

# Micaiah Tells the Truth

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 22:1-37

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants His followers to be truthful and honest

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To always tell the truth even when there are consequences

### Memory Verse

"I, the Lord, speak the truth." (Isa 45:19)



## Bible Knowledge

### Micaiah and King Ahab

Micaiah was a prophet who predicted the death of King Ahab. Not much else is known about him outside of this incident.

Judah's King Jehoshaphat visited Ahab in Israel for treaty negotiations. Jehoshaphat was actually related to Ahab through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter, Athaliah (2 Kgs 8:18, 27). When Ahab suggested joining forces to fight Ramoth in Gilead, Jehoshaphat had to agree. But he wanted to first ask the Lord's approval (1 Kgs 22:5). Ahab called on his staff of 400 false prophets who unanimously predicted victory. Dissatisfied, Jehoshaphat pressed Ahab to find a true prophet of the Lord. Ahab reluctantly suggested Micaiah who, he complained, always prophesied bad things whenever it concerned him. Jehoshaphat insisted that Micaiah be summoned.

At first, Micaiah was reluctant to oppose the formidable group and tell the truth. But under pressure, he revealed a vision he had had, in which

Ahab's army was left leaderless. Micaiah also revealed a further vision: the Lord had arranged for Ahab's 400 prophets to falsely predict victory in order to secure Ahab's death in battle.

Upon hearing this, Ahab ordered Micaiah jailed until he returned victorious. As he was being arrested, Micaiah announced, "If you return alive, I am a false prophet!"

Although Ahab hated Micaiah, he did not want to take any chances concerning the prophecy. So Ahab entered the battle incognito, putting Jehoshaphat in his place at the head of the army. Benhadad had ordered his men to concentrate their attack on King Ahab. Mistaking King Jehoshaphat for Ahab, Benhadad's men charged him with their full force. As he was being attacked, Jehoshaphat cried out to the Lord. When Benhadad's men realized that it was not King Ahab, they abandoned the attack and searched elsewhere.

They never found him. However, Ahab was struck by a random arrow and mortally wounded (1 Kgs 22:34). He instructed his charioteer to take him home. That evening, Ahab died, leaving a trail of blood on his chariot. Later, dogs licked up his blood, as Elijah had prophesied.



## Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds are just beginning to learn the Ten Commandments. Since the lesson deals with the ninth commandment, you may want to take some time to talk to your students about what is considered true and not true. You can get students thinking about it by saying something and having the students evaluate the statement. They can say “true” or “not true.” Start with simple facts and move towards behavioral questions in this manner. Here are some examples:

- Grass is blue. (Not true.)
- (Point at your ears) These are my ears. (True.)
- Mice are bigger than whales. (Not true.)
- We listen with our eyes. (Not true.)
- Milk comes from chickens. (Not true.)
- Take a cookie out and eat it. Then say, “I didn’t eat the cookie.” (Not true.)
- Drop a toy on the chair, and then say, “I left my toy on the chair.” (True.)

Help the students make the connection between saying something that is not true and telling lies. For example, in the second to the last statement, the teacher lied about eating a cookie. This would be a good opportunity to talk about some lies children might tell in order to not get into trouble (e.g. not admitting to drawing on the sofa, breaking a toy, making a mess, etc.). This can provide the students with the correct concept of what a lie is before moving into the actual lesson.

It is also important to touch upon the fact that telling the truth is both pleasing to God and to our conscience. When we tell a lie, even a small one, we tend to have to lie more in order to stay out of trouble. That makes both God and ourselves sad. But when we tell the truth, God is pleased and we can be happy too. Just as in the last statement, even though it doesn’t seem like a big deal to admit that we left our toy on the chair, we are nevertheless telling the truth. Over time, it will be natural for us to want to speak what is true and stay away from all lies.



## Vocabulary

### Obey

to follow the rules; to listen to and do what others tell you to

### False

not true

### Prophet

a messenger of God; this person tells others about God’s words

### Courage

to be brave



## Before You Teach

It is not easy to always tell the truth when we are under peer pressure. It is even harder when we know that people would rather hear lies than the truth. Prophet Micaiah encountered this difficult situation when he was brought to King Ahab to prophesy. He knew that the other 400 false prophets had told a lie to encourage King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat to go to war. Micaiah was faced with tremendous pressure to either speak what would be pleasant to people’s ears, or to deliver the true message from God, which might not be what people wanted to hear.

