



CRAPPLE

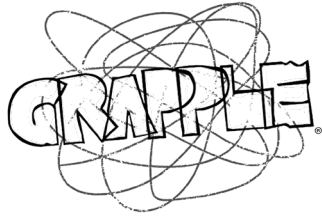
12
LESSONS

jr. high

TACKLING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT
GOD, OTHERS, AND ME

**THREE
BIG
QUESTIONS**

CD & DVD INCLUDED



Grapple® Jr. High: Three Big Questions

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INTRODUCTION

GRAPPLE® JR. HIGH

Some of your students may already seem jaded about the Bible, and some of them have never cracked one open. Wherever your teenagers are in their spiritual journey, one thing they all have in common is an inquisitive mind and a need for Christ-centered biblical depth. Grapple Jr. High is specifically designed to get junior highers grappling with tough topics in meaningful ways so they understand and own their faith. Each week, students engage with memorable Bible passages and characters, grapple with the issues that come to the surface, and discover a path that leads them straight to Jesus Christ.

During class, students follow the same schedule each week.

GRAPPLE SCHEDULE

5 MINUTES	HANG TIME
10 MINUTES	GRAPPLE CHAT
10-15 MINUTES	GRAPPLE TIME
20-25 MINUTES	TEAM TIME
10 MINUTES	TEAM REPORTS
5 MINUTES	PRAYER & CHALLENGE

Please note that times are approximate and should be flexible to fit your classroom needs.

WHAT HAPPENS?

GRAPPLE HANG TIME:

Kids enjoy snacks and friendship as they spend time getting to know each other as music plays in the background. Then play a three-minute countdown, included on your Grapple DVD, to let students know how much time they have until Grapple Hang Time is over. You can also use the countdowns to wrap up an activity in the lesson.

GRAPPLE CHAT:

Chat topics connect students to one another and to the Word of God. Two topics in each lesson are built on passages or characters from the Bible, and two topics challenge students to discuss their lives.

GRAPPLE TIME:

Grapple Time is the leader-led experience for your entire class. Grapple Time involves everyone in making discoveries; the experience helps students cultivate the desire to dig into the Bible for answers.



GRAPPLE TEAM TIME:

Students get into their Grapple Teams of six or fewer to dig into the Bible with the reproducible Grapple Team Guide.

Who leads a Grapple Team? If you have six or fewer students, have them stay together with you as the leader. If you have several Grapple Teams, try these ideas: Facilitate all the teams by moving from team to team, assign a student to be the team leader, or recruit adults or high school students to be team leaders.

GRAPPLE TEAM REPORTS:

Teams vote on how they want to report what they discovered during Grapple Team Time. Once teams are ready to report, they get with other teams that chose the other style of reporting. They then take turns reporting what they learned.

GRAPPLE PRAYER AND CHALLENGE:

Kids choose, as a class, which prayer option they would like to do. After the class closes in prayer, give kids the weekly Grapple Challenge to live out their faith during the coming week.

ALLERGY ALERT

This guide may contain activities that include food. Be aware that some kids have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know the students in your class, and consult with parents about allergies their kids may have. Also be sure to carefully read food labels, as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

**WHO DO
I THINK
JESUS IS?**

**WHY DOES JESUS
ALWAYS SAY, "I TELL
YOU THE TRUTH"?**



WHO DO I THINK JESUS IS?

Why Does Jesus Always Say, “I Tell You the Truth”?

The Point: Jesus Is and Tells the Truth

The Passages: John 8:31-59; 14:6-7

GET STARTED

Lesson 1. Why Does Jesus Always Say, “I Tell You the Truth”?

GRAPPLE SCHEDULE

(see introduction for descriptions)

5 MINUTES	HANG TIME
10 MINUTES	GRAPPLE CHAT
10-15 MINUTES	GRAPPLE TIME
20-25 MINUTES	TEAM TIME
10 MINUTES	TEAM REPORTS
5 MINUTES	PRAYER & CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES

Bibles, Grapple DVD, DVD player, music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pens or pencils, basket or box, newspapers

BIBLE BASIS FOR TEACHERS

The Passages: John 8:31-59; 14:6-7

Opposition to Jesus had been building since he healed the paralytic on the Sabbath (see John 5:9). Jewish religious leaders were upset and wanted to kill him. When Jesus justified his actions by comparing himself to God, his Father, the Jews interpreted Jesus’ words as a claim to being equal with God. Jesus had also upset many Jews, including his own followers, with his teaching on the “bread of life” (see John 6:22-71).

