

GOD IS ALL-KNOWING/OMNISCIENT

- **Key Verse:** "...for the Lord is a God who knows, and by Him deeds are weighed." 1 Samuel 2:3
- **Teaching Passage:** Ananias & Sapphira- Acts 4-5
- **Supporting Texts:** Psalm 139, Psalm 94:11, John 18:4, 1 Samuel 2:3

TEACH: GOD IS OMNISCIENT

Ask if anyone can guess what characteristic of God they think we're talking about. Hopefully someone will say that *God is 'all-knowing' or that God knows everything*. Tell the kids that a word we can use to describe the truth that God is all knowing is '**omniscient**.'

Ask if any of the kids in the room are all knowing. Explain that there are some people who act like "know-it-alls"- that means that they act like they know everything and they always have to be right m but that it is impossible for a human to know everything, just like being limited by time and space, we have limited knowledge. I might know everything there is to know about multiplication and can do all kinds of math in my head, but there are lots of things I can never know. Have kids help you think of some random things that we could never know: how many grains of sand there are in the desert or how many hairs are on my head (which the Bible says God knows) or the names of the stars that we can't even see with the strongest telescope, etc.

Tell the kids that you want to walk them through a story that should help them understand more about the truth that God is all knowing.

OBJECT LESSON: Brown "E"s

Supplies: a baking pan, aluminum foil, many brown E's cut out of brown construction paper

Before class, place the E's in the pan and put aluminum foil over it. Act VERY excited! SAY: I made brownies!! I cooked all afternoon, and out of the goodness of my heart, I brought in brownies for all of you!! The kitchen smelled so good!! They cooked and they cooled. *Would you like to have one?* [Kids should be excited and ready for a yummy brownie.]

If possible, be in the middle of the group. Carefully peel away the top and begin handing out the “Brown E’s”. Allow the children to react to your trick.

What? Why are you disappointed and upset? (Accept answers. Create a list of feelings the children had when they realized it was a trick. Be careful! The kids became quite angry with me when they saw that I had tricked them!!)

Did I have to bring you brownies today? (No.)

My bringing you brownies would have been a treat. A blessing. A gift. *Instead, what did you receive?* (Nothing, a trick)

Introduce the story from **Acts 4 & 5** and tell it in your own words. Some of the truths to discuss are:

1. In the early church (the first few years after Jesus returned to heaven) all of the people shared everything they had with each other and took care of each other’s needs. People were known to sell their things and bring the money to the church to help those in need. No one was selfish.
2. A man named Barnabas sold a piece of land he owned and brought the money to the apostles so they could use it for the church to meet the needs of the people.
3. A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold their land as well.
4. Ananias brought part of the money to the church acting like it was all of the money. God told Peter that Ananias was lying and Peter accused Ananias of lying.
5. Peter said that since the land was his he could have done anything he wanted to with the money and it would have been fine to say that you want to give some of the money, but that what he did was lying to God.
6. Ananias fell down dead right then and there. Some men took his body and buried him.
7. Three hours later, Sapphira came and didn’t know what had happened. Peter asked her how much they sold the land for and she told him the partial amount that Ananias had brought in to the church.
8. Peter accused her of lying and told her that her husband had just died after being caught lying. Then Sapphira fell down dead as well.
9. God knew their hearts and He knew that they were lying. No one could have known and even though Ananias and Sapphira were able to trick other people with their lies, it’s impossible to lie to God because He knows everything.

Finish the story by reading **Psalm 139:2 & 4** as a reminder that God knows our thoughts and knows what we're going to say before we say it.

SONGS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VDpHibftHs&t=20s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbTIBN0jUMc>

DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

To help the kids remember this truth about God, take a few minutes to define the attribute.

OMNISCIENT = KNOWS EVERYTHING

EXPLAIN: Ask the kids if there is anything that God doesn't know. Remind them of the story and how God knew what was in their hearts and knew they were lying to Peter and to God. Ask if we can ever lie to God. No, He knows our thoughts so its impossible to lie to God.

Since motions & actions help kids remember, choose an action for *OMNISCIENT*. A good motion might be to tap the side of your head with your finger like you're saying that you know something.

MEMORY VERSE:

SAY: "This week's memory verse is **1 Samuel 2:3**. In this verse we see that God knows our thoughts and our deeds. God knows everything about everybody because God is OMNISCIENT.

Read the memory verse (1 Samuel 2:3) a few times together. Work as a group to make up motions for the verse. Then play a game to review the verse. Take turns asking questions like 'does God know how when I lie to my mom?' and answering 'yes – then reciting the verse.'

CROSS CONNECTION:

Remind the kids that this morning we talked about the truth that **God knows everything** that includes our thoughts and heart motives. This is one of the reasons why sin is such a HUGE problem. We need to remember that our sin is actually against God. When we tell a little lie, or do something in secret that no one will ever find out about and think we've gotten away with it, we need to remember that God knows our hearts. That's why Jesus taught that just calling your brother a fool is the same as killing him, because in your heart you are thinking evil thoughts about him. When we consider our thoughts as sin, its obvious that we are all sinners. The sin in this story wasn't keeping the money, the sin was thinking they could trick God and the church and make themselves look good. Thankfully, Jesus came and died on the cross for our sin. We can't live the life that God calls us to live on our own, but when we follow Jesus He'll change our hearts and start to make us more like Him so that we obey a little more every day.

GAME: The Sniffing Game

Supplies: Brown lunch bags filled with a different item in each bag. Use as many items as you would like. Examples: onion, apple, dryer sheet, soap
Have each child sniff the bag and guess what is in the bag.

GAME: Being Detectives

Send your children out of the room for a few minutes. While they are out rearrange something in your room. Bring them back in and ask them to see if they can figure out what is different. Tell your children that good detectives have to be aware of things around them at all times. To be good "lie detectives" we have to be aware of what we are saying and how it affects others and ourselves.

REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the word *omniscient* somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for *omniscient* or the memory verse or they could illustrate the story they heard and write something about God knowing their thoughts. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would come to know God more and more each week through this study and that they would remember that all of us are sinners who need to be

saved and that they would turn to this good God for salvation. Thank God for teaching us about Him through this study so that we can come to know Him more and more.