

LIAR, LIAR



1. Rank the following from the **most dishonest (1)** to the **least dishonest (10)**.

- ☐ Lying to parents so you can go out with friends
- ☐ Plagiarizing information off the Internet for your term paper
- ☐ Shoplifting a gift for someone
- ☐ Giving an untrue excuse to a teacher
- ☐ Protecting a friend by lying
- ☐ Goofing off when you are being paid to work
- ☐ Giving false information about yourself in an on-line chat room
- ☐ Cheating on your test
- ☐ Telling your girlfriend or boyfriend you couldn't call because the phone was broken
- ☐ Making illegal copies of a video or CD

2. What do you think—**Y (yes)** or **N (no)**?

- ☐ A student can get through school without lying.
- ☐ The truth should always be told, no matter what the consequences are.
- ☐ If we want to make it to the top, we'll have to be a little dishonest at times.
- ☐ People can't be true friends if they are not honest with each other.
- ☐ There are times when it's impossible to be honest with parents.
- ☐ Lying can sometimes be an act of kindness.
- ☐ Lying is permissible as long as it doesn't hurt anyone and we don't get caught.
- ☐ It's acceptable to tell an occasional white lie.

3. What would you do in the following situations?

- a. A friend is spreading an untrue rumor about a person you know.
- b. You find a watch in the locker room—you need a watch!
- c. A good friend has a new haircut that you think is ugly—and she asks if you like it.
- d. Your mom asks you to help her out—you want to go out with your friends.
- e. You've cheated on your boyfriend without him knowing.

4. Below (or on the back of this sheet) summarize **Psalm 15** in your own words.

LIAR, LIAR [honesty]

THIS WEEK

It's easy to get away with being dishonest these days. One can easily "fake it" in an on-line chat room, shoplift small items at the store, or fib to their parents. But dishonesty is more than just telling lies. How do your high schoolers view honesty versus a value? They must decide whether or not to be a completely honest person. This TalkSheet discusses honesty and why God is an advocate of it!

OPEN

How well does your group know each other? Try playing Two Truths and a Lie. Have the kids write three statements about themselves, two that are true and one that is not. If the kids choose two truths that sound like lies and a lie that sounds true, 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 \$10 to the winner—then later admit that you lied!

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Ask for some volunteers to reveal their choices and give reasons. Expect considerable disagreement and encourage debating about the different answers. Why would some qualify as worse than others?
2. There may be some difficulty with this exercise because the answers must be either yes or no. Divide them according to their answers and allow them to debate issues.
3. These tension-getters offer some true-to-life situations to bring up for discussion. Allow them to share what they would actually do. Keep the general attitude open and free from put-downs, or they will be inclined to lie about their answers and merely tell you what they think you want to hear.
4. Ask them to read their paraphrases. In addition to Psalm 15, you may ask them to search the Bible verses for more passages related to honesty.

THE CLOSE

You may want to focus some of your closing remarks on the consequences of honesty and dishonesty. How can dishonesty can 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 your kids imitate Christ? By being truthful and honest as he was. Remind them that God will forgive and forget them for past lies.

MORE

- 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?
- 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.