



GRAPPLE

sample guide



## *What if Jesus Is a Liar?*

*Key Faith Foundation:* Trusting God

*Key Scriptures:* John 8:44; Numbers 23:19;  
John 8:12-18; Acts 5:26-42

grapple schedule: (see page 3 for descriptions)

5 minutes	grapple community
10 – 15 minutes	grapple games and clues
10 minutes	grapple time
15 minutes	grapple exploration
10 minutes	grapple reports
5 minutes	grapple prayer and dare

**grapple community:** 5 minutes

▲**Get Ready:** opening video

Play the opening video and your own Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship.

**grapple games:** 10 – 15 minutes

▲**Get Ready:** Grapple Game selections from [mygrapple.com](http://mygrapple.com).

Lead kids in the games they've chosen ahead of time at [mygrapple.com](http://mygrapple.com).

grapple clues

▲**Get Ready:** paper, pencils

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. The winning group gets the Grapple Button.

**CLUE 1:** How many times did Jesus say, "I tell you the truth" in the New Living Version of the Bible?

A: 68 times

**CLUE 2:** Find a verse in the Bible that reveals who the biggest liar is.

A: John 8:44

**CLUE 3:** Make a list of things Jesus said that are true.

**CLUE 4:** What are the middle names of all the people in your Grapple Team?

**CLUE 5:** Who in your entire group has the birthday closest to today?

**grapple time:** 10 minutes

▲**Get Ready:** “Who Is Jesus?” video and an unshelled nut hidden in your pocket before class

↔**In Pairs**↔ *Who is Jesus? How would you answer that question?*

⇒**Tell All** *What did you talk about?*

**In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Let’s see how people on the street answer that question.**

Show the video.

⇒**Tell All** *Who did people say Jesus is?*

**People think Jesus is all kinds of things. In fact, some people say Jesus is a liar. Some say he’s a lunatic. Some say a loser. And some say he’s Lord. Who is Jesus?**

**Let’s try something. I have something in my pocket that no human eye has ever seen nor human hand ever touched. How many of you believe me?**

↔**In Pairs**↔ *Why do you or don’t you believe me?*

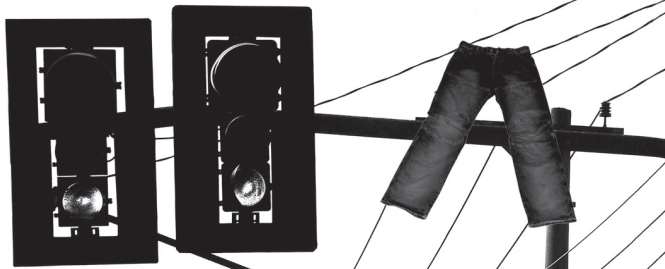
⇒**Tell All** *What did you talk about with your partner?*

Shell the nut and show the part inside that no human hand has touched nor human eye ever seen!

**It’s a nut! And of course, I’m nuts about Jesus!**

**Some of you believed me because you trust me. You know me, and you know I’d never lie to you. Some of you didn’t believe me...maybe because you don’t know me that well. Maybe for other reasons.**

**Some people don’t know Jesus very well today. They say Jesus is a liar. Do you think a court of law could convict Jesus of being a liar? Let’s grapple with that in God’s Word today in our Grapple teams.**



**grapple exploration:** 15 minutes

▲**Get Ready:** copy of the Bible study for each preteen, pencils

In their Grapple Groups, kids grapple with faith and life issues, using the Bible study guide on page 6.

**grapple reports:** 10 minutes

▲**Get Ready:** poster board, markers

At the end of Grapple Time, match Grapple Teams who chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams who chose Option 2 page 7. Have teams each display their reports. Allow three minutes for each team to share.

*(Do this one team at a time if you have two Grapple Teams).*

**grapple prayer:** 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have groups each choose one prayer option that their entire group will do. Allow time for Grapple Teams to pray about what they've discovered today. Then close in prayer.

**Option 1: Posed Prayers**

**Strike a pose that honors God and keep it for a full minute while you honor God silently with your thoughts and thanks.**

**Option 2: Popcorn Prayers**

**Sit down in our circle. Whenever you have a prayer of thanks or need, stand up and say it out loud.**

**grapple dare**

**Think about how you feel when someone lies to you. I promise you this: You will never feel that way in your relationship with Jesus because Jesus is not a liar. Jesus will never lie to you. Anything the Bible says is absolutely true, because Jesus only speaks the truth.**

**It's clear to us! Jesus is not a liar! But who is he? Next week, we'll grapple with "Is Jesus Nuts?" Was he a lunatic? Here's your Grapple Dare: I dare you to find one way that you'll trust Jesus this week!**

**Go to Grapple.com this week to choose our opening games for next week, look for the Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.**

## grapple exploration guide

*Check in with kids about their week.*

Your job today is to figure out if a court of law could convict Jesus of being a liar. Gather your witnesses and grapple with their testimony!

Let's meet our witnesses to see if Jesus is a liar or not.

### **Witness 1: Jesus Himself**

Why do you think Jesus said, "I tell you the truth" 68 times in the gospels?

Would it affect your faith if Jesus were a liar?

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### **Witness 2: God**

**Read John 8:44 and Numbers 23:19.**

Who's the biggest liar, according to these Scriptures?

How reliable is God as a witness to who Jesus is?

**Read John 8:12-18.**

Why did the Pharisees think Jesus was a liar?

What does Jesus' answer to the Pharisees tell us about Jesus?

Why do we need Jesus to be a truthful witness?

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### **Witness 3: Disciples and the Holy Spirit**

**Read Acts 5:26-42.**

What do these witnesses say about Jesus?

Would these witnesses say Jesus is a liar?  
Why or why not?

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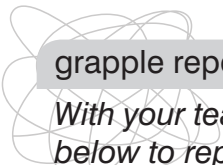
### **Witness 4: You**

Do you think a court of law could convict Jesus of being a liar? Why or why not?

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### **grapple reports**

*With your team, choose one of the options below to report to other Grapple Teams what you discovered.*

#### **Option 1: Wordless Poster**

Create a poster that shows what you've discovered without using any words.

#### **Option 2: Eye Witness Chant**

Create a cheer (words and actions) that shows what you discovered. If you want, use the "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire" chant to get you started.