



S1.Lesson 14: Deception

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies: Journals; TV or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html); adults who teach/help in class need to prepare a number of truths and lies about themselves to share with the class. For more info, see "NOTES" under "Opening Activity."

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING ACTIVITY - 2 lies and a truth

TELL instructions for 2 lies and a truth

- I need everyone to find a partner.
- You and your partner must decide who will be The Slash and who will be The Edge.
- [wait 30 seconds for them to get a partner and decide]
- Slashes, you will be on this side of the table/room
- Edges, you will be on the other side of the table/room
- I'm going to tell you three statements about myself.
- Slashes, you get to go first.
- You must decide which of the three statements I tell you is true.
- If you choose correctly, you get one point.
- If you choose incorrectly, you lose a point.
- Or you may choose to pass to the Edges.
- Then, the Edges **MUST** choose one of the three statements.
- If they get it right, they get one point.
- If they get it wrong they lose a point.
- Here we go:
 - Tell the two false and one true statements to the class

NOTES:

- [Play for a number of rounds (so prepare a number of statements to have at the ready - if there is more than one adult in the class, prepare ahead of time and take turns sharing truths and lies about yourselves)]
- [Tally the score and proclaim a winner.]

DO 2 lies and a truth

ASK

- So did you feel upset when I (or whoever was telling the 3 statements) tricked you into choosing a lie instead of a truth?
- Why?
- How good are you, do you think, at being able to tell a lie from a truth?
- How can you tell the difference between a lie and a truth? What techniques do you use to tell the difference?

TELL

- We're going to read a story in the book of Genesis about Jacob fooling his father, Isaac.
- You may already have heard this story.
- If so, that's good, because then you can listen more closely to the details.

BACKGROUND (if needed)

- Esau and Jacob are twin brothers.
- When Rebekah was pregnant with the two, she asked God why they moved around so much in her.
- God told her that they would be two nations but one would be stronger than the other and that the elder would serve the younger.
- But God did not say how any of this would happen.
- Then when Jacob and Esau were older, Esau sold his birthright (the oldest son gets more than double of the inheritance than the rest of the siblings) to Jacob for a bowl of soup.
- The blessing (that this upcoming story is about) is part of the birthright.

READ: Genesis 27:5-27; 41-44

5 Now Rebekah, Isaac's wife and mother of Esau and Jacob, overheard Isaac speak to Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, 'I heard your father tell Esau to hunt for and prepare food. Then, once your father has eaten, he will bless Esau. But I'm not going to let that happen. So listen to what I tell you: Go to the flock, and get me two young goats, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.'

But Jacob replied, 'Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth skin. Perhaps my father because he is blind will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing.' His mother said, 'We'll make a disguise for you. Let your curse be on me, my son.' Rebekah prepared the goats. Then she put Esau's clothing on Jacob and placed the skins of the goats on Jacob's arms and neck.

So Jacob went in to his father, and said, 'My father'; and Isaac said, 'Here I am; who are you, my son?' Jacob said to his father, 'I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat, so that you may bless me.' But Isaac said to his son, 'How is it that you have found food so quickly, my son?' Jacob answered, 'Because the Lord your God granted me success.' Then Isaac said to Jacob, 'Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.' So Jacob went up to his

father Isaac, who felt him and said, 'The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.' He asked, 'Are you really my son Esau?' Jacob answered, 'I am.' Then Isaac said, 'Bring it to me, that I may eat and bless you.' So Isaac ate. Then Isaac said, 'Come near and kiss me, my son.' So Jacob came near and kissed him; and Isaac smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him,

41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing he had stolen, and Esau said to himself, 'The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.' But the words of Esau were told to Rebekah; so she sent and called her younger son Jacob and said, 'Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. So listen to what I tell you: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay with him until your brother's fury turns away; then I will send for you to return.'

ASK

- Why did Jacob trick his father? (because his mother told him to; to get the blessing that Esau was supposed to receive)
- What was the result of Jacob tricking his father? (Jacob got the blessing; Esau wanted to kill him; he had to leave)
- Do you think Jacob and Rebekah got what they wanted?
- Do you think they got something they didn't want?
- When God said the elder would serve the younger, do you think God was telling Rebekah to help her one son trick and lie to his father and split the family?

TELL

- We're going to watch a video clip now of a boy who deceives a life guard in order to get something that he wants.

WATCH clip of The Sandlot

ASK

- So what did Squints want? (to kiss the lifeguard)
- And what did he do to get what he wanted? (jumped into the deep end and then faked being dead/unconscious)
- And what was the result of getting what he wanted by using deception? (he kissed the girl, but he and his friends got kicked out of the pool area; the lifeguard was upset)
- Thinking about the story and the movie clip, do you think deceiving others was the best way for either Jacob or Squints to get what they wanted?

TELL

- Rebekah, Jacob and Squints chose to deceive those around them because they felt like that was the best way to make sure they got what they wanted.
- None of these three trusted that asking for what they wanted would give them what they wanted.
- And in the case of Rebekah and Jacob (and Squints too for that matter), they didn't trust God to lead them. There's no mention of prayer in either story.

- When we are practicing deception, that is a CLEAR reminder that we are not trusting the other person OR God to help us out.
- Practicing deception is also a reminder that we've become too self-absorbed.
 - Deception hurts other people, and if we're not sensitive to how our deception is hurtful, then that means our own selfishness (our wanting) has become so strong that it is keeping us from perceiving how others might be feeling.
- The Good News is that God forgives us when we don't trust. And if we seek God's forgiveness, then God can help direct us in making amends with those that we hurt when we practice deception.

If there's extra time:

Journal Questions

- When have I deceived someone?
- What did I want that I didn't trust I could get any other way?
- How do I think this hurt the people I was deceiving?
- Have I told them and apologized to them for this?
- If I haven't, how do I think God is calling me to speak to those people about this thing that I've done?

CLOSING PRAYER