

Illustration: **Excuses, Excuses**

Discussion: **Integrity**

Scripture: **Colossians 3:9-10, Proverbs 19:5, 19, Proverbs 12:19**

Excuses, Excuses

Ten Excuses for Being Late

- (10) We ran out of gas.
- (9) My Bible Study teacher ran over time.
- (8) My dog ate it.
- (7) Oh, I mean, we lost the dog and had to go and find him.
- (6) I think my watch stopped. What time is it?
- (5) Dad choked on his coffee and donut, so I had to do the Heimlich on him. We took him to the emergency room and the doctor said I saved his life. Was it on the news?
- (4) We couldn't figure out where we parked until everyone left the mall.
- (3) We were witnessing to some Jehovah's Witnesses and we lost track of time.
- (2) No, really—It was a seven hour movie.
- (1) I lost my flip flops and I had to walk uphill, barefoot, in the snow!

- *Are these excuses or lies?* (Part of this depends on what really happened and what your motive was. For example, did you really run out of gas or are you exaggerating. Did your dog really run away and you had to go FIND him or did he just run out in the driveway, and you had to go out and walk him back in. There's a big difference between these two. Would you have been late anyway, even if this situation hadn't happened.)

- *What is the difference between an excuse and a lie?* (Remember, dishonesty, no matter what you may call it, is still dishonesty. A lie by any other name, is still a lie.)

SAY: One difference between the truth and lies is that truth stands on its own, while lies usually have to be supported by other lies.

Ask your students to look up the following verses:

Read Colossians 3:9-10

Read Proverbs 19:5, 19

Read Proverbs 12:19

SAY: God hates dishonesty, even when we justify it as an excuse or half-truth. God wants us to always speak the truth and to be honest people. The Bible is clear that there are harsh and tough consequences for lying, both spiritually and in this world. So, if there is a "reason" for something, share that reason honestly. Don't exaggerate it and don't ever get in the habit of creating excuses and giving half-truths (lies) as way of getting out of trouble or responsibilities.