

# TRUE STORY (ELEMENTARY)

## WEEK 2



### BIG IDEA

True story—God helps us be righteous.



### BIBLE

Acts 4:32–5:10; 1 Peter 3:13–22

## ABOUT THIS WEEK

A true adventure hero stays honest and does the right thing for the right reasons. This week, we'll see how Ananias and Sapphira tried to make themselves look good by hiding the truth, but their dishonesty led to serious consequences. The good news is that God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but when we choose truth, true story—God helps us be righteous.

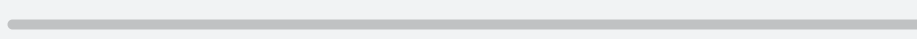
### LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | The Worship Quest



0:00



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to worship with 2-3 songs you all love! Check out the Environment section of the lesson guide for song suggestions that align with this month's teaching.*

- In every adventure story, the main character has to make tough choices. Every page is full of decisions—what’s right, what’s wrong, and how their choices shape the story.
- The people of the Early Church faced choices like that all the time. It was often hard, but they trusted God to help them do what was right.
- Just like any great adventure, the big question wasn’t how hard it was—it was how the story unfolded when they made the right choice. Or what disasters would follow if they made the *wrong* choice. Let’s dive into today’s *true story* to find out more!

#### QUESTION | A Hero's Intentions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids think and share in pairs or small groups. Then, ask them to share some responses with the larger group. We've provided examples in case they get stuck!*
- **Have you ever seen an adventure story where a main character does the right thing for the wrong reason? Or the wrong thing for the right reason?**
  - ***A Series of Unfortunate Events:*** Count Olaf took in the Baudelaire children after their parents died, but only to steal their fortune.
  - ***Despicable Me:*** Gru adopts three orphan girls, but only to use them in his plan to steal the moon.
  - ***Frozen:*** Prince Hans helped Anna and promised to marry her. But his true motive was to take over Arendelle and become king.
  - ***Holes:*** Zero stole the shoes Stanley was blamed for, but Zero just needed new shoes.
  - ***Robin Hood:*** He was a thief, but he stole from the rich to help the poor.
  - ***Zootopia:*** Judy and Nick defied the Captain's orders to solve a case that nobody else wanted.

- ***The One and Only Ivan:*** Ivan broke the rules by taking Julia's paints and creating a mural on his cage wall. But he does it to show others the truth about his life and help Ruby.
- True heroes do the right things for the right reasons. They may make mistakes, but their hearts match their actions. Today's Bible story shows us how important that is to God!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Acts 4:32–5:10 (Ananias and Sapphira)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage. Then, retell the Bible story using the Scripture and talking points below. Spread adventure books around the table to create the feel of being surrounded by a library of adventure! As you tell the story, ask kids to pantomime along to create a living "pop-up book."*
- Okay adventurers, what we're about to hear is a *true story!* Jesus came back to life and went up to heaven. He left them the power of the Holy Spirit to go forth and spread his message to the world. Through this, the Church was born.
- The Early Church had two main traits: unity and generosity. But a situation arose that would change the story.
- We will read a Bible story and make a living pop-up book! You'll recreate the scenes from the story. I'll tell you an action to perform. When I say "pop up," you'll stand and do the action. Then you'll sit back down. Are you ready?
- **Let's open today's adventure story and dive into Acts 4:32–35.**
  - **Pop up! Go around the room and shake hands with everyone.**
  - These verses say, *"There were no needy persons among them."* **How do you think this happened?**

- The apostles were the leaders of the early Church. They worked as one, sharing everything to help others. It was a beautiful picture of generosity and unity!
- **Turn the page to Acts 4:36–37.**
  - **Pop up! Hold out your hands like you are Joseph. He sold his field and laid the money at the apostles' feet.**
  - Joseph, also called Barnabas, gave up something valuable to care for others. His name means "*son of encouragement!*"
- **Let's move on to the next chapter and see what happens in Acts 5:1–2.**
  - **Pop up! Pretend to stuff money into your pockets, like Ananias and Sapphira did.**
  - Ananias and Sapphira sold land like others. But they kept some money and lied, pretending they gave it all. They could have kept some of the money, but their mistake was lying and pretending to be fully generous.
- **Check out the plot twist in Acts 5:3–6.**
  - **Pop up! Put your hands to your mouth and gasp—you can't believe what happened!**
  - Peter gave Ananias a chance to tell the truth. But he lied about the money. His dishonesty cost him his life. He wanted praise, not to honor God.
- **Let's find out what happened next in Acts 5:7–10.**
  - **Pop up! Fall to the ground like Sapphira did.**
  - Peter gave Sapphira a chance to tell the truth, too. But she also lied and fell down dead. Her actions mirrored her husband's.
  - This doesn't mean anyone who lies will drop dead. But Ananias and Sapphira knew better and made a bad choice. Their story teaches us that actions have effects. Our hearts and actions must align.
  - They wanted to appear righteous, but they weren't. They lied to God and tried to trick others.
- The Early Church was deciding how their story would unfold. Jesus was the hero that showed them the way.

- People like Joseph followed Jesus' example of generosity.
- Ananias and Sapphira chose a different path. They were written out of the story.
- Righteousness is hard. But Jesus is with us at every turn of the page and throughout all our adventures!

BIG IDEA | True story—God helps us be righteous.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather index cards, a marker, and a stack of adventure books. Write each word of the Big Idea on an index card and then hide them in various books in the stack. Invite kids up to pick up a book and flip through it to see if a card is in there. Continue until all the words are found. Then the kids will order the cards to reveal the Big Idea.*
- Join me on a quest for today's Big Idea! Turn the pages of these adventure books to find all the words and put them in order.
- **True story—God helps us be righteous.**

OBJECT LESSON | Just Not Right... eous

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this object lesson, you'll need a book with a jacket from another book. It doesn't have to match perfectly, but it should be close. Show your kids the book and ask them if they see anything wrong. If no one notices, point out the mismatched book and book jacket combo.*
- **How did you figure out that the book and its jacket just weren't right... eous?**
- **How does this help us remember what being righteous is all about?**

- The Early Church was meant to be a community that followed Jesus' example—loving others, caring for them, and helping those in need. So, when the Church began, the believers shared everything and looked out for each other.
- But then there were Ananias and Sapphira. They wanted to appear righteous, but their hearts were the opposite. It's like having a book jacket with a mismatched book inside. It's deceiving, and living righteously means telling the truth.
- Our daily choices can make sure that the pages of the book (our hearts) match the book jacket (our outsides). God has already helped us by sending Jesus. His life shows us how to live righteously.
- **True story—God helps us to be righteous.**

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#). If you're short on time, show the [illustrated Bible story video](#).*

*NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?*

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 1:16a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse. Use any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*

- **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."**

#### PRAYER

- God, thank you for the adventure story of our lives that we get to live. With every plot twist comes decisions that we have to make. Help us to make the right ones. To help others, and to be a true example of righteousness. Amen.