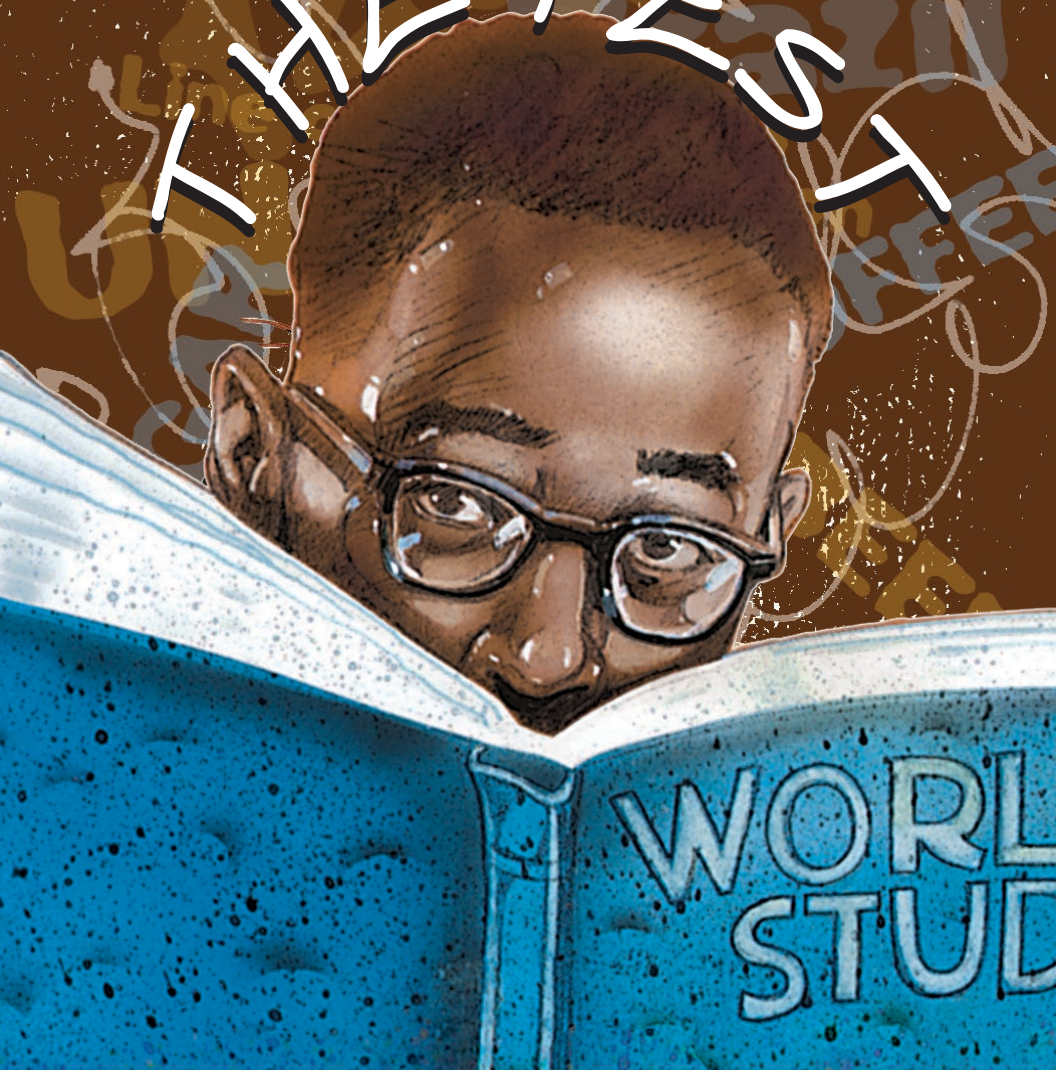


# the rack

THE TEST



# THE TEST

*"Wow, Spence,  
you really look tired!"  
J.J. said as he settled  
into his seat on the bus.*

"Yeah? Well, I feel twice as tired as I look," Spence replied.

"I can't believe Mrs. Cooper assigned all that new material the night before a semester test. I was up past midnight getting through it all!"

"Oh, yeah. Mrs. Cooper and World Studies . . . wait a minute! What new material?"

"Ha, ha, funny joke," Spence said sarcastically. Then he noticed that J.J. really looked panicked. "Uh, J.J., do you mean you really

didn't hear the last 10 minutes of yesterday's class?"

J.J. turned pale. "No. I was busy asking Sheila to my party Friday night."

"Chapter 11 will be a third of today's test."

"I haven't even looked at it."

"You have 20 minutes left before we get to school. I'll keep quiet. You read."

