

Choose Truth

DAY 2

BIBLE PASSAGES

Ephesians 6:14; Genesis 3

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Absolutely trust in absolute truth.

VICTORY VERSE

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth.
Ephesians 6:14, ESV

RHYME TIME

Decide your side!

LESSON FOCUS

Children will learn how to become a child of the King and a citizen of the good kingdom, and the importance of choosing to wear the belt of truth.

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Ready or Not
- Teach It!
Part 1: Puppet Pal—Gospel Presentation
Part 2: Knight Time—Belt
Part 3: Truth or Error Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Victory Verse
Part 2: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 3 and Ephesians 6:10–18 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials. For more information on the armor of God and absolute truth, see AnswersVBS.com/KCFAQ.
- Read “Leading a Child to Christ,” found on the inside back cover of this guide.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster
- Gospel presentation posters (2 posters)
- Truth or Error game board

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE CD-ROM

- 2 copies of today's puppet script
- Truth or Error cards and teaching explanations

OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible or children's Bible
- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Treasure chest
- Disheveled clothes costume (see page 23)
- Armor of God demonstration pieces (see page 26)
- Optional: Small easel
- Oversized pants and belt (see page 26)
- Puppet and clipboard
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 27)
- Optional: Day 2 Armor of God card, 1 per child

Devotion 2

Choose Truth

For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

There are no absolutes. Ever heard that one before? Of course, the irony with that statement is that it's . . . an absolute statement. Those who say that actually mean, "I choose not to accept the absolute truth claims you are making."

So, can we know truth? Is there any basis on which we can make absolute moral statements ("Homosexual behavior is sinful; Jesus is the only way to heaven")?

The only basis for determining truth from error, right from wrong, comes from embracing the One who is truth. From the Lord Himself, we learn that He is "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). And Jesus reiterates that God is the source of truth when He claimed, "I am the way, *the truth*, and the life" (John 14:6, emphasis added).

When we know Jesus, we know truth. When we believe in Jesus, we believe in truth. Because He is the Creator, He is

the one who sets the rules for His creation to follow. And He has given us those rules in His Word. There is no room for wavering because He has confirmed that we can trust His Word to be truth (John 17:17).

Apart from the standard given in the Bible, there is no way to determine what truth is—everything becomes a matter of personal opinion. And who determines which opinion is correct?

Examine your heart today. As you teach the children the *truth* that the Savior King Jesus came to earth as a baby, died on the Cross to pay for our sins, and rose from the dead showing that God had accepted His payment, are you harboring doubts about God or His Word? Can you say with the psalmist, "I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me" (Psalm 119:30)? Have you put on the belt of truth?

Introduce It!

Ready or Not (5 minutes)

Teacher One welcomes the knights and maidens and asks if anyone remembers what they learned yesterday about the two kingdoms. After chatting about this for a minute, Teacher Two bursts in looking disheveled and wearing the following:

- A pair of pants with the belt through one loop and dragging on the ground
- A shirt half buttoned, wrinkled, one arm inside out (wear a T-shirt underneath)
- One shoe on, one foot with just a sock half on
- A hat falling across your face
- Papers in a folder that are all messed up
- Optional: a little damp

Teacher Two: Hi kids! Has VBS started already? Well, okay, I'm ready to go.

Teacher One: Um, excuse me, but you really don't look ready.

Teacher Two: Hesitantly. I'm ready.

Teacher One: But look at you. Your belt is practically falling off. Your shirt is only half buttoned. You only have one shoe on. Your hat is covering half your face. Your teaching notes are a mess. And you're wet! I'm sorry, but you are *not* ready! What have you been doing?

Teacher Two: With a whiny, pathetic voice. Well, I was on my way in when I realized I'd left my Bible and notes in the carriage, and then I tripped and lost my shoe, and then a bucket of water fell on me, and well, it was just one thing after another.

Teacher One: Why don't you go and pull yourself together and come back when you're ready?

Teacher Two: Okay. I'll be back soon. Go behind the puppet stage if doing the puppet.

