

WEEK TEN

RULE 9: YOU MUST NOT TELL LIES

BIG IDEA

Do not tell false

STORIES ABOUT OTHERS

A LESSON FROM ABRAHAM AND SARAH

PREP: (Kids can help!)

- Put several stones in a small bag (the treasure bag).
- Find a ball of string or wool, and before family time, unravel it taking it into different rooms (or outside around trees etc) until it leads to where you have hidden the 'treasure' bag.
- Buy a packet of gold treats (e.g. small Crunchie bars) and hide them in a separate place.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A tube of toothpaste (or if your children have played this game, use a cylinder of glitter instead).
- Small plate.



INTRO

- Lay out together the commandments from your jar.

Before we start Faith Box today, you have some treasure to find. When you've found the treasure, bring it back and show us the yummy treat!

- Choose someone wearing red to be the leader, give them the end of the string, and ask them to follow it to the treasure.

When the children bring back the bag of stones, they will be indignant that it is not treasure but just stones and that it isn't yummy!

Well I just thought that I would tell you a lie today. Is there something wrong with that? But it was just a little lie. Why are you upset about that?

- Now bring out the 9th commandment – you must not lie.

You are right to be upset because the 9th commandment says "You must not tell lies."

We're going to talk about being a truthful person and later I will tell you the truth about where the real 'treasure' is! But first we have a game.

GAME

Two Truths and a Lie

- Start with Mum and Dad.

Each person tells three things about themselves. But two things have to be truthful and one has to be a lie. Everyone else has to guess which one is the lie.

Those were made up stories about ourselves and it was fun to trick each other and we all knew it was just a game. But God says we mustn't ever make up stories about other people that aren't true. He says this is very serious because we destroy other people's reputations, and other people may believe lies about them.

The horrible thing with lies is that they always have consequences. Whether we text a lie or actually say it, it begins a chain of events, that usually ends up with someone being hurt. Often it means that we tell other lies to cover up the first one.

ACTIVITY

- Take out the tube of toothpaste.
- Give to the youngest child and let them squeeze some toothpaste onto the plate (or sprinkle some glitter). Let everyone else have a turn squeezing out some more.



When everyone has had a turn, set the next challenge.

- Now I will give 50 cents to anyone who can put the toothpaste (glitter) back into the tube. Let everyone have a go and realise for themselves that it is an impossible task.

That is what happens when we tell lies – We can say sorry but we can never take the words back and put them back inside us.

When we lie, we are usually left with a mess.

The 9th commandment is to not tell lies. Even when we don't know how to get out of a situation, we do have other choices. It is always better to tell the truth.

- **What sort of lies do you sometimes feel tempted to tell?**

- **What sort of lies do other kids sometimes tell?**
- **If you have lied about something, what is the best thing to do to put it right?**

(Go to someone we trust and tell them the truth. Then it can be put right.) We cannot put the words back, but like the toothpaste, we can help to clean up the mess.

- Everyone help to clean up the mess with a paper towel

READ

In this story Sarah and Abraham told a big lie because they were afraid, and it ended up hurting a lot of other people.

“A terrible famine came to the land of Canaan. Food wouldn't grow anywhere. So Abram went to Egypt, where there was food. But as he came near Egypt, Abram began to worry. “You are very beautiful,” he said to his wife, Sarai. “The Egyptians will notice. They may want to kill me to get to you.”

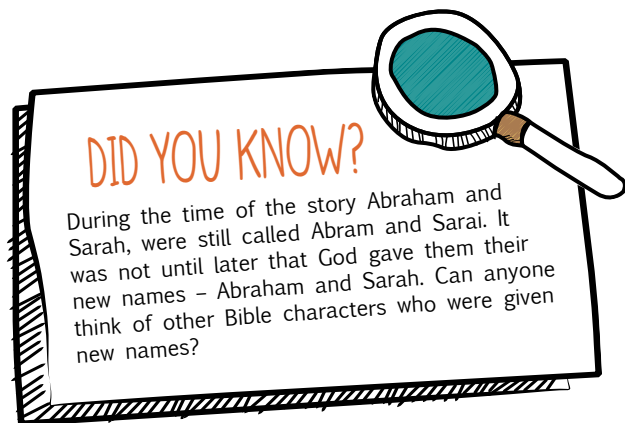
Then Abram came up with a plan. It was not a good plan, but he thought it might work. “We will tell everyone you are my sister,” he said. “The Egyptians won't kill me. They will even treat me well because of you.” So that is what Abram and Sarai did. It was partly a lie and partly true, for Sarai was Abram's half-sister. But she was also his wife.

Things happened the way Abram thought they would. When they came to Egypt, the Egyptians noticed how beautiful Sarai was. Before long the king's helpers told the king about her.

