

STAINED REPUTATION

This skit will show children how lying can stain their reputation. (Skit for four: Sam, Mom, Teacher, Friend.)

TOPICS:

Accountability, Honesty, Promises, Reputation, Trust

MATERIALS:

White T-Shirt
Piece of charcoal
Bible

Skit handout [ATTACHED]

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Have the boy playing Sam put the white T-shirt on over his regular clothes.



Stained Reputation

Scene 1 (Late for School)

Teacher Hi Sam, you are late for school. You promised me that you were going to be on time today.

Sam I'm sorry I am late again today, but my mom forgot to make my lunch so I had to make it myself.

Teacher Really? Your mom just emailed me and said that you were late because you were playing video games before school. Sam, why do you feel you must lie to me and make up excuses?

Sam I don't know. I think I was disappointed that I didn't keep my promise to you.

Teacher Sam, you have to start telling the truth, or I don't know if I will be able to trust you.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt.)

Scene 2 (Back at Home)

Friend *(Pretend to call Sam on the phone)* Hi. Is Sam there?

Sam This is Sam.

Friend Sam, I waited for you after school today.

Sam You did. Why?

Friend Remember, you promised that you were going to help me with my homework.

Sam Oh, yeah. My mom asked me to come home right away to watch my baby sister. Sorry.

Mom Get off the phone Sam. You have not done any of your homework. All you have done is play football with Dan all afternoon. It is time to get off the phone and do your homework.

Friend You played football with Dan after school? You said your mom wanted you home. Sam, I just don't know if I can trust you anymore. You never keep your promises and you always make up excuses. Goodbye.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt, making another stain.)

Mom Sam, you said you were going to do your chores when you got home.

Sam Yes, I know Mom, but I was busy helping my teacher after school.

Mom Sam, you need to tell me the truth. Did you forget that I found out you were playing football with Dan after school? Why didn't you come straight home after school?

Sam You can call my teacher, Mom. I swear on my life that I was helping her after school. I started playing football with Dan, but then my teacher saw us playing and asked us to both come back in the classroom to help her.

Mom Sam, your teacher called me after school to inform me that you lied to her again. Now you are lying to me. Please, Sam, you have to stop lying. Your reputation is being stained. No one is going to trust you if you can't keep your word and be honest.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt, making another stain.)

Sam I'm sorry, Mom.

Mom Sam, come here. I want you show you a passage in the Bible. *(Open the Bible and read Proverbs 12:22)* You see, the Lord condemns lying, but takes joy in those who are trustworthy. I want you to memorize this verse; it will help you stop lying.

Sam Thanks, Mom, no more lying for me. I am going to start memorizing that verse right now. *(Sam takes the Bible and begins memorizing Proverbs 12:22.)*

TELL ME NO MORE LIES

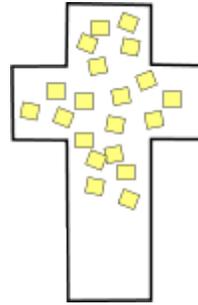
In this activity, children will feel the freedom to give their sin to Jesus and turn from their old ways.

TOPICS:

Accountability, Honesty, Promises, Reputation, Trust

MATERIALS:

White poster board
Post-it Notes®
Tape, scissors, pencils



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Use white poster board to create a large cross. Tape the cross to the wall at the front of the class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have each child write down a time he or she broke a promise, made an excuse, or lied. Each student will then stick his or her note to the cross, pray silently for forgiveness, and then remove his or her note from the cross and throw it away.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Breaking promises, making excuses, and lying are many times hidden and hurtful sins. We cannot see them or touch them, but it definitely hurts others when we do these things. Sins like these keep us from God, but the Good News is that Jesus died so that we can be free from all sin.

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." Proverbs 12:22 NIV

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a lie? *(Allow for discussion.)*
2. What is a promise? *(Allow for discussion.)*
3. What happens when you break a promise to a friend or family member? *(Allow for discussion.)*

I will give each of you a Post-it Note® and a pencil. Write down a time that you broke a promise, made an excuse, or lied. Once you are finished writing, come up, and stick the note to the cross, giving it to Jesus. Then go back to your seat and say a silent prayer asking Jesus to forgive you for that sin and to help you keep your word. Once you have finished praying, return to the cross, remove your note, and throw it away.

Our reputations can only be changed by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us. Our cross in the front of the room was once covered in sin, but it no longer is. Likewise, Jesus can forgive our sins, setting us free, and making us as white as snow.