

God is Truth

(3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God doesn't change
- God's truth never changes
- We can use our 'belt of truth' which is part of the armour of God
- God helps us know what is true and what is false if we ask Him to show us

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Scientific laws: States of matter; boiling point of water; melting and freezing; magnetism

Link between "God is Truth" and the topics:

God created the universe with scientific laws that are true, dependable & unchanging, e.g. water always boils at the same temperature;

Values:

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

God is Truth

Week 1

God helps us to recognize what is true and what is false.

Bible references

Malachi 3:6 God doesn't change.

Ephesians 6:14 Put on the belt of truth.

Proverbs 20:23; Proverbs 21:22 Honesty in word and character.

The Truth Game

This game helps to give an understanding of 'true' and 'false'.

Collect items that are an imitation of real items.

EXAMPLES:

- imitation jewellery
- imitation fruit or flowers
- imitation vanilla essence / other artificial flavourings
- fridge magnets or plastic objects which imitate food items
- play money

Activity

Try to make some imitation food. An imitation dessert is a good example. Find a drinking glass or a glass dessert bowl. Scrunch up some coloured cellophane to represent jelly. Place it in the glass. Then add cotton wool for cream. Place a red button on top for a cherry.

Discussion

Compare imitation items with real items.

Discuss the fact that it is not always easy to distinguish between the true object and its imitation. Sometimes things look real, but they are not.

In order to find out whether something is real or not, we need to test the object. We can examine it closely. We can feel it. We can drop it. In the case of metal, we can test it with a magnet. A ring made from pure gold would not be attracted to a magnet, but a ring made from steel would be attracted.

Sometimes people can pretend to be telling the truth, when they are really lying.

How do we know if people's words and ideas are true or false?

Jesus is the truth, so we can ask Him. How can He speak to us?

He can speak to us through a small still voice in our hearts and minds. This is called our conscience. He can also speak to us through words in the Bible.

Sometimes people can pretend to be something they are not. They can pretend that they are honest, but really, they are trying to trick us. Don't believe everyone and everything. Ask God

to show you what is true. Here is a made-up story about an animal which pretended to be someone else.

**Story 1: The goats and the wolf
(A make-believe story)**

Once upon a time there were seven little goats. Sometimes mother goat had to go out and collect juicy thistles and dandelions for her kids. Before she left she would say, "Beware of the big bad wolf. Don't open the door to anyone while I am away. When I return I will say, "Open the door children. It's your mother," and I will show my paw at the window.

One day as mother goat was returning with her basket of thistles and dandelions, the big bad wolf was hiding in the bushes. He watched her show her white paw at the window and say, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The next time the goat went away, the wolf was prepared. He had dipped his big brown paw in a sack full of flour so that it looked just like the mother goat's white paw. Then he called out in a high voice, just like the mother goat, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The wolf had tricked the kids. They opened the door and the wolf rushed in. He ate two of the little goats. The wolf was so greedy that he swallowed them whole. The rest of the goats hid under the bed. The wolf couldn't find them so he went to sleep. While he was asleep, mother goat came home. The kids told her what had happened.

Mother goat took the rest of the goats down to the river. They all brought back some heavy stones. While the wolf was still asleep, mother goat took out her sewing basket. She carefully snipped open the wolf's stomach, and took out the kids. They were not hurt at all. Then all the kids filled the wolf's stomach with heavy stones and mother sewed him up again. When the wolf woke up he rushed to the river for a drink, but his stomach was so heavy that he fell in the water and drowned.

This story of course is only make-believe, but it does remind us that although something looks real and true, it may very well not be.

Traditional folk tale

Story 2: The T.V. thief

Unlike the last story, this story is a true one.

Mrs. Herbert had a T.V. that she wanted to sell. She placed an advertisement in the 'for sale' section of the local paper.

About that time, a thief who lived in the area, thought up a very unusual way to get into people's houses. He decided that he would pretend to be interested in buying something second-hand from a person's home. Then he could go to the house and look around for things to steal. He could also work out how to break into the house at another time.

The thief looked up the 'for sale' section of the newspaper and found a T.V. listed. He rang the telephone number and arranged to visit the home of Mrs. Herbert.

Mrs. Herbert answered the door and invited the thief inside. (She did not know that he was a thief!)

"All my things really belong to the Lord," she told him. "I'm a Christian, you see."

As the thief looked around the room for things to steal, he suddenly felt very sorry about the life he was living. God started speaking to his heart. He decided that he must tell the truth.

