KidSlot #8
Honesty

Lessons are available at http://www.yorkalliance.org/resources/kidslot for you to print copies of the necessary materials for each child in your group.

Materials Needed
- Ball of yarn
- Bucket or large cooking pot (about 8 inches across)
- one quarter
- enough pennies for each child to have one
- paper

Today's Objective
Children will know that honesty is one of the character traits that Jesus wants in our lives. They should always tell the truth.

Scripture
Proverbs 12:22 The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful.
Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to each other.
Psalm 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Introductory Activity
Oh, What A Tangled Web We Weave!
Arrange ahead of time to have a child help you with this demonstration. Secretly ask the child to give false answers to each question that you ask. This will begin after he/she has taken a seat in a chair in the front of the group.

Have the child come up and take a seat in a chair in the front. Next, ask the seated child a simple question such as, "Why didn't you get your homework done for today?" As she answers with a lie, such as the dog ate my homework, wrap a long string of yarn around her once. Then ask a follow-up question based on her reply, such as "How did the dog get your homework?" As she makes up another answer, wrap the yarn around her again. Continue to ask follow-up questions until she is entangled in a web of yarn. After the class has observed the situation, explain that you asked this person to make up answers to all your questions (to lie). Discuss the following with the class:
   1. Ask them if they can see what telling lies can do to someone. Emphasize how one lie usually leads to another and how quickly we can become trapped and embarrassed by lies.
   2. Ask them what will be experienced by the person who always tells the truth (not having to remember what your last lie was or how to cover it up, peace of mind, and feeling good about oneself.)
   3. Ask the students to tell about a time when they were caught in a lie and had to tell another lie in order to cover it up.
   4. Ask why it is important for us to always tell the truth (trust, respect, because it's the right thing to do.)

(10-Minute Life Lesson, by Jaime Miller)

Bible Lesson and Activities

1. Have children find and read Proverbs 12:22, Colossians 3:9 and Psalm 34:13. Discuss these verses for a few minutes.

2. Discussion questions - Use some or all of the following questions below. Be sure to end with the FINAL question.
   • What is a lie?
   • How do you know someone is lying? Do you always know?
   • Why do people lie?
• Does God ever lie? (Point children to Titus 1:2 - God does not lie)
• What does God think of lying lips? (detests = hate)
• What does God feel toward those who tell the truth?
• Have you ever lied to keep from getting into trouble?
• Is it worse to get caught for doing something wrong or lying to cover it up?
• Have you ever gotten caught lying by your parents? What happened?
• Has God ever known that you were lying? How do think He felt?
• Is it OK to lie if no one knows?
• Why is it important that we tell the truth to each other?
• What do you lie to your friends about?
• What do kids lie to parents about?
• If someone lies a lot to you, do you ever wonder when they’re telling the truth?
• If you lie a lot, will your parents and friends trust you?
• What happens when others don’t trust you?
• What could happen if you have a job and lie to your boss?
• What could happen if you are in court and lie?
• What happens to your friends and family when you lie?
• What happens between you and God when you lie?
• Is lying worth the consequences?
• If you want God to delight in you, what should you do according to Proverbs 12:22?
• How can you keep you tongue from speaking lies?
• Do you need to ask God to forgive you for lying?
• Do you need to ask someone else to forgive you for lying?
• What is the difference between making up a story and telling a lie?
• FINAL question - What do you think Jesus wants to say to you tonight about lying?

Creative Application

Truth or Lie Game
Remind children that sometimes it is difficult for other people to know if you are lying or not. Tell them that we are going to play a game to see how this is true. Tell each person that when it is their turn they have to tell one thing that is true about themselves and one thing that is not true. Then have children guess which is true and which is a lie.

Example:
I was born in Texas. I have an uncle named Joe.
I like to read. I have a cousin named Susan.

Remind children that they may be able to fool one another but they can never fool God. He always knows when they are telling the truth and they should want to please Him.

The Cover Up
Fill a bucket with 6 – 8 inches of water and put a quarter at the bottom in the center. Begin by saying that telling a lie may seem like a simple way out of a problem. However, usually when we tell a lie we end up telling even more lies in order to cover up the first lie. (Give an example, either made up or from your own personal experience.)

Explain to the children that their challenge is to cover up the quarter by using a penny. Have children come up one at a time and try to drop their penny (from at least 2 inches above the water) into the bucket and try to cover up the quarter. After everyone has had a turn to drop a penny in the bucket discuss the following questions:
1. How well did the penny cover the quarter?
2. How many actually landed on the quarter?
3. How does this activity compare to trying to cover up a lie that we told?
4. Does someone have to tell more lies to cover up the first lie?
5. What happens when you are caught lying?
6. How easy is it for others to trust you again?
7. Why is telling the truth easier than lying even if the truth may get you in trouble?
(Activities That Teach Family Values, by Tom Jackson)

**Prayer**

Lead children in a time of prayer about being truthful. Encourage them to take a few seconds to ask God to forgive them for lying to people in the past. Have children stand in a circle and have each child pray for the person next to them to be truthful.

After your prayer time you may want to remind children that they may have to ask their parents or others for forgiveness for lying to them in the past.

**Closure**

Who Will Know?
Use the attached sheet entitled "Who Will Know" for further discussion.

Coloring Pages
If there is time, there are coloring pages included if needed.
“Come on, Greg. No one's going to know,” Michael said as they walked to Michael's house after school.

“But I told my mom I'd be going to your house after school,” Greg said.

Greg's mom and dad were both at work. His parents thought he was old enough to be by himself. They trusted him.

“Greg, there's nothing to do at my house. Let's go over to the pizza restaurant, play a few video games, and come straight back. Then you'll still be at my house like you told your mom. No problem,” Michael said.

Greg thought about it. He didn’t like lying to his parents. But he would be at Michael's house like he said. Just not all of the time. It would be fun to play video games. Besides, Michael was right. His parents would never find out.
WHO WILL KNOW?

Directions: Read each of the following questions. After each question, read the answers and circle one. You may circle more than one answer if you wish.

1. How is Greg not being honest with his mom by going to the pizza restaurant with Michael?
   a. Greg did not have permission to go to the pizza restaurant.
   b. Greg should tell his mom everything he does.
   c. Greg’s mom would be worried if she tried to contact him and could not find him.
   d. His mom thinks he is at Michael’s house.

2. What are some other ways kids are dishonest with their parents?
   a. Lying about getting homework done.
   b. Blaming something on someone else.
   c. Making an excuse for a big mistake.
   d. Watching TV shows they are not allowed to watch.

3. How would Greg’s mom feel if she knew he had gone to the pizza restaurant?
   a. She would be sad.
   b. She would be really angry.
   c. She wouldn’t care that much.
   d. She would feel hurt.

4. What else could Greg have done?
   a. There is nothing else he could have done.
   b. Greg could have suggested some fun activities that they could have done at Michael’s house.
   c. Called his mom first to get permission.
   d. Told Michael he would go straight home if Michael kept pushing him to go play video games at the pizza restaurant.
Speak the truth to each other. Zechariah 8:16 (NIV)