Teacher One: All right. See you then. Boys and girls, as I was saying before ___ the Great came in, there are two kingdoms—God's good kingdom and Satan's bad kingdom. If we want to be a citizen of the good kingdom, we need to be ready! ___ the Great wasn't ready, was he? There are lots of things we can do to be ready, which we'll talk about in a little bit, but the first and most important step is to make sure you're part of the good kingdom in the first place. Let's chat with Christian a bit about how you can join the good kingdom.

Teach It!

Part 1: Puppet Pal—Gospel Presentation (10 minutes)

Puppet: Turn your head while saying: **Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!** (Pronounced ha-SAW.)

Teacher: Huzzah, huzzah? What's that mean?

Puppet: It means hooray, hooray! I'm so happy the boys and girls are back with us in the Learn-a-Lot Chambers. Let's all shout, "Huzzah, huzzah!" Do so.

- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Disheveled clothes costume

- Bible or children's Bible
- Boy or girl puppet and clipboard
- Treasure chest
- Gospel presentation posters (2 posters-Teacher Resource Pack)
- Two copies of today's puppet script (Teacher CD-ROM)

PRE-PREP

1. Cut the pictures apart and place in order in the treasure chest.
2. Tape one script inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.

Day 2: Choose Truth

Teacher: Do you remember that true event we talked about yesterday from the Bible?

Puppet: Well, we learned from God's true book, the Bible, about the first people. I've forgotten their names. Kids, do you remember their names? Have them shout them out.

Teacher: Right! It was Adam and Eve. And who came along and tricked Adam and Eve?

Puppet: Let's see. Who was it? Do you guys remember who it was? Have the kids shout responses.

Teacher: It was Satan in the form of a serpent. He tricked Eve into eating the fruit she wasn't supposed to eat, remember?

Puppet: Oh, yeah. God told her not to, but the serpent got her to doubt God's true words.

Teacher: That's it. And do you remember what happened after Eve ate the fruit? Maybe the boys and girls remember. Take responses.

Puppet: After she ate, she gave some to Adam and he ate, too. They disobeyed God's command, which is called sin.

Teacher: Boys and girls, let's say that word *sin* together. Do so. Anytime you don't obey God, you sin. God says to obey your parents, so if you disobey them, you sin. God also says to be kind, so if you bully someone, you sin. God also says to tell the truth, so if you tell a lie, you sin.

Puppet: And sin is what the bad kingdom is based on.

Teacher: Take the bad kingdom picture out of the treasure chest and either hold it up or hang it up. Yep, Satan leads the bad kingdom, and we are actually all born as members of that bad kingdom. The Bible tells us that all have sinned, including every one of these kids and me (Romans 3:23). And God said that the punishment for sin is death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23). When we die, we'll be eternally separated from God forever in a terrible place called hell.

Puppet: So what should we do? Is everyone going to be stuck in the bad kingdom forever?

Teacher: Nope! God had a great plan to rescue us. It has to do with Someone named Jesus. Jesus is God's one and only Son. He was in heaven with God, but He chose to come down from that beautiful and perfect place to rescue us so we can be part of the good kingdom again. Hold up/hang up the good kingdom picture.

Puppet: Let's give Jesus the loudest claps we can to thank Him! Do so.

Teacher: He actually came to earth as a baby. This is what we celebrate at Christmas! Hold up/hang up the Jesus as a baby picture.

Puppet: I love Christmas!

Teacher: Jesus grew up and lived a perfect life. You know, we sin at times, but Jesus never did. He always obeyed God's commands. He's the only one who never did anything wrong.

Puppet: Wow!

Teacher: But then, when He was a grown man, He allowed some men from the bad kingdom to put Him to death. They nailed Him to a cross, which hurt a lot. Hold up/hang up the Jesus carrying the cross picture.

Puppet: Why would He allow them to do that?

♣ If you prefer to have a person instead of puppet present the gospel, simply have another teacher take the puppet part.



♣ For those who prefer not to show images of Jesus, we have included alternate pictures on the Teacher CD-ROM for you to print.

♣ If you are teaching children who have no knowledge of the Bible or Jesus, you may need to develop and explain this section more.



