

10...THE COUNTDOWN

Hairy Arms and Golden Cows

2 Things Lying Does For Your Life

1. Lying makes you say foolish things

Exodus 32:19-24 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.²⁰ And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" (NIV)

2. Lying creates more drama and distrust for your life

Genesis 27:6-23 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau,⁷ 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.'⁸ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you:⁹ Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it.¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."¹¹ Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin.¹² What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing."¹³ His mother said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me."¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it.¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob.¹⁶ She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins.¹⁷ Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.¹⁸ He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing."²⁰ Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD your God gave me success," he replied.²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not."²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the

hands of Esau.”²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. (NIV)

Genesis 27:41-43 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

⁴² When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you.”⁴³ Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.” (NIV)

Proverbs 12:22 God can’t stomach liars; he loves the company of those who keep their word. (The Message)

How To Overcome Lying

1. Think before you speak

James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, (NIV)

2. Have accountability in your life

Proverbs 13:18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. (NIV)

Proverbs 15:31-33 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.³² He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.³³ The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor. (NIV)

Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (NIV)

CG Questions

1. Why is the temptation to lie so great?
2. What is the harm in lying?
3. Who does lying affect the most?
4. What leads to lying?
5. What are some ways to stop lying?