

TRUTHFULNESS (2 lessons) Part of a series on Character Building from the Bible

Introduction: This unit of 2 lessons consists of two Bible stories showing a common character trait--one story from the Old Testament, and one story showing that trait in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Two Bible verses will be learned as a class for each unit of 2 lessons. The character traits are presented as desirable qualities in our lives, and Jesus Christ as the only one who ever fulfilled them perfectly. In the beginning of the series, refer to the word CHARACTER in the dictionary. Ask these thought questions: What are YOU really like? What is JESUS really like? We will be thinking a lot about both these questions during this series.

TRUTH

Learning about the word TRUTH, TRUE:

Definition: TRUE 1. Agreeing with fact; not false. 2. Real; genuine.
TRUTH 1. That which is true.

Opposite: Lie, false, fake, pretend.

Object Lesson: Show two watches--a real, attractive, working watch, and a cheap plastic toy watch. Ask which is the TRUE watch. The other watch is pretend, false, not genuine, fake. It will not really help you tell time because it is not a REAL or TRUE watch. Wearing it is like telling a lie. You are saying it is a real watch, but it is not TRULY a watch. It is only pretend. As you listen to the first two lessons, think about what is REAL and TRUE, and what is only PRETEND.

Bible Memory Verses:

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Grades 1-2 Lying lips are UUUUCCKK! to the Lord. (Or use the word abomination, demonstrating its horrid meaning by a sick, exaggerated tone of voice and look on your face, or bodily movements indicating something utterly disgusting.)

John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.

Grades 1-2 Jesus said, I am...the truth.

Bible Stories:

Daniel's courage to tell the truth to the king
Daniel ch 4

Pilate questions Jesus and finds no fault in him.
 Matt. 27:11-24
 Jesus promised he would rise again, and he did it.
 Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-17

Unit Aim: (Each group of two lessons has the same lesson aim, illustrating through two different lessons for reinforcement.) **At the conclusion of these lessons, the students will KNOW that God is truth and loves truthfulness in His people. As a result, the Christian student will begin to consider everything he says and does in the light of whether it is truthful or not and make a conscious effort to turn away from lying and deceitfulness.**

LESSON 1

DANIEL TELLS THE KING THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT IS HARD

Beginning the Lesson:

Every child has struggled with the temptation to be untruthful, so let's focus on that struggle in the introduction.

Younger children--Tell a very short, simple story in which a child is tempted to lie. (During our team orientation time in Ghana, you will be paired with a Ghanaian teaching partner. Together you will come up with a story and present it to the group for evaluation. This will help you become familiar with the kinds of stories appropriate to Ghanaian city culture, and it will help train your Ghanaian partner in the selection of introductory stories for other lessons he or she can use in the continuing ministry.)

Older children--Ask the children to tell you about a time they were tempted to lie. Let one or two children tell their stories briefly, not longer than two minutes.

Transition to the lesson--We have all been tempted to lie, and we have all said things that were not true. What does God think about this?

Lesson Scripture (to be studied in preparation for the lesson) Verses to be emphasized are in green. We are using the King James Version, the most common translation in Ghana. Feel free to use other modern versions for your study, but become familiar with the wording of this version as well.

(Commentary is in italics. We invite you to add your own commentary as you study.)

Daniel 4:1: Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

2 I thought it good to show the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

Practitioners of occult arts have some power. The king recognized that. Yet their power was limited. They could not tell the king the interpretation, or they were afraid to do so. It was not only one kind of practitioner that failed, but all the various categories of occultists.

8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

The king thinks of Daniel in the polygamous terms consistent with his own thinking and practice. He thinks of Daniel as the master of the magicians and believes the spirit of the holy gods is in him.

9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him: and let seven times pass over him.

17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, *and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

**Compare vs. 17 where the watcher and holy one are plural.*

18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished* for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the

dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

**Daniel is afraid and troubled because of the dream and its implications.*

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

He does not let his fear overpower him, nor does he become so polite that he cannot tell the truth

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

These are key words that must have pierced the heart of the king. As Daniel was afraid at first, the king must have been struck with terror when he heard the words, "It is thou, O king."