"I'm not really interested in your T.V.," he said. "I'm a thief. I really came to see what I could steal."

"Can I pray for you?" asked Mrs. Herbert.

"Yes, please do," said the thief. "I don't want to live my life this way any longer."

We don't know whether the thief became a Christian or not, but from that moment on, he knew that God was real. He knew that God was asking him to live a truthful and honest life. Mrs. Herbert thanked God, not only for speaking to the thief, but also for protecting her things.

Story told by Betty Herbert (U.K.) Used by permission

Discussion

What is dishonesty?

a) People can sometimes say things that sound true, but really are not true at all.

EXAMPLE:

Mum asks, "Did you brush your teeth?"

Billy answers, "Yes".

(Billy has given his teeth a two-second brush and has not used tooth-paste.)

b) People can also say that they will do something, but really they have no intention of doing it.

EXAMPLE:

Teacher asks the children to pick up papers. The children say, "Yes". However they deliberately do not do it.

Story 3: Free ride

(Not a true story, but could have been)

Sam and Mark were bored. School holidays were halfway through and already they had nothing to do.

"I know," said Sam. "Let's take the bus to the city."

"We can't," said Mark. "We don't have any money. We spent the last of our money on those sweets yesterday."

"That's alright," said Sam. "Just leave it to me. Come on."

The boys ran to the bus stop and waited in line. The bus arrived and they climbed aboard.

"Now," said Sam. "We'll sneak past the driver so that he doesn't know we're on board. Just wait until he's busy giving change to someone and he won't notice us."

Soon the bus they wanted to travel on pulled up at a stop. The people getting off pushed their way through the crowd of people. More people got on. The two boys merged with the crowd.

"One stop to go," whispered Sam.

As the bus pulled into the city the boys breathed a sigh of relief. They quickly headed for the door, but in their rush, Mark tripped and fell down the steps. All eyes were now upon the boys.

How do you think the story ended?

Which of these ways could the boys have used to get to the city, without being dishonest?

- a) asked their parents for the money
- b) stolen the money
- c) earned the money by doing jobs

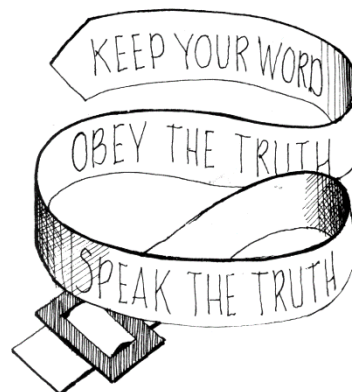
Which of the boys planned the mischief?

Was the other boy still to blame?

Activity

Read about the belt of truth in Ephesians 6. Make a belt of truth from a long strip of paper and write on it some instructions for wearing a belt of truth:

- Keep your word
- Obey the truth
- Speak the truth



God is Truth

Week 2

Stand up for God's truth

God's truth does not change. We should never change our mind about believing in God.

Bible references

Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not give up serving the true God.

Psalm 119:86 All God's commandments are trustworthy.

Malachi 3:6 I am the Lord. I do not change.

Bible lesson:

There was a time when God's people, the Israelites, were ruled by the king of Babylon. One day the king set up a huge gold statue. He told everyone that they must bow down and worship whenever special music was played.

He said, "If you don't bow down when the music plays then you will be thrown into a big fire."

There were three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who worshipped the true God and knew that they must never bow down to a statue. They heard the music but they did not bow down. Someone told the king.

The king called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said that they must bow down and worship the statue.

The three men said, "We will never worship a statue."

The king was very angry and told his servants to make a very hot fire. They threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fire.

But suddenly there were four men in the fire. They were all walking around in the fire and not burning up.

"Come out," called the king.

The king could see that the three men were not burned. Their clothes did not even smell like smoke.

The king knew that the true God had saved them. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that the fourth man in the fire was the son of God, protecting them.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worshipped the true God. They would not bow down to statues, even though they knew they would be punished. They would only obey God. God was watching over the three men. He knew that these men loved and obeyed Him. He protected them in the fire. Jesus was with them to keep them from harm. Even though they were in the middle of the flames, they were not hurt.