TEACHER: Because He loves each of us. And He knew that we could never make it to God's perfect heaven on our own because of our sin. God is holy, which means He is without sin. And He can't let sinners into His heaven. So Jesus gave His life in place of ours, taking the punishment for sin, so our sin could be forgiven.

Puppet: Jesus must really love these boys and girls!

TEACHER: He does! And the cool thing is that He didn't stay dead!

Puppet: Say what? That's impossible! Once you're dead, you're dead!

TEACHER: Not for Jesus because He's God's Son. He Himself is God, and God can do anything, including rising from the dead!

Puppet: You mean the men from the bad kingdom couldn't keep Him dead?

TEACHER: Right! That's why He's the King of kings. Now King Jesus is alive and living in heaven. Hold up/hang up the empty tomb picture. He completed His mission and made the way for us to be able to get to heaven someday—but we have to decide we want to be part of His good kingdom.

Puppet: The boys and girls aren't automatically part of the good kingdom?

TEACHER: Nope. Does anyone know how to become a member of God's kingdom? Take answers.

Let's learn what God teaches in His Word, the Bible.

First, ADMIT. Hold up/hang up the Admit picture.

Puppet: ADMIT. Let's all stand up and say that together. Do so, then sit back down.

TEACHER: Admit you're a sinner. This is called repenting. Now that you're seated again, I need everyone to scoot around for a minute so your back is to me. Do so.

Repenting is sort of like turning your back. When you repent, you say you're sorry for your sins and turn from them. You put your back toward those sins. So when you think of repenting from sin, remember that it means to turn away from sin. Okay, turn around so I can see you again.

Can you think of a time you sinned? Take responses, then say something like the following, depending on what they said.

God says we are to be kind (Ephesians 4:32). Have you ever been unkind to someone? God says that we're to always tell the truth (Ephesians 4:25). Have you ever told a lie? God says that we're to obey our parents (Ephesians 6:1). Have you ever disobeyed your parents? If you agree that you've ever sinned even once, then admit that to God. Tell Him you're sorry for disobeying His commands.

Second, BELIEVE. Hold up/hang up the Believe picture.

Puppet: BELIEVE. Let's raise both our hands in the air and shout that together. Do so.

TEACHER: Believe that Jesus really did come to earth for you. He lived a perfect life, He never sinned, He died, He rose from the dead, and He loves you. The Bible tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life"—life with God in His good kingdom (John 3:16).

Third, FOREVER RECEIVE. Hold up/hang up the Forever Receive picture.



Puppet: FOREVER RECEIVE. Let's look at our neighbor and say that to them. Do so.

Teacher: If you admit you're a sinner, repent of (turn from) your sins, and believe Jesus died and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for sin, then you can forever receive Him. That means you can be part of His forever kingdom and follow Him. Sometimes this isn't easy. You will want to obey God's commands now instead of your own. You are making a life-long commitment, which is a big deal. You're choosing to follow God, no matter what. God will give you His Holy Spirit to help you love and obey Him.

If you want to talk with someone about this, you may follow ____ and they will help you.

Otherwise, you can stay with me, and you'll learn how to be ready each day to live for God's kingdom. But remember, your class leaders or any of us here are happy to talk to you any time this week about this most important decision ever.

Children who are interested leave for salvation counseling. Everyone else stays for the following teaching time.

Part 2: Knight Time — Belt (5–10 minutes)

Teacher Two comes back, looking ready.

Each day, demonstrate putting the armor on yourself or a child volunteer, or just hold up for all to see. You can use something simple like foil to fashion pieces of the armor, or buy play sets of armor (available from the resource catalog), or use something to symbolize the armor, such as a football player's uniform (belt for belt of truth, chest pads for breastplate of righteousness, cleats for shoes of peace, face mask for shield of faith, helmet for helmet of salvation, and playbook or football for sword of the Spirit). Or, as you demonstrate, the kids can put on *imaginary* pieces along with you.

Teacher Two: I'm baaa-ck, and now I really am ready. I hope you all have taken the first step in being ready by becoming a child of the King. I have, and I'm so thankful! (You may want to tell them a little more about when you became a Christian.)