Have we ever faced the same kind of peer pressure? When the pressure is on, are we brave enough to tell the truth? Take some time to reflect on our experiences and share that with the students. Even though they may not be able to grasp all the concepts, the most important thing is to teach them not to compromise when it comes to doing what is right in God’s eyes. Encourage the students to always tell the truth even when they know there will be consequences by being honest and truthful. Remind them that it is one of God’s Ten Commandments. Moreover, it is still important to tell the truth even if there are no consequences, or if it is just a “white lie” and for the person’s own good. If we are teaching our students to always tell the truth, we can set the example by putting this into practice.



## Bible Story

Boys and girls, do you remember the Ten Commandments that God gave His people? One of the commandments says that we should not lie. Does anyone know what it means to tell a lie? (Write down what they say on the board.) When people tell lies, they are not being honest, are they? Instead, they are saying things that are not true. How do you think God feels when we tell lies? God would feel very sad, because He doesn't want us to lie. He wants us to be honest and say what is true.

In today's story, we will meet a very special man called Micaiah. He was a prophet during the time of the kings. (To make the story more entertaining, the teacher may consider asking another teacher to come into class and pretend to be Micaiah to tell his story to the class. Or the teacher can put on a pre-made Micaiah mask and a cloak to pretend to be Micaiah. Invite the pretended "Micaiah" to come into the class. If the teacher is telling the story, he can step outside the classroom door to put on the mask, and come in again to be Micaiah. Have fun with this pretend play. Feel free to change your voice, too, to fit the character.)

### **Micaiah Is a Prophet**

(Micaiah walks in the classroom to greet the students.)

Dear boys and girls, my name is Micaiah. I am so glad to be here today. I am here to tell you an amazing story that really happened to me. I am a prophet. That means I tell others what God wants them to know. Many people come to me to hear what God has to say. I tell them what will happen. And sometimes the people I talk to are very glad when I say what God tells me, but sometimes the people get very angry because they don't like what I say. Many different people come to me: people like you, older people, and sometimes very rich, important people like kings! It is really not an easy job to be a good prophet. The story I want to tell you today is about two kings who asked me to tell them what was going to happen if they went to war.

### **King Ahab Wants to See Micaiah**

One time, there were two kings who were

thinking about going to war. They were King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat. They wanted to fight with another king who lived in Aram so they could take his land. But before they got ready, they wanted to make sure that they would win. So they decided to ask some prophets. But these prophets were false prophets. That means they didn't listen to God or tell people what God wanted them to hear. They only told the people what they wanted to hear. King Ahab asked 400 of these false prophets to get together before him.

He asked them, "Should I go and fight or not?" These false prophets told the two kings, "Go. You will win the war."

That was just what King Ahab wanted to hear. He was ready to go and fight the battle. But the other king, King Jehoshaphat, still wasn't sure of what to do. He wanted to ask a true prophet of God—that was me.

So King Ahab asked me to come and tell them if they would win the war. King Ahab didn't like me at all because he didn't like what I said about him most of the time. I have to tell the truth even if it isn't what the king wants to hear. It's sad that people would get angry with me even when I tell them what God wants me to say.

This time, when King Ahab asked me to go see him, I knew everyone else had said that the two kings would win the battle. But God had told me that King Ahab would lose the battle, and even die in the war. It would have been much easier for me to lie like the other false prophets, and just tell King Ahab to go fight. Then no one would get mad at me. But I would not be telling the truth. I know God wants me to tell the truth all the time, even when it is very hard.

So I told the two kings, "You will lose this war. God has put a lying tongue in the mouths of these other prophets." I told them that the other 400 prophets told a big lie so that King Ahab would go to war and then be killed.

### **King Ahab Dies in Battle**

King Ahab was very angry when he heard what I had said. One of his false prophets even slapped me on the cheek for saying those things. King Ahab ordered his soldiers to put me in jail until he came back from the war. But I knew I had done the right thing. I told the truth. I did not lie.

