10 Rulz: Session 10 – Rule 9

Title: God says 'Don't tell lies'

Bible base: Genesis 3

Aim: To understand that telling the truth is very important.

Note to leaders

For this session there needs to be a change in the running order from the usual format:

- The game comes later in the outline as it is part of the application of the story
- The craft activity comes first as it is to make puppets with which to tell the story.
- For Key Stage 2 children there are some scenarios to develop discussion after the Bible input, but these will need quite a lot of time. If your group is just for KS2 we suggest that you tell the story as it stands without making the puppets to allow time for these discussions, or quickly have the first children there make three puppets. If you have KS1 children, make the puppets and omit the scenarios. If you omit the craft, choose a game from the games list (www.scriptureunion.org.uk/supaclubs/downloads/10rulz_lists.pdf) or just use the 'True and False' game given below.

Craft activity

Make puppets to tell the story. The children could either make three puppets each or you could divide everyone into groups of three so that each person makes one puppet, depending on how much time you have. You could choose to have the same type of puppets, eg all finger puppets, or you could have a mixture, eg Eve is a wooden spoon puppet, Adam a paper bag puppet and the snake a sock puppet. More puppet ideas can be found in the can be found in *Here's One I Made Earlier* by Kathryn Copsey (published by Scripture Union).

Finger puppets can be made from strips of paper coiled around fingers with faces drawn on them.

Paper bag puppets can be made by making faces on plain brown or white paper bags

Wooden spoon puppets can be made by drawing a face on the concave side of the spoon, sticking wool on for hair and material around the handle for clothes.

Sock puppets can be made using socks with craft wobbly eyes, sticking on wool for hair using double-sided sticky tape and adding a mouth and nose made out of gummed paper.

Paper plate puppets can be made by drawing faces and decorations on paper plates of any size.

Game: True or false game

For Key Stage 1, you will need two leaders each with a list of ten supposed facts. For each entry on the two lists, one leader has a true statement and the other a false one.

The leaders stand at opposite sides of the room and they each read out their statement 1 (eg 'I have a dog called Joe', 'I have a pet snake called Joanna'). The children vote for which they think is the

true statement by moving to stand in front of the leader they believe is telling the truth. Reveal which is right then bring the children back to the middle of the room before the two leaders each read out their statement 2.

For Key Stage 2, get everyone to write down three statements about themselves on one piece of paper, writing two things that are true and one that is false. All the statements are put in a 'hat', a leader draws out one of the pieces of paper, reads all three statements, and the children have to guess who wrote the statements and which are true and which are false. Alternatively, the children take it in turns to stand up and read their own statements, and the others have to guess which is the false one.

To talk about: Sit the children down, and explain that the game showed how it is sometimes difficult to know when people are lying. Explain that you are going to tell them a story about someone who lied and what God did about it. Read the following story adapted from Genesis 3 in *The Message*. Ask the children to raise the appropriate puppet every time you say 'Eve', 'Adam' or 'the snake'.

Bible narrative

The snake *was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to* ***Eve****: 'Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?'*

Eve *said to* ***the snake****, 'Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, "Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die."'*

The snake *told* ***Eve****, 'You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.'*

When ***Eve*** *saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it – she'd know everything! – she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to* ***Adam****, and he ate some.*

Immediately the two of them did 'see what's really going on'– they saw themselves without any clothes on! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, ***Adam*** *and* ***Eve*** *hid in the trees of the garden, they hid from God.*

God called to ***Adam****: 'Where are you?'*

Adam *said, 'I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.'*

God said, 'Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?'

Adam *said, 'The woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it.'*

God said to ***Eve****, 'What is this that you've done?'*

*'****The snake*** *tempted me,' she said, 'and I ate.'*

God threw them out of the garden and stationed angels and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.

To talk about: Ask the children what is lying. Who told lies in the story they have just heard? Are some lies worse than others?

Have the words 'lie', 'white lie', 'practical joke', 'pretending', 'secret' on separate pieces of paper. Ask the children to put the words into order, with the worst thing you can do at the top and the others in order after that. Point out on the way through that pretending something is fine if you are playing a game, but what if you pretend something and it upsets someone else? Likewise, it's not always wrong to have secrets – such as a surprise birthday party – but if the person concerned asks you about it, do you lie or tell the truth?

Point out that we have to think carefully about what we say as lies are not always obvious.

Huddle groups **(suitable for Key Stage 2)**

Divide the children into groups or stay as one group if you are small in numbers. You will need copies of the session 10 resource sheet 'Scenarios'; the text of this sheet is also given below. Give each group a copy of the scenarios or just one scenario if time is short. Ask the children to discuss in their groups or as a whole group what they think should have happened.

1. John came home from school and told his mum that James had told him that he should put toilet paper in the school sink. John was only joking, but his mum took it seriously and went and told the teachers. James got into trouble but didn't understand why.

2. Sarah and Nadia are organising a surprise party for their friend Jane. But Jane guesses that something is going on and asks the girls directly if they are organising a party – what should they say?

3. Richard has broken one of the pairs of headphones on his classroom computer. It was an accident but the teacher had already warned the children to be careful. He has managed to put the headphones down without anyone noticing and now they are all at their own desks doing some maths work. The teacher is clearing up the computer area when she notices the broken headphones. She is really cross, but instead of telling Richard off, she tells one of the other children off thinking it was them. What should Richard do? Is staying quiet and letting someone else take the blame as bad as lying?

4. Jessica didn't do her homework because she went out with her friends last night. She has every intention of doing it tonight though, but she knows that just saying she was out with her friends will get her into trouble. So instead she says that her little brother got really sick and they had to take him to the doctors, so she didn't have chance, but she will do it tonight. The teacher believes her, and Jessica does her homework that night.

5. It's school sports day and Tom has to run in the egg-and-spoon race. Tom is no good at running, and always comes last. He comes up with a plan and 'accidentally' falls over in the playground, pretending that he has hurt himself, which will mean he won't have to run in the race.

Tablets of stone

Don't forget to add this week's rule to your stone tablets.

Prayer activity

Each leader will need a plate, an apple or pear and a knife.

Each leader takes a group of children and sits with them cutting up the fruit into segments. Ask the children to hold a piece of the fruit whilst the leader says a prayer to ask God to forgive everyone in the group for any lies they have told. At the end of the prayer the children can eat the segment of fruit.

Song

Sing 'Listen' from the collection *Bitesize Bible Songs 2* (available from www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light/bitesizebible2.asp).