



Bible Story: Say Anything (No Secrets with God) • **1 John 1:9**

Bottom Line: Being truthful with God keeps you close to Him.

Memory Verse: *Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)*

Life App: Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Read **1 John 1:9**

What You Say: This month we are learning about integrity: choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do. Sometimes things happen that might take us by surprise; we have to choose to respond in a way that helps us stay truthful. Often when we mess up, we want to hide what we've done. We try to cover it up. But when we mess up, we don't have to be afraid to tell God what we've done wrong. He wants us to talk to Him about everything—even when we mess up. We don't have to try to hide. 1 John 1:9 tells us God will forgive every wrong thing we have done. We can live with integrity when we own up to our mistakes and choose to tell the truth. God will forgive us and make us pure.

When we've done something wrong, talk to God and ask Him for forgiveness. We can be truthful; we don't have to hide. We do have to face the consequences. But we never have to worry about whether God loves us! He will always love you and forgive you!

2. Turnin' It Around

What You Need: Magnets and metal objects

What You Do:

- Find magnets and metal objects in your home.
- Let kids discover how to attract the objects to the magnets.
- Hold up two magnets for the kids to see. Flip one magnet over and show the kids what happens when you try to push them together.
- Let the kids partner up with their magnets. Encourage partners to move their magnets close to each other until they click together.
- Then, instruct one partner to turn their magnet over and try to connect them again.
- Discuss the following:
 - What happened with your magnets the first time when they faced each other?
 - What happened the second time when you turned one magnet in the opposite direction?
 - Why do you think the magnets refused to go together the second time?
- Ask the kids to hold up the two magnets with one facing in the opposite direction.

- Point out how this is a picture of our relationship with God when we mess up and try to hide what we've done. Our dishonesty separates us from God.
- Then, ask the kids to flip the magnet over so they come together.
- Talk about how when we are honest about what we've done (when we confess and tell the truth) and turn to God, we can have a right relationship with Him.

What You Say:

"In our Bible story today, we talked about how we ALL mess up. You mess up. I mess up. Your parents and grandparents, siblings and cousins, teachers and coaches—EVERYONE messes up. We all at some point think our way is better than God's way, and we choose to be dishonest. And a lot of the time, when we mess up, we try to hide what we've done OR we try to make up for it by doing lots of other good things.

"But the awesome, amazing, wonderful thing about following God is that we don't EVER have to be afraid to tell Him when we've messed up. He knows, anyway. And when we're honest, it's like turning that magnet around. When we turn back to God, He always forgives, always accepts, always offers His love to us. So remember this week, if you're tempted to keep something from God, or you find yourself acting like it's no big deal, think about these magnets and remember that **[Bottom Line] being truthful with God keeps you close to Him.**"

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Ask:

- What do you usually talk to God about? What do you pray about?
- How does talking to God affect your relationship with Him? (To spark discussion, **ask:** how does talking to your friend affect your relationship with them? What would happen if you decided to ignore your friend? *(This is an opportunity to emphasize that talking to God helps you to know Him better and to stay close to Him. Just like if you ignored a friend, if you didn't talk to God you would miss opportunities to know Him.)*)
- When is it hard to talk to God? Why can it be hard to talk to God?
- Is there anything we can hide from God? If God knows everything, why talk to Him?

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with

- **What You Do:** As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (**James 5:16b**). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into
- Pray together that God would help us be honest because **[Bottom Line] being truthful with God keeps you close to Him.**
- Allow anyone who would like to pray aloud to do so. Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us, NO matter what. You always listen, always forgive, always love, even when we mess up. This week, help us be honest with You and admit when we've messed up, knowing that You will forgive us. We love You. Thanks for loving us, no matter what. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."