"Chapter 11: Products and Trade in South America" was filled with facts and figures. But J.J. was so panicked, the words and numbers just added to the jumble in his brain.

*J.J.*

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J.J. looked at Spence. "I'm in deep trouble. I can't remember anything I just read."

Spence gave J.J. a sympathetic glance. "The test isn't until fifth hour. You can cram in third hour study hall, right?"

Even at third hour, J.J. couldn't seem to get the material to make sense. That's when he noticed Andrew at the other end of his table in the library. Andrew, who always scored perfectly on every test.

"Andrew, who just might be the only person in the building who could help me out of this mess," J.J. muttered to himself.

J.J. took his World Studies book and walked to the other table. "Andrew? Can we talk for a minute?"

Andrew looked up from his work. "Sure. But hurry. I'm studying for our exam, and I need time alone to make sure I have the material memorized."

*This is great!* J.J. thought. *But how do I get Andrew to include me in his study plans?*

It all fell together in a few seconds. "Andrew, I'm having an end-of-semester party at my house Friday night. I'd like you to be there."

Andrew was startled. "Me?"

You want me there?"

J.J. continued, "Absolutely."

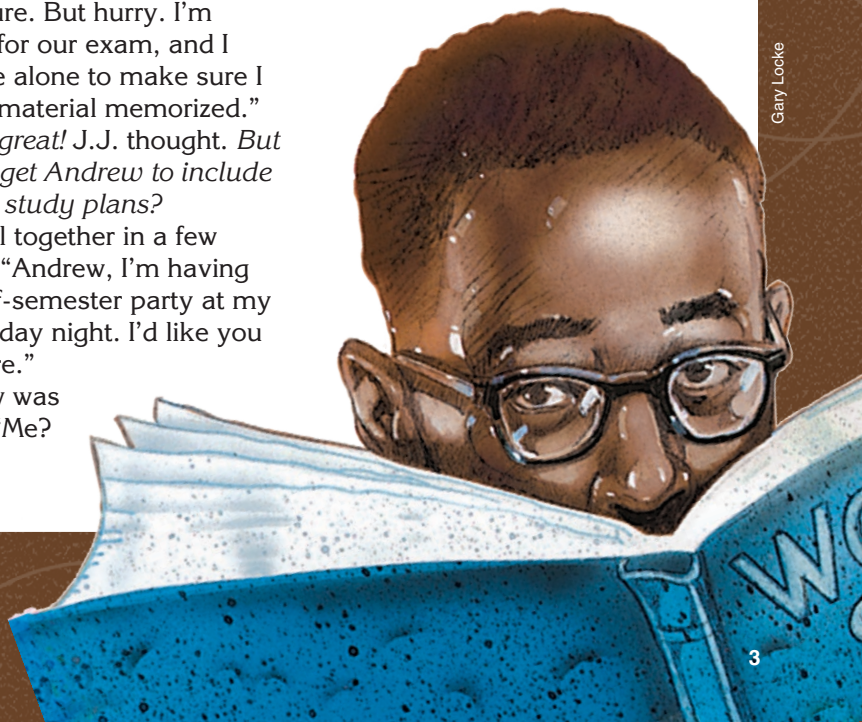
Andrew smiled. "Thanks, J.J. I think I can be there. Really, thanks!"

J.J. whispered, "But I do have a problem. I forgot all about having to know chapter 11 for today's test. Can you help me?"

Andrew paused. "Well . . . I usually study alone. I guess we could drill each other."

Andrew had outlined the chapter, written down the important points, and made up sayings to help himself remember details. J.J. copied Andrew's notes while they drilled each other. In too short a time, the bell that ended study hall rang.

*Continued on page 6*



# TRICKED!

***This Bible story is full of deceit and betrayal. As you do this study, sketch out scenes from the story in the boxes next to each question.***

***Read Genesis 29:13-30; 31:38-45, 51-53.***

## ***MEET JACOB.***

He's the sneaky younger brother of Esau, who stole Esau's birthright and later his blessing. Now Jacob's brother is out for blood. Jacob goes to live with Laban.

## ***MEET LABAN.***

Jacob's uncle. He's just like Jacob. Would you buy a used camel from this man? Laban promises to give Jacob his daughter Rachel, if Jacob works for him seven years.

## ***MEET THE OLD SWITCHEROO TRICK.***

Seven years of hard work later, Laban slips Jacob the wrong bride. Thanks to a thick veil and some heavy darkness, Jacob doesn't find out he's got the wrong bride until morning! Surprise!