Once we belong to God's Kingdom, we need to get serious about following the Lord and choosing to live for Him. We need to be ready for the battle between the two kingdoms. The Bible tells us that one way to get ready is to put on some special, invisible clothes that help us live for God. These invisible clothes are called the armor of God. It's our responsibility to put on the armor daily. If we don't put on the armor of God, we can end up getting tricked, like Eve, and losing some battles. And remember—there are battles, even though they're invisible!

So let's hear about the first piece of the armor of God. During medieval times, the knights wore a belt around their clothing to keep their clothes up and hold their swords. This belt was the very first piece of armor the knight put on.

Over a regular pair of shorts/pants, put on an oversized pair of pants. The pants should be so big they won't stay up on their own and are falling off. Next, put a belt around the pants and cinch it tightly shut so the pants stay up easily. Then say:

In the same way, God tells us to wear a spiritual belt called the belt of truth. The belt of truth is the piece of the armor that keeps your belief in the Bible held up strong and sure. Ephesians 6:14(a). When you put on the belt of truth, it reminds you that the Bible

- Armor of God demonstration pieces
- Optional: Small easel to display armor of God pieces
- Oversized pants and belt of some kind
- Daily overview poster (Teacher Resource Pack)

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare the armor of God demo pieces.

is true—every single word of it. Just like a knight couldn't function if his belt had missing pieces or if he didn't have a belt, you can't function if you have doubts in parts or all of God's Word. Are you going to have an unshakeable faith in God's Word, or are you going to doubt it? You have to decide your side. Hold up the daily overview poster. Let's say that together: Decide your side!

Always remember that the bad kingdom is based on lies, so Satan will throw doubts and lies at you about God and His Word. But God can't lie, so His book can't lie, either. It's the absolute truth. We can always trust it to tell us the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And if we do have questions, we can know there are answers.

The belt of truth also means you choose to be a person who tells the truth. (Tell an example of someone you know or know of who is known for their honesty, or have the kids share examples.) Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). If you lie, you are following after the Enemy. In all you say and do, you must decide your side!

Part 3: Truth or Error Game (10 minutes)

Remind them that the Enemy mixes truth with error. So they don't get tricked by the Enemy, they must train their brains to be strong in the battle for truth. This game will help them wear the belt of truth! The way you can tell what isn't right is by knowing what is right!

Apply It!

In any remaining time, complete one or more of the following ideas in class. These are also in the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time.

Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

Part 1: Victory Verse

Today's Verse: Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth. Ephesians 6:14, ESV

Show the Day 2 Armor of God card with the Bible reference on the back. They will receive this collectible at the end of the day. Practice this verse a couple times, using the memory verse poster as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: See how many times you can say the whole verse correctly in the time it takes you to put on a real belt.

Tomorrow's Verse: Having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the . . . gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:14–15

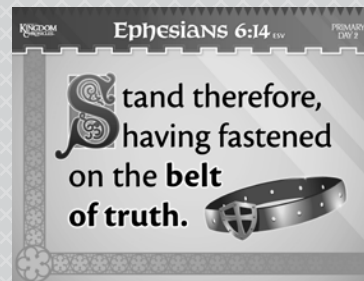
Try the challenge again, this time with tomorrow's verse.



Day 1 Truth or Error supplies

♣ See the directions under Day 1 for specifics on how to play the game.

- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- Optional: Day 2 Armor of God card, 1 per child
- Memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Pack)



♣ We used the English Standard Version of the Bible for the Day 2 verse because it uses the phrase "belt of truth" which is more consistent with the phrasing used for the other pieces of armor throughout the rest of the verses in this passage.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Go on a scavenger hunt through your house to find the one book that is completely true. Hint: One name for it is God's Word! How many of that book can you find?
2. Make a sign to put in your closet near your belts that says "Belt of Truth." When you put on a belt, remind yourself that God's Word is true from cover to cover.
3. Tell someone what God's Word means to you.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/KCKids for fun information.

Ask yourself this question: Do I have an unshakeable trust in the Bible?