

LESSON 12

GREEDY GEHAZI

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Talents

During Elisha's time, there were no coins or paper money. Money came in the form of gold, silver, or bartered goods. In those days, a talent of silver weighed about 75 pounds. That might be worth \$7,000 to \$8,000 today.

The two talents that Gehazi received were likely double this amount. That was a significant amount because the average person earned only a few cents each day. Two talents added up to many years' wages.

Punishment

Gehazi and his descendants were all punished for his sins.

God clearly stated in Exodus 20:5 that those who sinned against Him would bring judgment on themselves and their households, a judgment that usually extended to the third and fourth generations.

During that time, one member of a family could represent the whole community. Achan's punishment was similar in that his entire family and all that he owned had to be destroyed.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

At this age, your students may tell innocent lies. When they are asked whether they have completed their work, they may answer with a "yes" even though they have a little more to do. When confronted, they may say that they didn't know how to do it.

Sometimes, they lie because they are afraid of getting in trouble, or simply because they don't want to do something that you asked.

Today's lesson is a good opportunity to teach them about dishonesty so that as they grow up, they can learn to differentiate between right and wrong.

Gehazi's tragic outcome began with his greed. He thought that Elisha was foolish for not accepting Naaman's generous gifts. So he lied to Naaman and took some of the money that had been offered to Elisha. When he returned to Elisha, he had to make up another lie to cover up the first one.

When people tell lies, they don't think about the consequences. And they often have to continue lying in order to cover up the old lies. When we tell the truth, there is no need to go through all this trouble.

Gehazi thought that he could get away with his lies because no one would know. But God is omniscient! He sees everything that people think and do. Being greedy does not please God. Lying about it is even worse!

Remind your students that God is always watching. They can feel proud when they tell the truth because God will be proud of them!

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 5:19-27

BIBLE TRUTH

God will punish those who commit sin.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To differentiate between honesty and dishonesty.
2. To learn to be honest children of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be holy in all your conduct."

(1 Peter 1:15b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Dear Lord, thank You for peacefully taking us through another week. We have come here to worship and praise You. In today's lesson, we will learn about someone who was very greedy and dishonest. Let us learn not to be dishonest but to follow in Your way. May You help and guide us. Hallelujah! Amen.

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the story of Naaman. He had a terrible disease called leprosy that no one could cure. But his wife's servant girl told him about Elisha. So, after he received permission from his king, he went on a journey to Israel to find Elisha.

When Naaman got to Elisha's house, Elisha sent a messenger out to tell him something. What was it? (To wash himself seven times in the Jordan River and then he would be well.) When Naaman heard this, he became very angry. Why? (He thought Elisha would come out and cure him personally; he thought the rivers at his homeland were better.) He was about to leave but his servants encouraged him, saying that he had been asked to do something simple. So he went to the Jordan River to wash himself. When he got up the seventh time, his leprosy was cured!

He praised God and went to thank Elisha. He wanted to give the prophet some gifts but Elisha refused, saying that it was God's power, not his own.

VOCABULARY

dishonest: not truthful

greedy: selfish, wanting more

BIBLE STORY

Gehazi's Greed

After Naaman was cured, everyone was happy.

Naaman was happy because he was no longer sick. His servants were happy because their master had been healed and their journey was a success. Elisha was happy because God's power and grace was shown.

But one person was not too pleased: Gehazi, Elisha's servant.

When Naaman offered the gifts to Elisha to thank him, Gehazi thought that Elisha would definitely accept the generous gesture. There was a lot of money and plenty of nice clothes.

Gehazi was disappointed when Elisha refused. He didn't think Elisha was being very smart. The more he thought about it, the more he wanted the gifts for himself. He thought, "Elisha saved Naaman, but didn't accept his gifts! I will go after Naaman myself and get something from him!"

But he couldn't just go after Naaman without thinking of a good excuse. So he carefully thought up some lies to convince the commander to give him the money!

Gehazi Lies to Naaman

Gehazi wasted no time to run and catch up with the commander and his chariot. Naaman saw Gehazi running after him and stopped his chariot to meet Gehazi.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Is Elisha all right?"

