



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Sheet of confessions for the Host (see “What You Do”)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Source Code Theme Slide
- Honesty Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Ask the Host to write down five true confessions and five fake confessions prior to the game. These can be positive confessions or negative ones. They can be funny, but they don't all have to be. The real confessions should be mixed in with the fake ones. Some ideas are:
 - I cheated on a math test in third grade.
 - I sing into my hairbrush when I get dressed in the morning.
 - I gave away clothes to a shelter last Christmas.
 - I wanted to be a ballet dancer when I was little.
 - I took something from my sibling when I was younger and never owned up to it.

- I practiced this script 15 times in front of the mirror because I wanted to get it right.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Table
- Three chairs
- Sheet of paper
- Pen
- Envelope
- Stamp
- Landline phone
- Smartphone

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- SFX: Landline phone ringing
- SFX: Text ding
- SFX: Text sent

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Place the table and chairs on stage. Set up the following in front of each chair:
 - Chair 1: Paper, pen, envelope, and stamp
 - Chair 2: Landline phone
 - Chair 3: Smartphone

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop Singing

Clean Your Hard Drive

Bible Story: Clean Your Hard Drive (Confession / Being Honest with God) • 1 John 1:9

Bottom Line: Being truthful with God helps keep you close to Him.

Memory Verse: “Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.” *Proverbs 10:9, NIV*

Life App: Honesty—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Source Code Theme Slide

HOST: “Hello, hello! My name is [Host’s name], and I’m so glad all of you are here. I have some good news and some bad news to share with you today.

“Raise your hand if you want to hear the good news first. (*Pause for response.*) Raise your hand if you’d rather get the bad news out of the way first. (*Pause for response.*)

“Let’s go with the bad news. Today is the very last time we’ll talk about honesty. So sad, right? But the good news is, we’ll start a brand-new Life App next week, AND today we get to hang out and have an awesome time today talking about honesty. Look at your neighbor and say, ‘You got that right!’”

KIDS: “You got that right!”

CG: Honesty Slide

HOST: “Remember, honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do. All month long, we’ve looked at a bunch of examples of people who chose to be dishonest. And in every single situation, bad things happened because the person chose to lie. Dishonesty hurts us, and it hurts the people who love and trust us.

“It’s simple. Telling the truth is the wise choice. **[Basic Truth] We need to make the wise choice,** right? Right!

SFX: Upbeat game music

“That music means it’s time for our game! I’ve got a fun one for you today, and everyone gets to play.

“All right! Our game is called ‘Confession Session.’ Confession is kind of a big word, but it simply means that we tell the truth. We can confess good things we’ve done, like when we secretly put all the

dishes in the sink after dinner and our mom wondered who did it. Or we can confess not-so-good things we've done—like when we secretly BROKE a dish and our mom wants to know who did it.

Take out your list of confessions. (See "What You Do" above for instructions on how to make this list.)

"I have ten confessions written down here. Some are my real-life confessions, and some are made-up. I'll read each one out loud to you. If you think my confession is fake—if you think I'm being dishonest—raise your hand and wave it in the air. If you think my confession is real—if you think I'm being honest—leave your hand in your lap. Here we go!

Read the confessions in random order. After each one, pause and allow the students to respond with their hands. Then reveal whether or not it was an honest confession. After the last confession . . .

"Wow! You all did a fantastic job of guessing which of my confessions were real and which were fake. We'll talk more about confessions later. But for now, pass those red flags to your Small Group Leader as we stand to sing together!"

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everybody. Let's sing to God and praise Him. There is absolutely nothing better than His love. And in his love we are ALIVE!"

Alive

"God gives us the strength we need when we put our trust in Him. I love this prayer from Psalm 139:23-24 that says: *God, see what is in my heart. Know what is there. Test me. Know what I'm thinking. See if there's anything in my life you don't like. Help me live in the way that is always right (NirV).* May that be the prayer of our hearts today. Let's sing this song of worship."

Never Gonna Stop Singing

Storyteller enters. Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "What's up, friends? My name is [Storyteller's name], and I'm excited to be here with you.

"I have a big question for you as we start out today. Have you ever thought about how different God is from us? Think about it. For one thing, He loves in a different way than we do. He loved us before we even knew Him. He loves us without expecting anything in return. He loves us on our good days and on our bad days. God is perfect!

"We can try our best to be like God and follow His example. But we aren't perfect. Sometimes we get

our feelings hurt. We get disappointed. Sometimes it's hard for us to forgive.

“God isn't like that. He sent us His one and only Son, Jesus, so that we could be in His family forever, no matter what we do. All we have to have is a relationship with Him. And the most important part of a relationship is communication. One of the most important things we can do in our faith is to talk to God.”

LETTER

Sit down at the table in the first chair. As you talk, act like you're writing a letter.