Do you know what happened when these two kings went together to fight? The enemy soldiers first saw King Jehoshaphat and thought he was King Ahab. So they chased after him to kill him. But they found out he was not the one they wanted to kill. So the enemy soldiers left King Jehoshaphat alone and searched for King Ahab. King Ahab was trying to be smart by dressing like a regular soldier. He did not wear any of the king's clothes. He thought no one would be able to tell he was the king that way. So the enemy soldiers searched and searched but they never found him. But do you remember what God told me to say? He said King Ahab would die during this battle. So as King Ahab fought, someone accidentally drew his bow and the arrow flew into the air and hit King Ahab. Later on, he died. What God had told me earlier all came true.

### **We Must Tell the Truth**

Boys and girls, it was very hard to tell the truth. There were 400 other people who said that God told them the kings would win. I was the only one who told them that they would not win. I even said King Ahab would die. But I know that God is very proud

of me for not lying, and doing the right thing even when everyone else was not. Telling the truth takes a lot of faith and courage. For example, if you accidentally broke something, would you have the courage to tell your parents? Or would you just clean things up and hide it from them? What if you broke your sister's toy? Would you have the courage to tell her you did it, even if she might get really mad? We must do the right thing by telling the truth, even when it is hard. In the end, God will bless us.

I've got to go back to being a good prophet now. Many people are waiting to talk to me. It was very nice meeting all of you. Bye-bye now!

(Step out the classroom to take off the mask and the cloak, and come back as a classroom teacher.)

Wow, what a treat for all of us to meet prophet Micaiah! We learned to be brave by telling the truth. Sometimes, there are consequences when we do something we are not supposed to. That means we may have a time-out, lose television or computer time, or have our favorite toy taken away for a while. But even then, we should still tell the truth because God wants us to be honest children.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who is Micaiah and what does he do?** (Micaiah is a true prophet of God. He works and speaks for God.)
2. **Who were the two kings who wanted to fight against Aram?** (King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat.)
3. **What did the 400 false prophets tell the kings?** (They said the kings would win the battle, even though that was not the truth.)
4. **What did Micaiah tell King Ahab?** (Micaiah told him he would not win the war. King Ahab would even die in this battle.)
5. **What happened to Micaiah when King Ahab heard what he said?** (Micaiah was put

in jail because King Ahab didn't like what he said.)

6. **Why did King Ahab dress like a regular soldier when he went to battle?** (He was afraid what Micaiah said would come true. He dressed like a soldier so that no one would know he was really a king.)
7. **What happened to King Ahab in the end?** (He died because an arrow hit him.)
8. **What does prophet Micaiah want us to learn from him?** (He wants us to always tell the truth even when we know that there might be consequences.)
9. **How do you think a person feels when he tells a lie?** (Allow students to answer.)
10. **How do you think a person feels when he tells the truth?** (Allow students to answer.)



## Life Application Story

### The Giant

John was so excited he couldn't sit still. He had invited his friend, Eric, to come play at his house this afternoon. John was always excited when his friends came over for play dates. As John paced back and forth in the family room, he could smell something good coming from the kitchen. Mrs. Marsh was baking some cookies for them to enjoy. When the doorbell finally rang, John ran to the door and opened it.

"What took you so long?" John asked Eric. "I've got a lot of new toys I want to show you. Come on, they are in the family room. I have them all lined up."

Before Eric could even take his shoes off, John ran off to the family room to get things ready.

As Eric walked into the room, he said, "Wow, you do have a lot of new stuff."

After checking out the toys, they decided they were going to play with the soldiers. John and Eric had them lined up all around the room. Some soldiers were on the tables, some were on the ground, and some were even on the stairs. Then John had a great idea.

"I know!" John said. "Let's pretend that a big giant comes through the city, and we have to save the city."

"That sounds like a great idea," Eric replied, "but we don't have a giant."

"We can use my sister's doll. I know she has a pretty big one," John said. Without even asking, he ran upstairs to get the doll from Michelle's room. Michelle was at a swim class and John knew she wouldn't be home for a while. After grabbing the doll from his sister's bed, he ran back to the family room.

"Here's our new giant. Let's save our city," John said.

John and Eric were having lots of fun playing. As they pretended, sometimes they would throw the doll in the air. Other times, they would use the doll to knock down some of the soldiers.

Mrs. Marsh knew the two boys had been playing for a while and probably needed a snack. So she brought the cookies and some milk for them. As she walked into the room, she saw Michelle's doll flying

towards her. Luckily, she ducked quickly and the food she was holding did not spill.