In John 8:31-59, Jesus was addressing a mixed audience. Some believed in Jesus, others believed he was possessed by Satan, and others were determined to kill him. Some were truly listening to him, while others were trying to find something they could use against him.

Jesus challenged believers to become true disciples. His own followers were beginning to doubt his claims, and Jesus was putting it all on the table. Jesus boldly proclaimed that true followers must accept everything he claimed. He made it clear that we can’t pick and choose what to believe and what not to believe about him. It is not good enough to simply believe in Jesus as the Messiah or even to make a public profession of faith in him. Jesus intends his disciples to accept every word he said as truth.

How does this relate to the Grapple Question? The Grapple Question addresses a key point when it comes to Jesus. Jesus boldly claimed to be “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus is “the truth,” and everything that came out of Jesus’ mouth was also “the truth.” Kids may not necessarily wonder why Jesus so often said, “I tell you the truth.” However, kids may wonder whether Jesus was just a great prophet and teacher and nothing more. Knowing that Jesus always told the truth will logically eliminate the option that Jesus was just a great teacher.

How does this connect to Jesus? Either Jesus told the truth, or he was a liar. Jesus never claimed to be just the Messiah or just a teacher. In fact, Jesus claimed to be God; he claimed that the only way anyone can have eternal life is through him. Therefore, either Jesus is both God and the way to salvation, or he was lying.

GRAPPLE HANG TIME: 5 MINUTES

Play music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship; then play an opening countdown from the Grapple DVD to wrap up Grapple Hang Time.

GRAPPLE CHAT: 10 MINUTES

Have students form pairs; if you have an uneven number of kids, it’s OK to have one trio in the mix. Ask each group to chat about two of the four topics below that relate to today’s grapple topic. (Answers in parentheses are samples.)

IN PAIRS

Chat 1: Name or find someone in the Bible—other than Jesus—who was known for being truthful. (Elijah, 1 Kings 17; Jeremiah, Jeremiah 28)

Chat 2: Talk about a recent time when another person lied to you; how did the lie affect your view of that person?

Chat 3: Name or find someone in the Bible who got caught in a lie. (Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11; Abraham, Genesis 20)

Chat 4: What’s your most embarrassing true story about being caught in a lie?

GRAPPLE TIME: 10-15 MINUTES

Cue the Grapple DVD to “The Interrogation” clip.

Lead the entire class in the following:

Hand out pens or pencils and pieces of paper.

Today we’re going to play a game called Two Truths and a Lie. On your paper, write down two things about yourself that are true but that most people don’t know about you, and one thing that is a lie. You don’t have to put the lie last—it could be anywhere on the list—and it should be something believable. Be sure to write your name on your paper.

Collect the papers in a basket or box. Draw one paper randomly and read aloud the name and the three statements. Then let students guess which statement is the lie. Continue until you've read everyone's papers or until you're out of time.

IN PAIRS

How easy or hard was it to discern the truth about your friends? Have you ever had a friend lie to you in real life? How did that experience make you feel? Why does it matter whether or not people tell the truth? How do you decide whether a lie is bad or OK? Would you follow a leader who you knew had lied before? Why or why not?

TELL ALL

What did you talk about?

Let's watch a video about telling the truth.

Show "The Interrogation" clip on the Grapple DVD.

Would you follow someone who didn't always tell the truth? Jesus said he was telling the truth, but how do we really know he was? Why would Jesus need to remind everyone that he was telling the truth? Let's grapple with that.

GRAPPLE TEAM TIME: 20-25 MINUTES

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 6-8. Afterward, students will report what they learned.

GRAPPLE TEAM REPORTS: 10 MINUTES

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from pages 7-8. Have teams present their reports to each other. (If you have an uneven number of teams, simply form one group of three teams for the presentations. If you have only two Grapple Teams, simply do the presentations one team at a time.)