23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

The evil that will come on Nebuchadnezzar is severe but limited in duration, severe but pointed in scope. It will continue until Nebuchadnezzar learns the lesson God wants to teach him.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

We are not told Nebuchadnezzar's immediate response. Apparently Daniel was neither punished nor rewarded. Knowing he told the truth in a difficult time was its own reward.

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over

thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Background for your understanding and enrichment:

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king, ruler of the mightiest empire of his time. Previous chapters of Daniel show he knew something about the Lord, yet he threw 3 of Daniel's friends into a fiery furnace because they refused to bow to him in the way he wanted. The interpretation of the dream is true because it comes from God, but it is unflattering to the king, a message of judgment on him. One could easily expect a sentence of death for saying such things to the king. This is the basis of Daniel's fear.

Main Ideas to Emphasize:

The king asked Daniel to tell him the meaning of his vision.

Daniel was upset when God told him the meaning of the vision, because the vision was a warning against the king.

Daniel probably was afraid to tell the king the truth about the vision. He could be punished severely if the king did not like what he said.

Daniel told the truth anyway, and God protected him.

Everything happened just like God said it would in the dream. God always tells the truth, and He is pleased when His people tell the truth, too.

Discussion for Older Students:

Why was it so tempting for Daniel to tell a lie?

When are you most tempted to tell lies?

What happened to Daniel when he told the truth? (Nothing is stated, either good or bad.)

What could have happened if he had lied?

Someone has said, "Telling the truth is its own reward." What do you think this means?

Role Play: Situations in which they may be tempted to tell lies

Going back to someone they've lied to, confessing their sin and telling the truth

Game for Younger Children:

Give three children a flannelgraph smiley face and a sad face each.

Describe three simple situations in which a child told the truth or told a lie. (Decide on the situations ahead of time with your African teaching partner.) Each child comes forward and places a smiley face on the flannelboard if the child told the truth, or a sad face if he told a lie. If the child told the truth, everyone claps and cheers for him. If he told a lie, they all say, "Oh noooooo!"

Pointers:

Don't get bogged down in the detail of the dream and its interpretation. The important thing in this lesson for our purposes is that Daniel was afraid to tell the king the truth about the dream (vs. 19), yet he told the truth anyway, and God honored his truthfulness.

Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:

Are you aware right now of some specific lie you have told? God says this is sin, so ask Him to forgive you. If you can, go this week to the person you lied to and tell them the truth. Ask them to forgive you, too. (Ask children to raise their hand if they remember a specific lie. Pray for those children.) This week, try to be thinking about everything you say. Is it really true? Ask God to help you tell the truth this week. If you mess up and do tell a lie, ask God to forgive you right away. Then go back right away and tell the truth.

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:

God loves the truth and He is the truth. He always tell the truth, and He has told us the truth about how to be saved and live in fellowship with Him. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). When a person receives Jesus as his Savior, Jesus will give him eternal life. Jesus will bring him into fellowship with God the Father. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

Lesson 2

JESUS ALWAYS TOLD THE TRUTH

**Review Questions for Older Students: (For use with a variety of Bible games)
(Teacher, try to answer these yourself. We will discuss good answers when we get together in our preparatory time.)**

Tell me any three things you know about King Nebuchadnezzar.

How was Daniel tempted to lie to the king?

What was so scary about telling the king the truth about what his dream meant?

How did Daniel show good will to the king, even though he had to tell him hard things?

Why did Daniel's dream come true?

How does Daniel show great courage?

For Younger Students:

Who was tempted to tell a lie?

Does a king want to hear good things or bad things about himself?

What kind of things did the king's dream tell about himself?

How did Daniel please God?

Why did the king's dream come true?

Which does God like--telling the truth or telling lies?

Why was it hard for Daniel to tell the truth?

Why was he glad he did tell the truth?

Beginning the Lesson: When we were together before, we talked about how we have all been tempted to lie, and how we have told things that were not the truth. Can you think of a time when YOU told something that was not the truth? (Pause a moment.) What about Jesus? The Bible says He was tempted like we are (Hebrews 4:15). Did He ever tell a lie? Even a little lie? Even when He was a child? (The questions are more for thought than for response.)

Pilate questions Jesus and finds no fault in him.

Matt. 27:11-24

And Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? And Jesus said to him, It is as you say.