"Sorry, Mom," John said as he got up to pick up the doll.

Mrs. Marsh put down the tray of food on the coffee table.

"Isn't that Michelle's new doll? Did she tell you that it was okay for you to play with it?" Mrs. Marsh asked.

John didn't know what to say. He knew he hadn't asked his sister first and that was a rule his mom always talked about. He was supposed to ask before taking anything.

"Well, I did ask her yesterday after dinner to see if I could play with it," John said.

"Yes, I remember that. But I heard her say no. I am asking about today. Did you ask her today to see if you could play with her doll when she wasn't home?" Mrs. Marsh asked again.

John knew he couldn't lie.

"No, we were so excited about our soldier game that I just took it from her bed," came John's soft reply.

"I am proud of you for telling me the truth. But I don't think your sister would like that you just took her things," Mrs. Marsh said.

"I am sorry," John said.

"You will have to put the doll aside now and tell her what happened when she gets home later," Mrs. Marsh explained.

"But she's going to get mad at me and never let me play with any of her things again," protested John.

"That may be true. But it is still important to tell the truth. You could lie and just put the doll back on her bed. She might never find out. But I don't think that would make you feel good inside. And even if no one ever found out, God knows what happened. He told us to always be honest and truthful. That's what His followers do," Mrs. Marsh said.

"I know."

"Well, what did you learn from this?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

"I should always tell the truth, and I should ask before I take anything next time," John said.

"I am glad you learned a lesson. Besides, your sister may not get so mad that she would never let you touch any of her things. I am sure she would be happy that you are honest with what you did. I am

also sure that God is happy because you are telling the truth. And I am really happy that you had the courage to tell me the truth.”

Mrs. Marsh put the doll on the book shelf.

“Now, how about we take a break and eat some of the yummy cookies?” Mrs. Marsh asked.

### Questions to Think About:

1. **What did John do without first asking?** (He took his sister’s doll.)
2. **What did John say to his mom the first time she asked him about the doll?** (He told her he had asked his sister yesterday.)
3. **Was that really the truth?** (Not really. He just wanted to say something so that he would not

get into trouble.)

4. **What did Mrs. Marsh say John needed to do when his sister got home?** (He had to tell her what he did, even if she might not let him play with her toys again.)
5. **Sometimes people lie because they don’t want to get into trouble. Have you lied about something before?** (Give some ideas to encourage the students to share. E.g. drawing on the wall and saying some other kids did it, not admitting to breaking something or making a big mess, etc.)
6. **Why should we always tell the truth?** (Because God wants us to be honest and truthful at all times.)



### Activity 1

#### Micaiah Tells the Truth

Finish the sentences to each picture to review the story of Micaiah. Use the words in the word bank.

1. Micaiah is a prophet.
2. Ahab and Jehoshaphat want to go to war.
3. Micaiah tells the truth.
4. King Ahab is hurt during battle.



### Activity 2

#### Who Is Telling the Truth?

What can each person say to tell the truth?

1. I am sorry I broke the teddy bear.
2. I painted the wall, not my sister.
3. I wanted to use the computer. I should have asked first.
4. I only practiced a little bit. I should practice some more.



### Activity 3

#### Truth Game

Help the students understand what it means to tell the truth by playing a simple game. Provide each student with a piece of paper. Ask them to put their names on the top of the page. Then ask the students

to think about one thing that is true about them (“I like to eat cookies”) and have them draw that on the paper. Make sure that they are not sharing their answer with their friends at the table. When they are done, collect the papers. Then play a game by saying what is true about each person and having the students guess who the teacher is talking about. (E.g. “Someone likes to eat cookies. Who can it be?”) When the students have had a chance to guess each person’s answer, talk about how all those statements were true. God likes it when we tell the truth.

Activity 2:1

Micaiah Tells the Truth

war	truth
prophet	hurt



1. Micaiah is a p \_\_\_\_\_.



2. Ahab and Jehoshaphat want to go to w \_\_\_\_.



3. Micaiah tells the t \_\_\_\_\_.



4. King Ahab is h \_\_\_\_\_ during battle.

Activity 2.2

### Who Is Telling the Truth?

What can each person say to tell the truth?