GRAPPLE PRAYER: 5 MINUTES

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow students time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: You Are; I Am

Find a partner to pray with. God gave us the Bible so we could know him and so we could know who we really are. Take turns each praying a one-sentence prayer that starts, "God, you are..." Then take turns each praying a one-sentence prayer that starts with the words: "Because of your love for me, God, I am..."

Option 2: Strong Foundation

Stand up, and close your eyes. While balancing on one foot, silently ask God to help you with a challenging situation you're facing right now. Stay in this position as long as you can—up to two minutes, if possible. Then stand on two feet and ask God to help you be a person who will stand confidently in God's strength.

GRAPPLE CHALLENGE

Jesus said plenty of amazing things in the Bible. One phrase he used a lot was "I tell you the truth." Why? Because even the things he said that sounded weird were true! In fact, Jesus said he's "the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus not only told the truth, he is the truth!

You can believe the truth. You can accept the truth and take it to heart. Jesus said that when you know the truth—meaning when you know Jesus himself—the truth will set you free. Get to know Jesus, and experience the freedom of his truth.

WEEKLY GRAPPLE CONNECTION

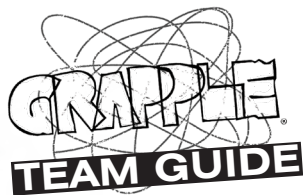
(You can use this as an email template to send to parents)

Grapple Question: Why Does Jesus Always Say, "I Tell You the Truth"?

Kids Learn: Jesus Is and Tells the Truth

Dig Into the Bible: John 8:31-59; 14:6-7

Unfortunately, truth isn't a concept that's really valued much in our culture right now. Little white lies aren't really considered lies at all, and not telling all the important details isn't so bad either. This week, watch the news with your child. Look for an example of someone telling a lie. Talk about what the lie was, what the consequences were, and who was impacted by it. Remind your child that Jesus was the ultimate example—he doesn't just tell the truth, he is the truth!



LESSON 1

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

Look through some newspapers for a story about someone who got caught in a lie. If you can't find a story in the newspapers, recall a story from the news or from your own experiences of a time someone was caught in a lie.

Why does it matter that someone told a lie? What difference will it make in his or her life? in the life of the person's family? in other people's lives? Is your opinion of this person affected by this lie? Why or why not? What's the difference, if any, between lying and being a liar? How might it change the way you read the Bible if you added "and Jesus never lied" after everything Jesus said?

Suppose someone today claimed to be God in human form. Could that person still be considered a great teacher even if what he or she claimed wasn't true? Explain. Circle the only sentence below that would make any sense to someone when considering the claims of Jesus.

- He's a liar, knows it, but is still a good person
- He's a liar but doesn't know it
- He's telling the truth but isn't a good person
- He's telling the truth and is all he claims to be

Read aloud John 8:31-59.

IN PAIRS

In this passage, who did Jesus claim to be? Why does it matter whether or not Jesus was telling the truth? Why did Jesus care whether or not people believed him? If you had been in that crowd, how would you have responded to Jesus?

Read aloud John 14:6-7.

What do you think Jesus meant when he said he's "the way, the truth, and the life"? If it turned out that Jesus did not always tell the truth, how would that change your life, if at all? Why does it matter to you that Jesus is and tells the truth?

GRAPPLE TEAM REPORTS

As a team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: New Perspective

Talk about how today's lesson has changed your perspective on who Jesus is. And then get a new physical perspective: Stand on a table, stand on your head, stretch out on the floor—whatever you want! Hold that position as one member of your team explains how today's lesson has provided a new perspective. Do a "test run" as a team before making your presentation to the other team.

Option 2: ABCs

Write the ABCs of what you learned today: a statement that starts with an A, a statement that starts with a B, and so on. Try to go as far into the alphabet as you can—even all the way to Z.

WHY DOES JESUS ALWAYS SAY, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH"?

(STUDENT)

John 10:14

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me."

GRAPPLE CHAT

Chat 1: Name or find someone in the Bible—other than Jesus—who was known for being truthful.

Chat 2: Talk about a recent time when another person lied to you; how did the lie affect your view of that person?

Chat 3: Name or find someone in the Bible who got caught in a lie.

Chat 4: What's your most embarrassing true story about being caught in a lie?

GRAPPLE CHALLENGE

Jesus told the truth and is the truth. Learn about the truth this week—get to know Jesus even better.

NOTES:
