

**Purpose:** Encouraging teens to choose to be a person of honesty.

**Supplies:** Well broken in Bibles *(In this lesson you'll be looking a lot up!)*

**Total Time:** 40-50 minutes

## **ACTIVITY**

### Two Truths and a Lie (10-15 minutes)

Have everyone write three statements on a piece of paper: two true statements and one lie. Before the teens write out their statements, you may want to have yours ready and have them guess which the lie is. Have the leader read the statements and introduce who they are reading about. Have the group figure out each teen's lie. (Remember the best lies have a little bit of truth in them.)

*Give time for the teens to discuss their answers*

1. Was it easier to come up with a lie or truth? Why?
2. Whose was the hardest to guess which the lie was? Why?

## **LARGE GROUP**

(10-15 minutes with story, 10 minutes without story)

Optional: Tell the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. You can find it here: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/BoyCri.shtml>

If reading the story The Boy Who Cried Wolf:

- What does honesty build? *Trust, confidence, credibility, integrity, etc.*
- What does dishonesty tear down? *Trust, confidence, credibility, integrity, etc.*

- Who would you want for a friend, someone who is honest or someone who lies? *Let then teens share.*
- Which type of person are you? *See what the teens share. For that tough kid who says they want to be a liar, ask questions to encourage them to talk about why they would choose that life.*

How would life be different if you couldn't lie? *Give time for the group to discuss their thoughts as you prepare the next video from the movie The Invention of Lying. Background to the movie: the lead character is in a world where everyone speaks the truth and whatever is on their minds. Until one day when he realizes the "power" in lies.*

VIDEO: *The Invention of Lying* (3:38 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXYvwEeWrm8&feature=related>

1. Why do you think we lie?
2. What happens after one lie is told? We lie again and again to cover the first lie.

## SMALL GROUP

(20-30 minutes)

Let's see what God has to say about the words we chose to use. Hold on, because we are going to look up many verses so that we have a better understanding of why we lie, how it gets into our life, and what can we do about it!

- Read John 8:44 & Matthew 15:17-19. **What do these verses say about where lying comes from?** Lying is rooted in the Devil and allowing his influence into our hearts has an effect on us. Once we've allowed that influence to hang out and soak into our hearts, at some point, it's coming out of our mouths. So, lying comes from our own desires of our hearts!
- Read Proverbs 19:9. **What are the results of lying?** Won't go unpunished! It could lead to them being harmed, lost or destroyed.
- Read Proverbs 12:22. **What is God's view on lying?** He hates lies! But it delights him and makes Him very pleased with us when we speak the truth.
- How can someone change from being a liar to someone who strives to be an honest person? *See what the teens come up with.*

- CHANGE STARTS HERE!
- Read Proverbs 8:6-8. **What does God say we need to do?** Commit yourself to speaking the truth. Tell God that's who you want to be and stick with it!
- Read Psalm 34:11-14. **What does God say we need to do?** Turn away from it! This is hard! But each day you're going to have to pray and remind yourself that you are choosing a different path in life. Remember Proverbs 12:22 when God says, "He delights in those who speak the truth." So, turn your back on lying!
- Read Proverbs 15:28. **What does God say we need to do?** Think before we speak. Again, this can be very hard. But do your best to make yourself think about the words coming out of your mouth.

## WRAP UP

Read Matthew 22:16. **Have you ever met someone like this?** *See what their responses are. Do you know people that are the complete opposite?* *Again just let the teens share but out of respect, no names.*

Because of Jesus' example to come to this earth, live among sinful people, be rejected by his own family, to be spit in the face, called liar, and to finally die an inhumane death, we can see that it's not possible to live a life that's pleasing to God the Father. Not easy to do! BUT well worth the effort.

How about you? What kind of person do you want to be? A liar on the road to destroying himself? OR do you want to be an honest person that brings a huge smile to God's face because He is very pleased with you? *Not a question to answer out loud. Pray and then be available for those that need/want to talk.*

## CHALLENGE

Read Psalm 34 three times before your next meeting. Add more of a challenge and encourage them to memorize Psalm 34: 11-14.

*Have the "Change starts here" sections printed out just in case a few teens would like to take that with them.*

## SALVATION VERSES