Discussion

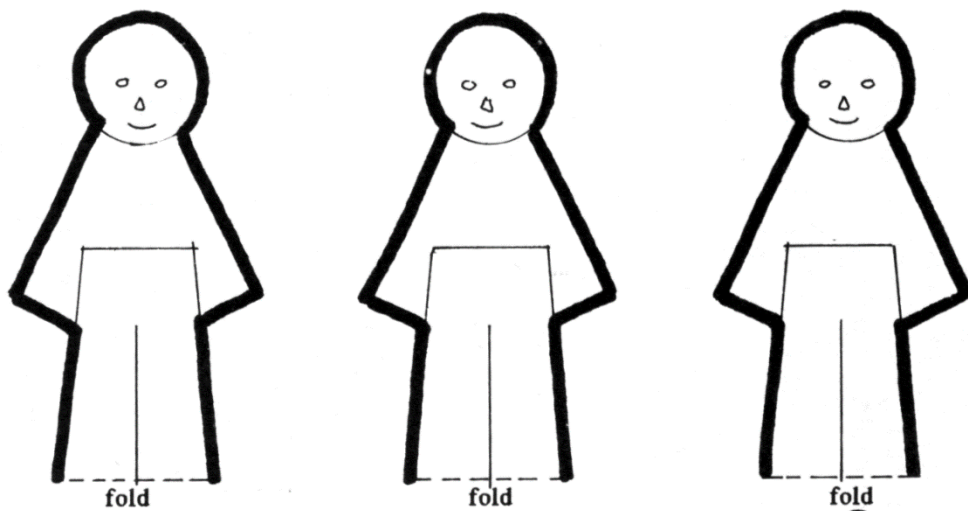
Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego bow down and worship the statue?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were being faithful to God. When we are faithful to someone, we never give up being their friend. God wants us to be faithful to Him. That means we must never give up being His friend.

What if someone is saying that God isn't true? Would you stand up for God and say that He IS true?

Art/Craft

Make three men who 'stand up' for God.



We will stand up for God

God is Truth

Week 3

Never worship false gods.

Bible references

Exodus 32; Psalm 106:19-21 The golden calf

Game: Don't change your mind!

One child sits in the centre and has to think of a favourite toy, e.g. an electric train set.

The other children take turns to ask the question:

Would you prefer... (e.g. a skateboard)?

The child in the centre must answer truthfully, yes or no. The aim of the game is try to make the child in the centre change his mind.

(Favourite foods or holidays may be chosen instead of toys.)

Although we can change our mind about some things, we should never change our mind about believing in God. Here is a sad but true story about some people who did change their mind about the true God.

Bible lesson: The golden calf

God had told Moses to go up on the mountain top. Moses was told to bring with him two pieces of flat stone. There on the mountain top, God gave Moses ten special rules for His people to obey. The rules were called the Ten Commandments. God wrote the rules on the two pieces of flat stone.

Moses was up on the mountain a long, long time. The people were getting tired of waiting for him to come down. They could not move on without him and they were getting angry and impatient.

Then someone said, "How can we really believe in the God that Moses talks about. We can't see this God. Why don't we make a god that we can see!"

"What a good idea," said the others.

The people took off their gold rings and necklaces. They melted the gold over a very hot fire and used it to make a statue of a calf. Then they prepared a big feast. During the feast they danced around the golden calf and worshipped it.

God saw what the people were doing and He was very angry. He told Moses to go down from the mountain. Moses came down carrying the two pieces of stone upon which the Ten Commandments were written. He could hear the people singing and shouting. He looked closely and saw that the people were dancing around a golden calf. Moses was so angry that he threw down the pieces of stone. They broke into pieces. Then he went to the golden calf and threw it into the fire.

Moses then gathered the people before him. He told them about his time on the mountain with God. He told them about God's rules for His people. One of these rules was to never, never worship a statue. The people already knew that what they had done was wrong. They told Moses that they were sorry.

Moses then told God how sorry the people were. God asked Moses to bring two more pieces of stone to the mountain top. Once again God wrote the Ten Commandments for His people. He told Moses that if His people always followed these commandments, then He would be with them.



Discussion

Why did the Israelites change their minds about believing in the true God?

Sometimes people today change their minds about believing in the true God. Why do you think this happens?

The people of Israel worshipped the golden calf. Worshipping anything else instead of God is worshipping an idol. Could people today worship idols?

Fill in the missing words

1. Moses went up the _____ to talk with God.
2. God became very _____ with the people.
3. The people _____ around the statue.
4. They made the statue in the shape of a _____.
5. God gave Moses _____ rules.
6. The statue was made of _____.
7. An _____ is something people worship instead of God.

angry, ten, idol, gold, mountain, danced, calf