

LIAR, LIAR



1. Who would you consider to be the most honest? Why?
Check as many as you want.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the President of the United States | <input type="checkbox"/> your best friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a door-to-door salesman | <input type="checkbox"/> a teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a minister | <input type="checkbox"/> a music star |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a celebrity in a TV commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> a police officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your parents | <input type="checkbox"/> your boyfriend or girlfriend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a school counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> you |

2. What is a **white lie**?

3. Most would say the following are dishonest statements. Rate them from **most dishonest (1)** to the **least (10)**.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lying to parents so you can go out. | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoplifting a gift for someone. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating on a test. | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving a fake excuse to a teacher. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping the money when a cashier gives you too much change. | <input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing something and not returning it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreading a rumor when it's not true. | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting a friend by lying. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making illegal copies of a CD or video tape. | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving false info about yourself in an online chatroom. |

4. Natalie lied to her parents about where she spent the afternoon. She knew that if she told her parents the truth, they would be disappointed and angry. Her parents believed her and nothing more was said.

What do you think of Natalie's actions?

What would you do if you were Natalie?

5. Read the following Bible verses and decide if each one is an example of honesty or dishonesty.

Genesis 12:10-13

1 Samuel 12:1-5

Amos 8:4-5

Luke 19:5-8

Acts 5:1-2

2 Corinthians 8:19-21

LIAR, LIAR [honesty]

THIS WEEK

It's easy to get away with being dishonest these days. One can easily fake it in an online chat room, shoplift small items at the store, or fib to parents. But dishonesty is more than just telling lies. As young people get older, they start to wrestle with honesty as a value. They must decide whether or not to be a completely honest person.

OPENER

How well does your group know each other? Try playing Two Truths and a Lie. Have the kids write three statements about themselves, two of which are true and one of which is not. If the kids choose two truths that sound like lies and a lie that sounds good, they'll be able to fool the group. The group must try to guess which one of the three is a lie.

Another idea is to conduct a lying contest. Have a contest to find out who can tell the biggest lie. After each student has told his fib, vote on the best tall tale. Give a prize to the winner, or simply announce you'll give \$100 to the winner—then later admit that you lied!

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. The main issue here is trust. Who do they trust to tell the truth? If there are those on the list that the group thinks is dishonest, ask them why. It will probably be due to a past experience with dishonesty. Trust takes time to develop and they destroy it when they are dishonest with each other.
2. Allow enough time for the group to share and discuss their opinions. You may want to discuss "white" and "black" lies, asking the kids to give examples of each and why they feel they are permissible lies or not. You may want to discuss the kind of lies that are considered "good"—such as telling someone they look nice when they don't or lying to protect a friend from harm. Is this right or wrong?
3. Ask the kids to share their rankings and to give reasons for their choices. There may be considerable difference of opinion here, so allow time for debate.
4. This attention-getter will give you a real-life situation to discuss with the kids. Ask them to decide what Natalie should have done and what she should do now. Ask them to consider all the possible consequences of this kind of dishonesty. Even though Natalie got away with it, there is no way of knowing what might happen as a result.

On the other hand, everyone knows the result of being completely honest.

5. These verses examine different aspects of honesty. Discuss each one as you study what God has to say about honesty.

THE CLOSE

You maybe want to focus some of your closing remarks on the consequences of honesty and dishonesty. How can dishonesty blow up in your face? Help your group understand that one lie tends to lead to another. And being known as a dishonest person can ruin your reputation and your sense of self-worth. One of the key characteristics of a Christian is honesty and being trustworthy. How can they imitate Christ? By being truthful and honest as he was. Remind them that God will forgive and forget them for past lies.

MORE

- Challenge your kids to ask their parents for a story of when they weren't completely truthful as teenagers, and what happened as a result. Parents often have some funny (or not so funny) stories to share. Have your kids get one honesty tip from their parents to bring next time and compile those for all to see.
- On a whiteboard or poster board, have your kids list character traits of a dishonest and honest person. How can they tell if someone is being dishonest? What traits of honesty are the most important? How does one's credibility affect how others see them?
- While they are watching TV, listening to the radio, reading magazines, and surfing the Internet this week, have your kids look for dishonesty in the media. How does the media use dishonesty to sell products, make money, or lie to the public? In what ways is the media dishonest? Are there specific TV shows, advertised brands, or Web sites that are not credible?