

Honesty Assembly

Props needed: a "Truth" and a "Lie" sign, a set of playballs

1 Introduce self.

Some things about me: I'm an Olympic gymnast
I work the local church
I once ran the London Marathon
I'm a clown at the circus in my spare time
I have purple hair

2 Actually, those things aren't all true!

Game - which was a truth & which was a lie - get children to vote on each statement, then reveal which it was by using the signs

3 Some lies are easier to spot than others. You can see I don't have purple hair, but you wouldn't know whether I was an Olympic gymnast! Some lies are little ones, sometimes called "little white lies". They seem quite harmless at the time but they can end up getting you into a lot of trouble.

4 Ask for volunteer. Establish which pet they don't have (eg. Don't have a dog) then ask them a series of questions where they will have to lie.

Do you have a dog? (get them to say yes to this one)
What's it called?
Where does it sleep?
Who walks it?
What do you do with it when you go on holiday?
What does it eat?

Each time they lie, give them a ball to hold. Eventually, they will drop all the balls!

You see, one little lie could seem harmless enough, but to avoid getting caught out, you might have to keep lying! Eventually, it all falls apart

5 Christians believe that you should tell the truth all the time, even when it's really difficult! There is a part of the Bible that tells us about Jesus' friend, Peter. Jesus and Peter were really good friends, and Peter promised to follow Jesus and do everything that he did. But one day, Jesus was arrested and put in jail. Peter was outside and people started to ask him if he knew Jesus. That was really difficult, because Peter was scared that they might take him off to jail too! So he said "No, I don't know him". Then someone else came up and asked if he knew Jesus. He said no again! Then a third time, someone said "I'm sure I saw you with Jesus" and he said "NO! Definitely not! I've never seen him before!" He lied! It tells us in the Bible that he was really sad afterwards - it made him feel terrible inside! But the good news is that Jesus forgave him! The next time Jesus & Peter met, Peter owned up to his lies, and Jesus said, it's OK. I forgive you. In fact, I've got some special work for you to do, and I trust you not to mess it up again!

Sometimes it can be hard to tell the truth, but we should always try. And if we fail and get things wrong, God is always willing to forgive us.

6 Prayer: Lord God, thank you that you can help us to tell the truth, even when it's difficult. Help us to be strong and brave, to own up when we make mistakes and to be honest with ourselves and other people. And if we get it wrong, help us to ask you to forgive us and help us try again. Amen