Week 1: Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6:14)

Memory Verse: “It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich” Proverbs 16:8 CEV

Lessons for the week:
Monday: Belt of Truth
Tuesday: Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10)
Wednesday: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
Thursday: Review and Jesus is our truth

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Schedule

10am – Big Assembly (led by interns)
10:30-11:45 – Reading Class (taught by reading teachers)
11:45-12:30 – Lunch
12:30-12:45 – Large Group Bible Lesson (led by youth groups!)
12:45-1:00 – Small Group Review Time (led by interns)
1:00-2:00 - Rotations (led by youth groups!):

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<th>Red, Purple, and Green Rotation Schedule (K, 1st, and 2nd grade)</th>
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<td>1:00-1:20</td>
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2:00 – Ticket Time
Point of the Day: The Belt of Truth holds the rest of the armor together. Without truth in our lives, we can’t be strong in the Lord.

Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes - all together in a big group right after lunch) – Spend this teaching the children the story for today. You can do a skit, act the story out while someone reads or tells the story, show a video, etc. You only have to tell the story once, so go all out here and be creative! Below is an idea to get you started:

- Have the narrator of the story wear pants that are too big with no belt. Have a few other teens act out Roman soldiers getting ready for battle without their belts. For Roman soldiers, the belt would be at vital as a piece as the helmet. Why? Because without it their leg armor would fall down and trip them, their breastplate would be very loose, their sword and other things kept in their belt would have to be carried. Life would be way too hard without a belt. This item holds the rest of the Armor together. Without knowing and practicing the truth, using some of the other parts of the Armor of God would be practically impossible. Have you ever noticed that when someone doesn’t tell the truth it often is to cover up something they did or that someone else did that was wrong? If we act upon our knowledge of truth it can (and will) hold our righteousness intact. We learn the truth by studying God’s Word and by applying what we have learned; we use the Belt of Truth to hold the rest of the Armor together.

Rotations:

- Craft (20 minutes) – You can do the same craft in both craft room 1 and craft room 2 or have a different, more age appropriate craft in each room. Below are some ideas:
  - Decorate foam or cardstock belt. See further directions here: [http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/armor/mbelt.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/armor/mbelt.htm)

- Game (20 minutes): You can do the same game in both game 1 and game 2 or have a different, more age appropriate game in each room. Below are some ideas:
  - Tape or mark a starting line and a finish line about 10 feet away from each other. Tell the children that you will ask them a series of true or false questions. All the children answer every question, all at the same time. Those who get it right move forward. Those who do not get it right stay put. Continue in game play until every child has crossed the finish line. (Example Questions: True or False? Birds live underwater. Moses wrote the entire Bible. Jesus isn’t the only way to get to heaven. The sky is blue. In some countries, it is illegal to own a bible. Etc.)
  - Review Bowling: Spray-paint 2 liter-sized, plastic soda bottles like bowling pins. Split the group into 2 teams, and ask each child a review question about the large group bible story.
For a correct answer to a review question, a child gets an opportunity to bowl. The child or team gets a point for every pin knocked down.

- Huge pants relay: you will need a very large pair of pants for each team. Set up an obstacle course. The teams line up. The first person puts on the pants and must run the course and back and then hand the pants to the next player. The team to have all of its team mates complete the course wins. The spiritual parallel is that it is hard to run the race when your pants keep falling down. Like a belt holds up our pants, truth of heart holds our relationship with Christ together. (http://www.street.ns.ca/armor2.htm)

- **Memory Verse and Snack (20 minutes):**
  - Use this time in both memory verse classes to help the children learn the verse for the week: “It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich” Proverbs 16:8 CEV. Use the activity below or come up with one of your own.
    - **Hand Signs:** Assign a hand motion for each word of the verse. Teach the children the hand signs and the words at the same time. Then say the words while the children only do the hand motions. And then do the hand motions while the children say the words.
  - **Snack:** Fruit by the foot
Tuesday, June 21st

Major Point: Not telling the truth has consequences.

Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes): Ananias and Sapphira – This is a perfect time for a skit! Start the skit with your teens in modern day acting out common ways kids lie (to their teacher, parents, etc.) then have the narrator remind them that lying has consequences and act out the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Remind the children to how important it is to wear their belt of truth.

This link has some good ideas: http://www.biblefunforkids.com/2014/12/ananias-and-sapphira.html

Rotations:

Craft (20 minutes): You can do the same craft in both craft room 1 and craft room 2 or have a different, more age appropriate craft in each room. Below are some ideas:

- The "snowball to avalanche" activity will teach students that seemingly harmless small lies can add up to become a real disaster. To prepare, have students make a list of statements that are lies, such as "I cleaned the house as soon as my mom said to," or "I can dunk a basketball on the school court." For each untruthful statement, students make a snowball by crumbling half a piece of paper. They can the color it and add glitter or other effects. On a flat surface, such as a desk, have students present an untruthful statement, then place a "snowball." Challenge students to stack snowballs while keeping a pyramid that doesn't fall over with each lie. Soon enough, the pyramid will collapse, showing that lies create an unstable framework from which to build relationships.

