



Truthfulness - content ideas for primary school collective worship

Definition: Truth matters. As individuals, being truthful means that we can grow and mature, learning from our mistakes. For society, truthfulness makes social bonds, and lying breaks them. If you doubt this, consider what happens when you find out that someone has lied to you. You feel less inclined to trust them next time, and also less inclined to trust other people more generally. Truthfulness is important because God is the God of truth.



Key Bible Character - Zaccheus

Zaccheus had a life changing encounter with Jesus. As a tax collector he was dishonest and unpopular. After Jesus visited his house, he changed. He pledged to give away half of what he had. In addition, he stated he would surrender everything he had ever stolen. He acknowledged he had made many mistakes in the past. He became truthful in his interactions with others.

Questions – What does it mean to be truthful? Is telling the truth always the right thing to do? Is being truthful always easy? What are the consequences of not being truthful?

Key Bible verse:

Tell the truth to each other.' Zechariah 8.16

	Bible stories and verses linked to truthfulness	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	Jesus forgives Peter	John 21:1-19 video	After Peter had lied and said that he didn't know Jesus he went and cried. He felt so awful about what he had done. But when he met Jesus again after the resurrection, he was given a second chance. Jesus gave Peter a chance to put things right. What about us? We are ordinary people like Peter was, who will mess up from time to time. The good news is that even when we have messed up, Christians believe Jesus still loves us and wants us to be his followers.
2	Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace The Lion Storybook Bible -The Men who liked to say no p.74	Daniel 3:16-28 video	Daniel believed in something so strongly that he was willing to risk everything – even his life – to stand up for that truth. In the story,

			God honoured him for his truthfulness and saved him from the lions. Christians believe this sets us a good example to try to stand up for the truth on all occasions and to know God will be with us in that decision to tell the truth. It might be easier to tell a little lie on occasions, but one lie often leads to another and this can often mean that lots of people get hurt in the process. It would be good to aim to be like Daniel and to tell the truth on all occasions.
3	Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:27-33 and Genesis 27:1-40 watch this	Jacob was used to dealing with his problems by running away from them. But now he had a choice to make. Would he continue running, or trust that God would pull through for him despite his many mistakes and be truthful? He chose to turn to God, but this decision wasn't an easy one.
4	Speak the truth in a spirit of love	Ephesians 4:15	In the Bible St Paul writes to his friends and says 'speak the truth in a spirit of love.' When we know someone will tell us the truth, and never say one thing to our face and something different to someone else, that person is like this open book. They are easy to read. When someone tells us one thing to our face and another behind our back, that person is like a closed book.....hard to read. The Bible teaches to love truth and to tell the truth with an attitude of love even when it's hard
5	Good people know the right thing to say It can be a great joy to find the right word for a situation	Proverbs 10.32 and 15.23	Just as the doctor chooses medicine carefully, the right medicine for the right complaint, so it is important that words are carefully chosen. The right word can heal like medicine. Christians ask God for help to know the right things to say. Read the proverbs.
6	People go around telling lies. They wink with their eyes and beckon with their fingers. They make gestures to deceive people, all the while stirring up trouble.	Proverbs 6:12-14	Gestures are a form of silent communication. They can be positive like hand signals used by police. Or they can be negative and lie or insult people. There is more than one way of lying. A person can lie by their actions not just their words. A person can wink and laugh making out something is a joke when it is serious. People can open their eyes wide and look innocent when they are really guilty. People can point to a person and indicate they started a fight when they really didn't.
7	By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every	Matthew 7:16-20	Finding out what a person is like on their inside (their true character) is like being a detective. How can you tell what someone

	good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.		is like on the inside? We have to look at their actions. If someone produces loving behaviour, they are probably not a bad person. Jesus said a person is like a tree. You tell what type of tree it is by its fruit. Good trees produce good fruit. Rotten trees produce rotten fruit. In a similar way you tell a person by their actions. Good people produce good actions. The fruits found in the bible are in Galatians 5:22-23
8	Smooth words may hide a wicked heart, just as a pretty glaze covers a clay pot.	Proverbs 26.23	A clay pot can have glaze or no glaze. Glaze covers the cheap material the pot is made from and makes it look good. Insincerity is when words are used to cover bad thoughts or actions just as glaze covers clay. It is when thoughts don't match words or actions. It would be insincere if someone said they liked you but inside were thinking horrible thoughts about you. Jesus said insincere people were like cups which had been washed on the outside but were still dirty on the inside (Matthew 23:25-6). The Bible says that people should match their thoughts, their words and their actions so others know what they are really like.
9	Jesus said 'I am the light of the world.'	John 8.12	When someone tells the truth it is as if a light has been switched on and things are clearer to see. If someone tries to hide the truth it becomes confusing and harder to work out what is real or true. Sometimes we only see part of the picture and part of the truth can be misleading.
10	Adam and Eve	Genesis 3 watch	When Adam and Eve sinned they experienced a breakdown in their relationship with God and with one another. They tried to hide from God and they were uncomfortable with their nakedness before one another. When God confronted Adam, he blamed Eve for his sin and she blamed the serpent. We all have struggled with communication ever since. When you think about it, it's ridiculous not to be honest before God, because Christians believe he knows our every thought. But we still try to hide the wrong things we do from ourselves.

11	The Ten Commandments – ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.’	Exodus 20:16	With this commandment, God wants us to tell the truth about our neighbours, about the people in our lives. When we cheat, make excuses, sneak around to do something naughty so we don’t get caught, or leave out a part of the truth, we are lying. In all these things we make ourselves untrustworthy. When we lie, people won’t want to trust us. Lying hurts our relationships with others, because people can’t trust us when we aren’t truthful. Honesty protects our relationships with our neighbours.
12	Jesus and Zaccheaus	watch Luke 19:1-10	During Jesus’ visit to Zacchaeus’ house, he pledged to give away half of what he had. In addition, he stated he would surrender everything he had ever stolen. He acknowledged that he had made a mistake but realized what he had done. To follow Jesus, he had a complete conversion of heart. He became truthful in his interactions with others.