

LDS Family Fun



ActivityTime

What you need: A copy of the “Being Honest” activity (artwork included with this lesson), a self laminating sheet, scissors and tape. Note: Artwork will not work if it is not laminated on at least one side. You can substitute 1/2-inch curling ribbon in place of the artwork and the laminating sheet or use a purchased Chinese Finger Trap.

Preparation

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Follow directions to create a “Chinese Finger Trap.”

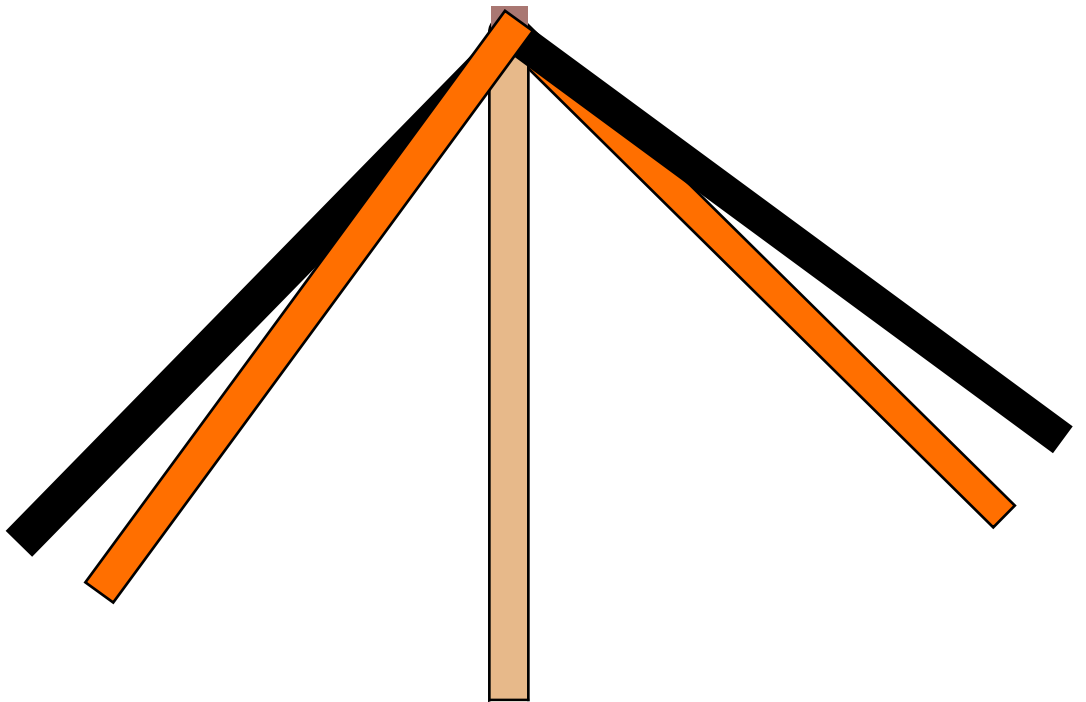
Activity: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

1. Explain: When the Polos returned from their travels to Asia, Europeans had never seen many of the things the Polos told them about. The Polos were laughed at, ridiculed and accused of being dishonest. Although some people enjoyed hearing the stories they still didn’t believe them.
2. Ask: Have you ever seen a giant orange cat with black stripes like Marco Polo saw? (Yes. A tiger.) Ask: Do you think Marco Polo was telling the truth about his trip to Asia? (Discuss ideas.)
3. Explain: There are still people today who question the truthfulness of Marco Polo’s stories. Yet, like Joseph Smith, Marco Polo never denied what he had seen, because his father had taught him the importance of being honest when he was young. Even when with the prospect of being killed, both Marco Polo and Joseph Smith remained honorable.
4. Ask: Is it important to always be honest? (Discuss ideas.)
“The motto, ‘Return with Honor,’ can be applied to each of us on our eternal path of progression. Having lived with our Heavenly Father and having come to earth, we must have determination to return with honor to our heavenly home.” *Robert D. Hales, Ensign, Jun 1999 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*
5. Explain: If we commit one dishonest act and do not repent, we often continue being dishonest to avoid being caught, thus we become trapped in our dishonesty.
6. Ask: Why would being caught for being dishonest be better than continuing to be dishonest and becoming trapped? (Discuss ideas.)
7. Use the “Chinese Finger Trap” and examples to demonstrate how being dishonest can trap us and how repentance can set us free.



Directions for a “Chinese Finger Trap”

1. Cut out the four strips of paper and laminate.
2. Tape the ends of one orange strip to one black strip.
3. Tape the ends of one black strip to one orange strip.
4. Tape each pair to the opposite sides of the top of a pencil.
5. Create a round braid by braiding: orange over black, orange over black, black over orange, black over orange, to get a lattice effect.
6. When you reach the end, trim ends of ribbon and then tape together as you did in steps 2 and three.
7. Remove tape that is holding the top to the pencil and remove pencil.



Chinese Finger Trap “Dishonesty” Demonstration

1. Explain: While taking a spelling test Kathy copied answers off of her friend’s paper without her knowledge.
2. Ask: Was she being honest? (No. Put one finger in the end of the Chinese Finger Trap.
Explain: Kathy has started to become trapped in her dishonesty.)
3. Explain: After the teacher corrected the papers, she noticed that both girls misspelled words the same. After class she asked them if they had cheated. Both girls said no.
4. Ask: Was Kathy being honest? (No. Put another finger in the other end of the Chinese Finger Trap. Kathy is now completely trapped by lying to cover up the cheating. Pull your fingers apart to try and remove them from the trap.)
5. Ask: Now that Kathy’s trapped how can she become free? (By repenting. Emphasize that even if we don’t get caught when we are dishonest we are still trapped in our sinful habits unless we repent.)
7. Explain: To repent Kathy needs to:
 - A. Recognize/feel sorry for cheating and then telling the lie. (Release tension on the trap by pushing your fingers together.)
 - B. Ask Heavenly Father to forgive her and for His help to become honest. (Use a free finger or thumb to release one of your fingers from the trap.)
 - C. Right the wrong by telling her teacher the truth and apologizing to both teacher and friend for cheating. (Use a free finger or thumb to release your other finger from the trap.)
 - D. As Kathy works on her relationship with God, He will help her to changer her heart and remain free from the dishonesty trap.

Blessings that come from being Honest

You will be closer to Heavenly Father by being honest.	You will be blessed with peace of mind for being honest.
Return to Heavenly Father with honor.	You will form good habits to keep your word and tell the truth.
You will live an honorable life by keeping the commandments.	You will keep your name and honor bright.
Believing in and being honest will bring you joy.	Your honesty will allow you to be unashamed among men.
You will behave honorably even when others persecute you.	You will not be trapped by dishonesty.