- Certificate of authenticity – Use thick cardstock, write at the top of each page "Certificate of Authenticity." Just below this write, "This certificate tells us that what we say is true” Also include the memory verse on the certificate. Provide materials and allow the children to decorate. While the children are working on their certificates, explain that just as we delight in beautiful things, God delights in us when we tell the truth.

Game (20 minutes): You can do the same game in both game 1 and game 2 or have a different, more age appropriate game in each room. Below are some ideas:

- Truth Tag: The person who is "it" is known as the "lie chaser." The other kids run around yelling out fibs like, "I eat smelly socks for dinner!" The kids must go to a designated "jail area," until another player, the "truth fairy," tags them free only after they make a truthful statement. However, if the child who is freed gets tagged again, he becomes a lie chaser as well, and the game continues until all the "lies" are caught.

- Play a game similar to balderdash. Allow one leader to represent each team. Read an unusual word. Each contestant must give a definition (real or made up and try to bluff that it is real). The kids must then decide who is telling the truth. For each guess they
get right they score a point. The team with the most points wins 5000 Pts. (The team with the greatest number of points is dismissed first at the end of service)

Memory Verse/Snack (20 minutes):

- Use this time in both Memory Verse classes to help the children learn the verse for the week: “It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich” Proverbs 16:8 CEV. Use the activity below or come up with one of your own.
  - Memory Verse Challenge: Make signs using construction paper with one or two words of the verse on each. Have several teens or children stand at front and hold the signs so that everyone can see the words. Lead the children in saying the verse together a few times. Then, one at a time, have the sign holders hide their sign, and say the verse together again. Repeat this until all the signs are hidden and say the verse one more time.
- Snack: Chocolate coins
**Wednesday, June 22nd**

**Major Point:** When you are truthful and make things right, you build trust. When we admit we have not been truthful, we can earn back other’s trust.

**Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes): Zacchaeus** – Tell or read the story to the children once, and then choose some children to come on stage and help you your teens act out the story. Have costumes the children can easily put on. Choose the shortest person in VBS to be Zacchaeus. Have the taller people crowd around “Zacchaeus”. Then have Zacchaeus get on a chair so he can see Jesus coming. Emphasize that Zacchaeus was a thief and considered a traitor to his people (Luke 19:1-10). When he decided to follow Jesus, Zacchaeus worked hard to earn his community’s trust.

**Rotations:**

**Craft (20 minutes):** You can do the same craft in both craft room 1 and craft room 2 or have a different, more age appropriate craft in each room. Below are some ideas:

- Have the children make trees out of construction paper, then draw Zacchaeus in the tree. Write the memory verse on the bottom of the paper.

- http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-changed-zacchaeus-heart.html

- Use a toilet paper roll and tissue paper to make a tree - print off an image of Zacchaeus to stick in the top.

**Game (20 minutes):** You can do the same game in both game 1 and game 2 or have a different, more age appropriate game in each room. Below are some ideas:
• Play *I Spy* with the younger children. Say “Zacchaeus climbed up in a tree so he could get a better view of Jesus. And Jesus picked Zacchaeus out of the crowd to have dinner with him. Let’s test our own vision with a game of I Spy.

• Play the game “Zacchaeus, Come Down!” Place several pieces of masking tape on the floor throughout the room, one for each child. Have each child stand on a piece of masking tape and explain that they must keep their feet on the masking tape at all times. Blow up a balloon and explain that it represents Zacchaeus. Explain that the people of the town didn’t like Zacchaeus and didn’t want him to come down from the tree to spend time with Jesus. Tell the children that they are going to pretend that they are the townspeople and must try to keep the balloon (Zacchaeus) off the ground without stepping off of their piece of tape. If the group is large, add extra balloons into the mix. (https://whenoneteachestwolearn.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/guess-whos-coming-to-dinner-zacchaeus-luke-191-8/)

**Memory Verse/ Snack (20 minutes):**

- Use this time in both memory verse classes to help the children learn the verse for the week: “It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich” Proverbs 16:8 CEV. Use the activity below or come up with one of your own.
  - **Volley Verse:** Sit or stand in a circle. Take a soft ball or balloon and pass it around in a circle, each person saying one word of the verse as they hold the ball and pass it on. Go fast and slow, repeating the whole verse each time. When the kids feel comfortable saying the verse, volley the ball from person to person across the circle, letting each person say one word as they pass the ball.

- **Snack:** Grapes and Pretzel sticks to make a tree
Thursday, June 23rd

Major Point: Jesus speaks truth, but Satan tells lies.

Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes): Talk about how speaking the truth wins the battle for Jesus, who is Truth, rather than Satan, who is the father of lies (John 14:6, John 8:44). Emphasize that when we tell the truth (and wear the belt of truth); we show we are on God’s team, not Satan’s. Also review all the lessons from the previous days (the small group battles are next in the schedule!).

No rotations