The king, who was called Pharaoh, planned to make Sarai his wife. He gave Abram many gifts, because of Sarai. There were sheep, oxen, donkeys, camels, and even slaves.

But the Lord set a terrible plague to the people

WEEK TEN



DID YOU KNOW?

During the time of the story Abraham and Sarah, were still called Abram and Sarai. It was not until later that God gave them their new names – Abraham and Sarah. Can anyone think of other Bible characters who were given new names?

in Pharaoh's household. Bad things happened to everyone there. Somehow Pharaoh learned the truth. The plague came because Sarai was there. She was Abram's wife.

Pharaoh called for Abram. What have you done to me?" he demanded.

"Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? Why were you willing to let me marry your wife? Take your wife and get out of Egypt!"

Pharaoh sent armed guards along with Abram and Sarai to make sure they left Egypt. But he let Abram keep all his gifts. Now Abram was an even richer man than before. But Abram must have wondered many times, "Why did I lie about my wife? What did God think about that?"))

From Genesis 12:10-20

FAMILY TALK TIME

Abram and Sarai's lie caused horrible consequences. They must have thought their only option was to tell a lie because they felt powerless and scared. But their lie made a whole palace full of people get sick and

Pharaoh really angry because it nearly caused him to take someone else's wife.

Questions:

- What else could Sarah and Abraham have done?
- Which of these people were hurt by Abram's lie (Abram, Sarah, Pharaoh, Pharaoh's people, Abrams's servants?)

God wants us to trust him completely and not make up our own schemes that go against what we know God would want us to do. Abram and Sarai should have trusted God and told the truth. Abraham learned an important lesson.

- Have you ever lied because you were afraid or felt as if you were pushed into a corner?

Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever we say and do.

Questions:

- What happens when we lie or are dishonest?

Living a life of honesty shows we respect God and the people we care about.

If we get into a habit of lying, people don't trust us anymore and sometimes won't believe us even when we are telling the truth.

Now I am going to be honest and tell you where the real bag of treasure is!

- Choose a child to follow your instructions and find the hidden Crunchie bars.

PRAY

- Each hold a gold Crunchie bar, and thank God for reminding us that being honest and having a good reputation is more valuable than gold. Each then ask God to help them never dishonour His name by telling lies.

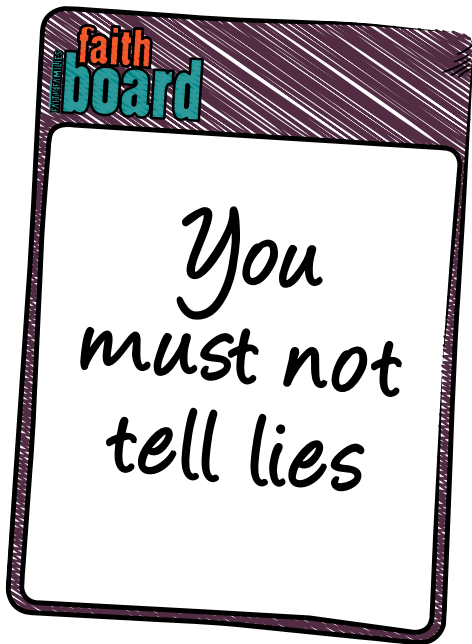
☺ ANYONE WHO DOESN'T TAKE TRUTH SERIOUSLY IN SMALL MATTERS CANNOT BE TRUSTED IN LARGE ONES EITHER. ☺

- ALBERT EINSTEIN -

LIVE

Learn this simple family slogan about truth telling and practice saying it each tea time this week:

*Tell the truth, and tell it ever,
Cost us what it will.
For he who hides the wrong he did,
Does the wrong thing still.*



OTHER IDEAS

• Activity

When we lie our words become bigger than they ever should have been.

Take some baking soda, paper towel and the teaspoon.

Measure a teaspoon of baking soda – show how it looks very plain and not very important. That is how our words can seem at first.

Wrap the baking soda in the paper towel. This is like what happens when we think up a lie –it still has not done anything.

Take a ziplock plastic bag and in it put 1/2 cup vinegar mixed with 1/4 cup warm water.

Put the package into the bag and partly close it.

This is like what happens when the 'lying words' come out of our mouth.

It may take a little bit of time – but there are consequences and usually a mess!

- **Play True or Not True.** Come up with a few statements and ask your children to identify which are true and which are not true. Statements like, "I ate a dinosaur for lunch" and "I have blue eyes" will keep the game fun while helping them understand the difference between reality and fantasy.
- **Being Loving and Tactful** – If you have older children you may want to talk with them whether sometimes it is more loving to say nothing, and when it is better to find something encouraging to say. E.g. when you are given a gift you don't like, it is better to say something nice than telling the truth about not liking the gift.
- **Read this week.** *The Boy who cried Wolf.* Or *George Washington and the Cherry Tree.*

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