"Oh yes," Gehazi answered, "Everything is all right, but two young prophets have just come to our house. They need some money and clothes. Elisha has sent me here to tell you that. Please give them a talent of silver and

some clothes."

Gehazi was telling lie after lie. There were no prophets at their house, and Elisha never asked Gehazi to chase after Naaman. But when Naaman heard this, he was very willing to help.

"Please take these two talents of silver and some clothes."

Gehazi was very happy to hear this. Naaman asked his servants to put the money and clothes into bags. He even told his servants to carry the bags for Gehazi part of the way.

When Gehazi reached Elisha's house, he thanked the servants and took the bags. Then he went and hid them so that Elisha would not find out.

Gehazi Lies to Elisha

After he carefully put away the money and clothes, he went to see Elisha so that the prophet would not become suspicious.

When Elisha saw him come in, he asked, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

Gehazi had to tell another lie.

"I haven't gone anywhere, my master."

He thought that answer was good enough, but little did he know that God had revealed to Elisha what he had done and that very serious punishment was coming his way.

God Strikes Gehazi with Leprosy

"Gehazi," said Elisha, "Was my heart not with you when you went to meet with Naaman? Should you be receiving

money, clothes, and gifts at this time? Naaman's leprosy will be on you and your descendants forever."

Then all of a sudden, Gehazi was struck with leprosy, the same disease that Naaman had just been cured from. He left Elisha's house completely covered in sores and he

went away very miserable. Having all the money in the world was not going to help him now. Gehazi lied many times because of his greed, but in the end, God knew his heart and punished him for his sins.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. Gehazi was greedy and _____ (dishonest).
2. Gehazi lied to Naaman and asked him for _____ (money) and clothes.
3. Gehazi lied to Naaman by telling him that two young prophets had come. True.
4. Gehazi admitted the truth to Elisha. False; Gehazi lied to Elisha.
5. Because he had sinned against God, Gehazi was punished and received Naaman's leprosy. True.

Questions to Think About

1. Use your own words to describe what being honest means.
2. What do you think Gehazi could have done to feel better after lying to Naaman and Elisha?
3. What can you do if you have been dishonest about something?
4. What would you do if you found something that didn't belong to you?

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Be holy in all your conduct." (1 Peter 1:15b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Who was honest?

In today's lesson, we learned about what happened to Gehazi because he was greedy. What did he do out of greed? [Let students answer.] He lied to Naaman and took the gifts that were originally for Elisha, and then he lied once more, this time to his master. The Bible tells us that the Lord hates a lying tongue (Prov 6:17). Dishonesty is an abomination to Him. If a family member or friend of yours lied to you, how would you feel? You certainly wouldn't feel good. Likewise, God feels sad and disappointed when we do not speak the truth. A dishonest person is often self-seeking and selfish. God's commandment is for us to love others and do good. He blesses those who are truthful, but disgraces people who are deceitful like Gehazi.

Dishonesty is something that really harms our relationship with God. Sometimes, it may be easier for us to tell lies than to tell the truth, but lying can become a habit. The more we lie, the more deceitful our hearts will become. The Bible says, "He who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much" (Lk 16:10b). If we allow ourselves to lie about little things, it'll become natural for us to lie about bigger things in the future. Not only will this get us into trouble, it will also take God away from us. Therefore, we must be very careful with our words and actions every day.

Let's revisit our story today and try to identify if the statements were honest or dishonest.

Instructions: Read each sentence. Circle the person who said those words. If the person said something honest, circle the word "Honest." If he was being dishonest, then circle the word "Dishonest."

1. After Naaman was healed, Elisha said to him, "I did not make you well. God did." Was Elisha being honest or dishonest?



Honest

Dishonest



2. After Naaman left, Gehazi said to himself, "I will think up an excuse to have the gifts for myself." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?



Honest

Dishonest

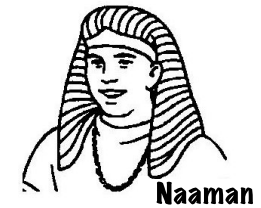


3. Gehazi said to Naaman, "Elisha asked me to come and find you." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?



Honest

Dishonest



4. Gehazi said, "Naaman, two young prophets have just come to our house. They need money and clothes." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?