12 And while he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

13 Then Pilate said to him, Do you not hear how many things they witness against You?

14 And he answered him to not one word; so that the governor greatly marveled.

15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude the prisoner whom they wished.

16 And at that time they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release to you? They said, Barabbas!

22 Pilate saith unto them, What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all say to him, Let him be crucified.

23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified!

24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but that rather that a tumult was made, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, **I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.** You see to it.

**Jesus promised he would rise again, and he did it.
Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-17**

Now the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, After three days I will rise.

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say to the people, He has risen from the dead. So the last deception will be worse than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.

66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow:

4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified.

6 He is not here; for he is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead, and, indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him. Behold, I have told you.

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy; and ran to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, Rejoice! So they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.

10 Then said Jesus to them, Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.

11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

13 Saying, Tell them, His disciples came at night, and stole Him away while we slept.

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure.

15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

17 When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.

Main Ideas to Emphasize:

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus could have escaped death by lying and denying it, but he told the truth and affirmed that this was true.

Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault in Him.

He could not find fault in Jesus because Jesus never did wrong, never sinned.

He could not find fault in Jesus because Jesus never told a lie. He always told the truth.

Jesus always did everything He promised to do. He promised He would rise again.

He rose from the dead just as He said He would do.

Jesus always told the truth, and He wants us to tell the truth, too.

Bible Game--Discerning the Truth:

With your African teaching partner, make up a very short, simple situation a child is in that might tempt him to lie. Make up cards to put on the flannelboard, bent over like little folders hanging with the bottom side up. On the outside, paste a picture of a person, and a question he or she might ask about the situation. On the inside, write a response the child might make. Some should be true according to the story, and some should be lies. The children will take turns choosing a picture. Older children will read the question and the answer inside. Then the group will decide the response the child gave is the truth or a lie. Finish by deciding what the child in the story should do if he told lies like the ones we read in some of the folders. (This game will be demonstrated during our orientation time in Ghana.)

Follow up from application of previous lesson--Ask who went back and told the truth about something after they had told a lie. Ask if anyone would like to tell about it (briefly). Congratulate and pray for all who did so.

Ask how many thought about telling a lie since our last lesson, but remembered to tell the truth instead. Ask if anyone would like to tell why they were tempted to lie, and what helped them to tell the truth. Congratulate these children and pray for them.

Discuss this question: When are you most tempted to lie?

Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:Ask the children to pray every day this week, asking God to strength to tell the truth in everything, even when it is hard.

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:

Jesus always told the truth. He said, "he that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37b). If you come to Jesus, there is no way He will turn you out. Jesus will take you in to His family--He promised! If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

A brief introduction to some African teaching methods

(You are not limited to these methods. These are given only to acquaint you with some of the methods the children are already familiar with.)

Repetition

There is a lot of emphasis of repetition in African schools and often in sermons as well. That is, the preacher may say something and ask the congregation to repeat it. African children have more patience with this than American children do, and it can be a valuable method. The teacher needs to make sure that the children understand what they are repeating, however.

Rhythm

African children love rhythm and lively music. Drums are found in nearly every church and are the main instrument in most of them. Group dancing permeates every part of social, civic and religious life and is a part of most public celebrations. One African asked me one time, “How can you Americans praise God standing still like that? Don’t you know He is a great king?” To Africans, standing still is considered disrespectful to God, in the same way that some conservative churches consider dancing disrespectful. This is a major cultural difference. As an American, you can join or not join in the movement, as you feel comfortable in doing, but prepare yourself to see a much more lively service than you may have anticipated. This is especially true if people stand still during your worship services.

You can use rhythmic activities in teaching. You can put a memory verse or a key phrase from the lesson to music and include clapping, stomping, swaying, marching, hand and body motions. You are limited only by space considerations, since most of your teaching will be done with large groups in small spaces. You can also speak verses rhythmically without the musical melody. We will practice some of these methods as a group.

Acting Out

Acting out stories is a traditional African teaching method, used effectively with all ages. Children are not as familiar with role play acting—more familiar with acting out stories. For younger children, Grades 1 & 2, have all the children act out the same character or action simultaneously. For older children, assign individual parts.

Storytelling—(Parables)

African sermons often include long and complicated stories to teach a lesson. Stories from life are effective, but these will need to be crafted by your Ghanaian partners in order to relate to life as the children know it. Animal parables are also common and effective.

