

Acts of Worship

Virtue: Honesty

I tell the truth. I am reliable and trustworthy. My actions match my words. I am honest with myself and others, even when it is difficult.

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth

Crucifix

Candle

Pebbles

Transparent bowl of water

Word: Proverbs 12:17-20

Introduction:

Play or retell the story of 'The boy who cried wolf'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKWktweAZbo>

or read the poem, 'Matilda, who told lies and was burned to death' by Hilaire Belloc

Why did the boy/ Matilda lie? Why do other people sometimes lie? Should we lie?

Sometimes people lie to get themselves out of trouble, to make themselves sound better, to exaggerate their achievements.

What happens when we lie? It damages relationships.

Read the extract from Proverbs:

'An honest witness tells the truth,
but a false witness tells lies.

The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil,
but those who promote peace have joy.'

Response to/reflection on the Word

Re-read the phrase: 'The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.'

What damage do lies cause? How does it feel to be lied to?

Drop a large pebble into a transparent bowl of water. Watch the ripples spread. Has anyone ever told a small lie, that has then spread and got out of control, affecting lots of people?

Lies can quickly grow and it can be difficult to take them back.

Repeat dropping the pebble in the water – this time talk about the positivity truth can have – if people can trust what you say and how you act, then relationships are strengthened.

Let's pray together:

Heavenly Father,

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Help us to be honest in all that we do, say and think. Give me the courage to tell the truth, even when it is difficult.

Amen.

Going forth

Give each class a pebble for their focal point, to remind them of always trying to be honest and truthful.

Ideas for music:

God is love, his the care

Let there be love shared among us (change one of verses to 'truth shared among us')

Peace is flowing like a river (include a verse on truth)

Peace, perfect peace (include a verse on truth)

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NB: There will be some preparation for the volunteers needed, and a white robe for 'God' to wear.

Word: Ephesians 4:25

Introduction:

Have one person dressed in white standing with arms open (representing God). Have two volunteers to stand back to back to each other. Each of them take in turns to tell a lie (e.g. I didn't smash your window. I didn't take your pencil, etc) Each time, one of them tells a lie, take one step away from each other and God.

What is happening to the relationship between the two people?

Lying damages our relationship with God and with each other.

Read the word with the children:

'Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body'

Response to/reflection on the Word

Repeat the drama. This time, have the volunteers tell the truth. As they do so, have them step closer to each other and closer to God. Point out that God never moves away from us, we move away from Him. He loves us no matter what we do. He is always there to forgive us and welcome us back into a loving relationship.

Display the Act of sorrow and pray this with the children.

Going forth

Ask the children to be aware of the times they tell the truth this week.

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Word: Proverbs 11:3

'If you are good, you are guided by honesty.'

Response to/reflection on the Word

Where do we get our guides from? Our rules for living? Link to the Old Testament and Ten Commandments: 'Do not steal. Do not lie about others.'

Why do we think about honesty when we say 'do not steal'?

Have you ever lied or exaggerated about others? Link to social media and gossip – discuss how this can be untrue and hurtful, but taken as fact. How does this make them feel?

Let us pray to our heavenly Father.

We ask Him to guide world leaders to lead with honesty and truth.

Lord hear us

We ask Him to help us to be guided by honesty;

Lord hear us.

Help us to speak well of others and to be honest with ourselves.

Lord hear us.

We ask our Lady to take these prayers to our Father as we say, Hail Mary....

Going forth

This week we will try to make sure all our words, especially those about others, are truthful, honest and kind.

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