**Activity Illustrating the Virtues of Truthfulness and Honesty**

**All Tied Up** (from *10-Minute Life Lessons for Kids*, p81)

**Virtues:** Truthfulness and Honesty

**Age:** 3 and older

**Number of players:** 3 or more

**Materials:**

1. Chair with a "back", such as a kitchen or dining room cahir

2. Ball of yarn or soft cotton string.

**Preparation**

Before you begin this activity, secretly arrange with one of the players to give a false answer to each question you ask her. This will only apply, however, after you ask her to sit in the chair in the center of the group.

Introduction / Explanation

With everyone gathered, start by talking briefly about honesty. Ask the participants if they can think of an incident in their lives when they made a decision to be honest, even when it might have been easier to be dishonest. Ask each one who shares something how it made her to feel honest.

Now ask the designated person to sit in the chair. Start out by asking her a simple question such as "Why were you so late in coming home from school today?" As she answers with a lie, such as that she had to stay after school, wrap a long string of yarn around her once. Then ask her a follow-up question based on the first reply, such as "Why did you have to stay after school?" As she makes up another answer, wrap the yarn around her once more Continue to ask her follow-up questions regarding this same incident, wrapping the yarn around her each time she tells a lie. Eventually she will be tied to the chair, entangled in a web of yarn (a web of lies).

After the children observe her in this tangled mess, explain that you asked this person to make up answers to all your questions, that is, to lie. Then discuss some of the following ideas.

* Ask them if they can see what telling lies can do to someone. Emphasize how one lie usually leads to another, and how quickly we can become entrapped, embarrassed, or enslaved by lies.
* Ask them what will be experienced by the person who always tells the truth (not having to remember what his last lie was, or how to cover it up; a clear conscience; peace of mind and feeling good about himself).
* Ask the kids to tell about times the know about when someone had been caught in a lie, or has had to tell a lie to cover up a prior one (they might even volunteer a personal experience).
* Ask why else it is important to always tell the truth (safety, trust, because it is right).