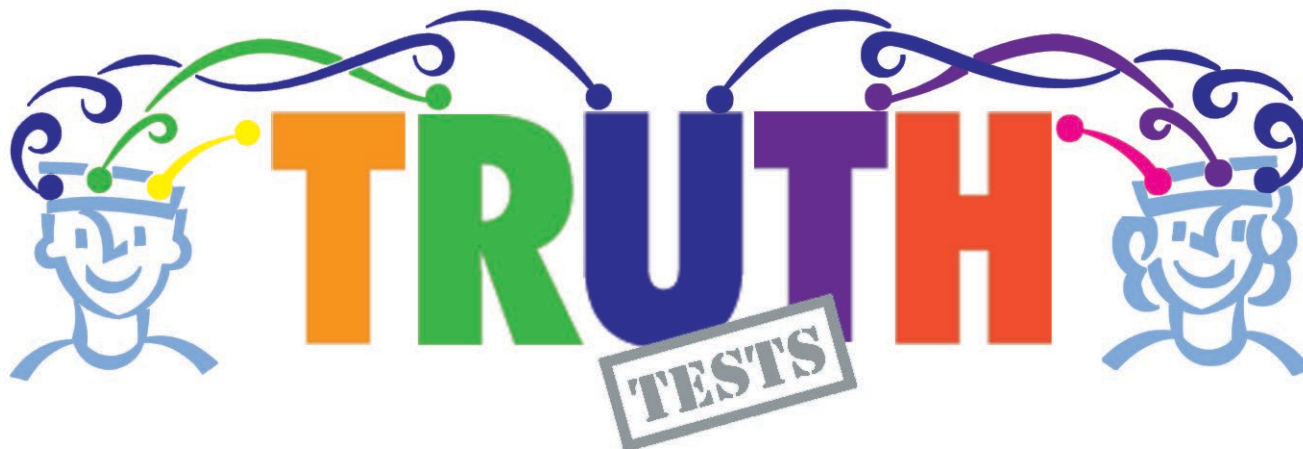
Sometimes it can be frightening to tell the truth. If we do, we may get in trouble, or others may not like us. But the Bible makes it clear that God always tells the truth and keeps His promises. As Christians we want to be like Jesus and His Father, God.

Read Exodus 20:16. Restate this verse in your own words. When is it hardest for you to be truthful?



³Jews, and Pharisees in particular, thought of Abraham as their spiritual and earthly father.





How are you at being truthful? There's lots more to being truthful than not lying. Think about how you'd do on the following truth tests. In the box on each test, rank its level of difficulty for you. Use the numbers below.

- 1 I could pass with flying colors.
- 2 I think I could pass.
- 3 I'd need help and practice to pass.
- 4 It would be really hard for me.

<input type="checkbox"/> TEST 1	<input type="checkbox"/> TEST 2	<input type="checkbox"/> TEST 3
 <p>ADMITTING I'M WRONG (even when it hurts)</p> <p>Logan picked a fight with his younger sister, Alyssa. As soon as Alyssa started crying, their mom came marching into the room. This wasn't going to be easy, but Logan knew he was wrong. "Mom, I'm sorry. I was wrong to start the fight," he admitted.</p>	<p>RETURNING SOMETHING I FIND (even when no one saw me find it)</p> <p>Sydney couldn't believe her eyes. There on the floor was a wallet—with money in it. Sydney looked down the grocery store aisle, and saw a man looking at the shelves of soup. <i>It's his</i>, Sydney thought. Then she ran down the aisle. "Excuse me, sir, I think you dropped this."</p> 	 <p>TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH (even when I could easily avoid it)</p> <p>Jack usually chased his dog, Flash, around the yard. It was great until he chased Flash into Mom's garden. Jack stopped running as soon as he saw his mother. "Flash!" she shouted. Flash slunk away. "Mom," Jack called. "I chased the dog into the garden. I didn't look where we were going."</p>

A PRAYER FOR PASSING MARKS

Complete this prayer to ask God for help in becoming more truthful.

Dear Lord, to be truthful, I need Your help. Please give me courage to be more truthful about

In Jesus' name. Amen.

KEY VERSE

"Speak the truth to each other." Zechariah 8:16