Honest

Dishonest



5. Gehazi said to Elisha, "I did not go anywhere." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?



Honest

Dishonest



2. Live Honestly

Objective: To help the students learn to be honest people of God.

Instructions: Gehazi showed us that it is wrong to live a dishonest life. We want to live an honest life. Have students suggest an honest response to each of the pictures illustrated. Write the response on the board so that the students can copy them onto their activity sheet.

1. "My father owns a candy store. Let's take some candy from the store without paying when we go visit him. He won't know."

What would you say?

2. "That is Jack's Bible. Let's hide it so that he gets in trouble. It'll be funny!"

What would you say?

3. "I found this toy here. Let's take it. No one will know. We can have fun playing with it."

What would you say?

4. "This park is beautiful. It has many pretty flowers. Let's take some. I think my mom will like it when I surprise her with beautiful flowers."

What would you say?

5. "My mother told me to pray every night but I don't! I tell her that I do so that she'll stop nagging me about it."

What would you say?

6. "I don't know the answer to this question. I think I will copy Annie's answer. She won't mind because she is my friend."

What would you say?



Students, lying stems from the heart; it can poison us from the inside and disgrace our heavenly Father. God searches our hearts and detects any dishonest thoughts we have. A lot of times, these thoughts are difficult to get off our minds. But even during those instances, we can be honest with God and ask Him for help. God is merciful and understanding. If we truly want to be honest children, He will cleanse our hearts and fill us with thoughts of His grace and honor. God has everything we will ever need, and we certainly don't need dishonest gains.

ACTIVITY

Be Honest Children of God

Objective: To understand that when we lie, we are only harming ourselves.

Materials

- Play dough
- Candy

Instructions

1. Give each student a bit of play dough.
2. Ask them to make simple play dough people to represent themselves.
3. When they have finished shaping the play dough, have the students sit in a circle.
4. Ask the students to introduce their play dough people to one another.
5. Ask each student to say one dishonest thing. When the students say something dishonest, they need to take apart a small section of their play dough person. Once all the students have each said one dishonest thing, ask them to look at their play dough person and introduce it again to the rest of the class.
6. Tell the students that when we say dishonest things, it is as if we are breaking off small parts of ourselves in the process. In the end, we'll become incomplete and broken like our play dough people.
7. Allow them to form their play dough people once again. After they're done, start another round of sharing. This time, tell them that they can choose to say something dishonest or something honest. If they say a dishonest thing, they can get a piece of candy, but they must still lose a play dough part. If they say an honest thing, they do not get a piece of candy, but their play dough person will remain the same.
8. Once that round is done, those who have candy must return it to the teacher. Have everyone share their play dough person.
9. Emphasize how we might think that it is okay to be dishonest sometimes in order to get stuff we want, but in the end, we are only hurting ourselves. We will be damaged and missing pieces like our play dough people. We must remember that God doesn't want us to hurt ourselves by being dishonest.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. greedy
2. leprosy
3. money, clothes
4. dishonest
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. B

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 12—Greedy Gehazi

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God will punish those who commit sin.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To differentiate between honesty and dishonesty.
2. To learn to be honest children of God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Peter 1:15b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

money

dishonest

greedy

leprosy

clothes

Fill In the Blank

- Mom already gave you two cookies but you're still not satisfied and want another two. You shouldn't be so _____, but rather, say, "Thank you, Mom!"
- God punished Gehazi for lying by giving him Naaman's _____.
- Gehazi took _____ and _____ from Naaman.
- When you don't say the truth, you are being _____.

Multiple Choice

- ____ : Gehazi was not happy because _____.
 - Naaman's disease was cured
 - Elisha praised God for the miracle
 - He didn't get any gold and silver
- ____ : Gehazi got gold and other gifts by _____.
 - Healing Naaman
 - Telling Naaman a lie
 - Begging Naaman to pity him
- ____ : Which is not the reason why Gehazi was struck with leprosy?
 - He was obedient.
 - He was greedy and dishonest.
 - He lied to Elisha.
- ____ : When we want to get something, we should _____.
 - Lie until we get what we want
 - Be honest and thankful
 - Just take it