Respect for Ancestors & Elders

Age is greatly respected in African culture. Older people are assumed to be wiser. They are afforded many privileges—eating first, getting the best seats, etc. Sometimes younger children are even expected to cater to older ones in the family and sometimes to afford them special terms of respect. This means you can freely use stories and examples of older people even with younger children.

Proverbs

Proverbs—pithy little sayings that express truth succinctly—are a main characteristic of teaching as given by African elders. African proverbs are similar to the proverbs of the book of Proverbs in the Bible. We will discuss with our Ghanaian staff some well known “proverbs of the elders” that may help to drive home the truths of the lesson. Use of African proverbs has the additional benefit of helping the older generation understand and accept Bible truths.

We encourage you to keep your eyes and ears open to new methods you see as you visit African church services and schools. Ask questions if you don’t understand. You will see many interesting and useful methods and may learn to use some of them.

DICTIONARY

Abomination: an extremely awful, horrible wicked act or practice that God hates. Something so awful it makes God sick.

Astrologers: Those who decided what to do by looking at the arrangement of the stars in the sky. It was common for those who did not know God to make decisions in this way, but God told His people not to do this. He wanted them to ask Him for wisdom about the decisions they make. (Deuteronomy 4:19, 17:3-4, 18:10,12, Isaiah 8:19-20, Jeremiah 10:1-2). The sun, moon and stars were often worshipped as false gods, but God wanted his people to worship only Him (Amos 5:8).

Believer in Jesus: Someone who believes that Jesus is really God just like He said, someone who believes that Jesus will save him and take away his sins.

Chaldeans: People from the country of Chaldea, of which Babylon was the capitol. They worshipped false gods or idols, and made war on those who loved and worshipped God.

Character: What someone is really like on the inside, what someone is really like when no one is looking.

Compassion, Compassionate: A kind feeling towards someone that results in doing some loving or helpful act for them. A compassionate person cares about others and has kind feelings toward them. These kind feelings result in actions that help others.

Interpretation: Telling what something means

Jesus: His name means "The LORD saves", so His name shows that He is the Savior and the Lord God. In fact, that is who He claimed to be. Jesus was a great teacher and much more. He proved who He was by healing the sick, raising the dead and doing many other miracles, but mostly by rising from the dead. He died to pay the punishment for our sins, then rose from the dead just like He had said He would do. Jesus' work on earth was finished, so after many people saw Him alive, He went back to heaven. He is alive in heaven today.

Magic, magician: Someone who does unusual things or even miracles by the power of evil spirits. God tells His people not to have anything to do with magic because He knows evil spirits are liars and really want to hurt and destroy us. Besides, He Himself wants to help us, and He has far greater power than any spirit, so we do not need magic. (Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:26, 20:27, Deut. 18:10-11)

Mercy, merciful: Getting or giving forgiveness or kindness when it is not deserved, rather than punishing someone.

Punishment: A bad, extremely painful penalty for sin or wrong. The worst punishment of all is to be sent away from God's presence to a place of suffering

Repent: To change your mind about something so much that you also change the way you act and stop doing it. To change your mind that sin was OK, and to begin to see sin as awful, the way God sees it. To turn away from sin and to God.

Saved, Salvation: To be forgiven of all your sins and to have a new, clean heart. To become a child of God by trusting in Jesus.

Savior, Saviour: One of Jesus' titles that showed He would die on the cross to take away our sins

Sin: An act, thought, or word that God hates. An act, thought or word that brings dishonor to God and that hurts ourselves and others.

Soothsayers: Those who could tell the future, interpret dreams, or reveal secrets through divination--by the power of evil spirits who told them those things. God told His people to have nothing to do with telling the future or finding out secret things in this way (Deuteronomy 18:9-10, Joshua 13:22, Jeremiah 27:9-10, Ezekiel 13:6,17-23, Zechariah 10:2). God Himself will tell us all He wants us to know, and evil spirits are liars, so if we listen to them we cannot be sure we know the truth anyway (John 8:44b, 1 Timothy 4:1)..

Truth, truthful, truthfulness, true: Words and acts that are real, genuine, not deceitful.

Vision: Seeing something in your mind or in a dream. Some visions come from God, but not all of them.