

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.

SMALL GROUP TIME

ACTIVITY | A Heist Gone Wrong SMALL GROUP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a lot of green construction paper cut into the shape of paper money. Spread them around the space. This money is from a heist gone wrong. The goal is to get the money back where it belongs. To play, split into two or more teams. Each team needs a large jar or bowl. Set a timer for one minute. Have the teams try to collect the money into their jar or bowl. The team with the most recouped money at the end of the time wins! Then, you can spread the cash back out and play more rounds.*

- Okay, adventurers. You and your team were on a great adventure. You worked to recover money stolen in a botched heist. A villain tried to steal all this cash. But you showed up and scared them away! Your team did the heroic thing—you collected all the loose bills and returned the money!
- Today's Bible story is also about money being used in the wrong way. No one stole anything, but people were greedy and dishonest.

ACTIVITY | Build Your Own Adventure Hero Small Group

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need one poster board per team and materials for drawing and decorating. Each team will use the poster board to create their own adventure hero. They should draw the hero and write words in the margins to describe what makes them a hero. Give five to ten minutes, then have the teams present their hero to the group.*
- It is fun to build your own adventure hero, imagining their powers and special gear. **What makes a hero?**
- Among other things, a hero does the right thing for the right reason. Maybe not all the time, but they always try to make the best choices to help as many people as they can. Their good choices, with a good heart, bring good to others.
- Being "righteous" means doing the right thing for the right reason—just like heroes who choose kindness, honesty, and courage even when it's hard.
- Today, the *true story* is about two people in the Early Church. They chose to *appear* righteous on the outside, but inside, they were not. We'll see how this hurt them and everyone around them.

SCRIPTURE | 1 Peter 3:13–22 SMALL

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need the [handout](#) provided and a Bible. Project the handout onto a dry-erase board. Ask the kids to call out what word they think belongs in each blank. Give examples of parts of speech to help them get started. After they give a few suggestions, write the correct word from the passage with a dry-erase marker.*
- One way we can grow in our adventure story with God is by learning as much as we can from the Bible! Doing what's right in God's eyes isn't easy, but it's always worth it.
- God will make you strong and unafraid. God will help you do what's good and loving. Being righteous isn't about being perfect, it's about trusting God. Let God guide you to make good choices, even when it's hard.
- The Bible also teaches us that Jesus is the perfect model of righteousness. He did what was right by sacrificing himself for us, even though it cost him everything.
- Noah and his family trusted God and did what was right by building the ark. We can also choose to do what is right and trust God to guide us through every situation.
- Our righteousness might lead others to do what's right, too. And when doing right gets tough, we can always look at what Jesus did to give us hope!
- **True story—God helps us to be righteous.**

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

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

BIBLE QUESTIONS

- **Why did the Early Church make the decision to share all their possessions?** So there would be no needy person among them.
- **What did Joseph, or Barnabas, do that was righteous and a good example for others?** He sold a field he owned and gave the money to the apostles.
- **Ananias and Sapphira made a bad choice. It hurt God and their community. What happened as a result?** They both died.
- **Read 1 Peter 3:17. Why do you think it might be better to suffer for the right decision, instead of the wrong one?** God looks at our hearts. We can have a clear conscience. God blesses us and is with us. It's what Jesus did.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What might being righteous look like in your everyday life?**
- **If God helps us be righteous, how can we help others be righteous, too (without being judgy)?**
- **What is one way you can remind yourself today that God helps us be righteous?**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

WHAT TO DO

Distribute white paper and coloring utensils for the kids. Have each kid draw themselves as a hero—not a superhero but an everyday hero—from an

adventure book. Have them add clothes, gear, and accessories to help them live righteously.

WHAT TO SAY

Our lives can sometimes be as wild as a great adventure story. But with every plot twist, God is helping us to do what is right. Your story might not be as epic as some books. But if you choose righteousness, you know you're on the right path. And whenever you feel like you might be getting lost, turn to God! True story—God helps us be righteous.

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.