STORYTELLER: “A long time ago, one of the only ways to communicate to people you didn't see in person was to write them a letter. You'd have to sit down, think about what you wanted to say, and write it down word for word. Then you'd have to figure out a way to get that letter to the person you wanted it sent to. Depending on how far away that person lived, that could take days or even weeks. Maybe more!

Fold the “letter” and put it inside the envelope. Seal the envelope, pretend to address it, and put the stamp on it. Stand up behind the first chair and hold up your letter.

“Imagine what it would be like to have to wait WEEKS to tell your best friend something exciting. Sounds pretty miserable, right? It sounds like a terrible way to communicate.

“If we're not careful, we can do that with God. We can go days and days without talking to Him. Or weeks and weeks. Sometimes even months. The longer we go, the harder it is to remember to talk to Him. Before we know it, we feel so far away from God. And that's not a good feeling at all.”

LANDLINE

Put down the letter. Sit down in the second chair, behind the landline phone.

STORYTELLER: “Have you ever seen one of these? This is what we call a landline telephone. Your parents probably grew up with these in their houses. Your grandparents definitely did. These used to be the only way people could hear each others' voices unless they saw each other face-to-face.

Pick up the phone and put it to your ear.

“You'd have to memorize or write down someone's phone number, then you'd dial it on your phone (*demonstrate this on the phone in front of you*), and you then you'd let it ring.

SFX: *Landline phone ringing*

“If the person was at home, they'd answer it. But if they were at the store, at work, or outside, they would miss the call. You'd have to leave a message for them.

Hang up the phone and stand behind the second chair.

“A landline phone is still better than writing a letter. But it’s not the easiest or best way to talk to someone you love. There are too many ways you could miss each other.

“We can act like God is a landline if we only talk to Him every now and then, like when we NEED something. That’s not a bad thing—we SHOULD talk to Him about that—but it’s not the best way to communicate with God.”

CELL PHONE

Sit down in the third chair in front of the smartphone. Pick it up so the kids can see it.

STORYTELLER: “I bet you’ve all seen one of these, right? This is a cellular or mobile phone. You probably just call it a phone, right? These are the by far the quickest and easiest ways to talk to someone. You don’t even have to use your voice to talk.

SFX: *Text ding*

Pretend to read a text.

“You can read and send messages with the press of a finger.

Pretend to send a text back.

SFX: *Text sent*

“We can talk to God like that—all the time! God wants to talk to us daily—all day—about small things, big things, scary things, and exciting things. The more we talk to God, the easier it gets.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

Stand up and move in front of the table to wrap up.

STORYTELLER: “God wants us to talk to Him about everything! He wants us to talk to Him about the things we’re proud of and the things we’re not so proud of.

“Listen to this amazing verse: 1 John 1:9.

Open the Bible to 1 John 1:9 and read.

“God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure (NirV).

“God wants us to be honest with Him. He wants us to confess things to Him—not because He wants us to feel bad, but because when we don’t confess things, it’s like we’re avoiding Him. It’s like we’re writing Him a letter instead of talking with Him about everything that’s going on in our life.

(Hold up Bible.) “This verse says that God WILL forgive our sins. He’ll forgive us when we do something wrong. So we never have to hide or pretend. We can talk to God and know for sure that He’ll love us and help us.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Being truthful with God helps keep us close to Him. We can talk to God anytime and anywhere. We can tell Him anything. He wants us to! When we do, He forgives us. He keeps us close to Him, where we want to be.

“Let’s pray together.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, we know that we need You and we need Your forgiveness. We mess up every day, but You love us anyway. Help us to communicate with You and talk to You often. Help us to be honest and open with You and to confess to You when we’ve done something wrong. We want to be close to you because we love You. Thank You for loving us, too. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It’s so great to know that God will forgive us no matter what. Do you know how He is able to do that? He is, because of what Jesus did for you and for me. When Jesus died on the cross, He traded HIS perfection for OUR mistakes. It’s not an equal trade at all, but Jesus wanted to be our friend forever, so He was willing to do that for us.

“If you want to be a part of that trade—if you want to trade your sin in for Jesus’ perfection—all you have to do is ask. Some of you have already done this. You’ve confessed to God that you’re a sinner and that you need forgiveness. Maybe you haven’t prayed that prayer yet. If you want to, talk to your Small Group Leader and your parents about it.

“Just know that God is waiting on you always and you can talk to Him. It’s as easy as it is to send a text message. He’s ready to talk to you, hear you, and forgive you. Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Being truthful with God helps keep you close to Him. When you choose to live in an honest, truthful way, you can have a close relationship with God where you never have to hide!

“Now it’s time for you to head back to Small Group and talk about that some more. Have fun, and we’ll see you next week!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*