1. What does Laban promise Jacob next?
2. How is Laban's trick like the one Jacob used to capture his father's blessing?

## ***THE LAST STRAW.***

Jacob works another seven years for Rachel, marries her, and gets cheated out of earned pay by Laban.

3. What does the Lord tell Jacob to do?
4. How does Laban respond to Jacob's action?

## THE AGREEMENT.

Fill in your own details here.

5. Suppose you write an advice column. Jacob and Laban ask you:

- How could we have prevented this whole mess?
- What else can we do to avoid hurting each other more?

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

**selected verses from Genesis 29:13-30; 31:38-45, 51-53**

<sup>29:16</sup>Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup>Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup>Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

<sup>20</sup>So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

<sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."

<sup>22</sup>So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup>But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her.

<sup>25</sup>When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

<sup>26</sup>Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup>Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

<sup>28</sup>And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

<sup>31:41</sup>It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. <sup>42</sup>If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you."

<sup>51</sup>Laban also said to Jacob, "Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me. <sup>52</sup>This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me."



Continued from page 3

J.J. said, “Andrew, let’s sit together at lunch and drill some more.”

Andrew and J.J. weren’t usually anywhere near each other when they weren’t in class together. So their classmates took notice when they were seen drilling each other for the World Studies exam in the cafeteria. Spence and Sheila joined them for lunch and review.

“My buddy Andrew is great,” said J.J. on his way into the exam.

A World Studies test had never seemed so easy for J.J. Spence and Sheila were waiting for J.J. outside the classroom when the exam was over.

“How did it go for you?” Spence asked.

“I think I may have just breezed through a semester test. Well, *that* one’s over,” J.J. said. “On to the next class.”

“Aren’t we waiting for Andrew?” Sheila asked.

“Why?” J.J. responded.

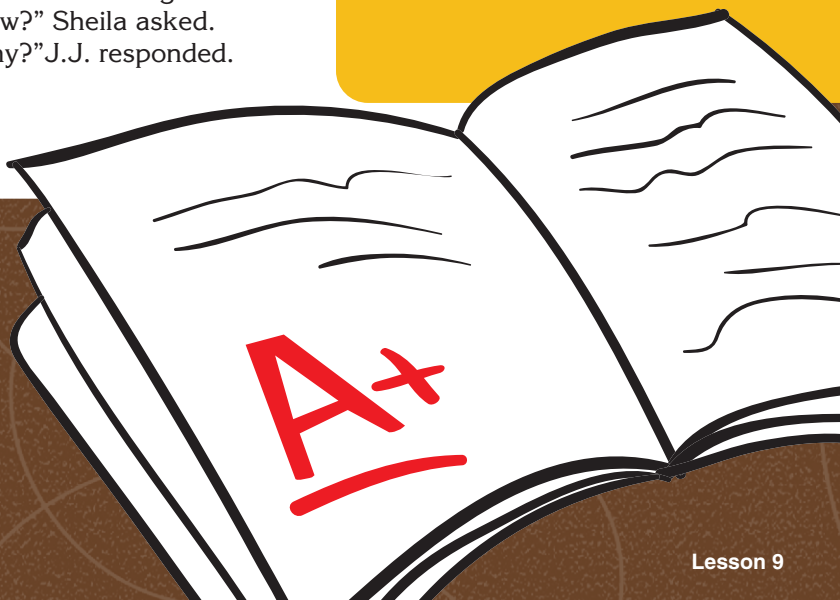
“Oh, come on, J.J. At lunch it was ‘My buddy, Andrew,’ ” Spence reminded his friend.

“Sure, but hey . . . for a trade-off, I asked him to my party Friday night. If I can’t figure out a way to ‘un-ask’ him, that is . . . Hey, what are you two looking at, anyway? *I’m* going on. You can wait for Andrew if you want to.”

• **What kind of a person is J.J.?**

• **Have you ever been in a situation where you were used for your homework or because you studied? Explain what happened.**

• **How should Christians act when they see others used?**



# Relationships on the

*Relationships can be dashed (like the ocean's tide on rocks) and damaged by unkind words or actions. Using folds, intentionally or unintentionally, or lying to them can chill a warm friendship. Often we're not fully prepared for the consequences. Read the examples below and discuss what actions could hurt the relationship and what actions could bring healing. People who take advantage of others cause a lot of hard feelings. To find out what can happen when you use someone or lie to someone, blacken in with a pencil all of the shapes below that contain a dot.*

**Your younger brother** listens to rap music when your parents aren't home. He's started calling the younger girls in the neighborhood names he hears from the songs. Should you tell your parents or ignore it?

**Your friend** wants you to lie about where she is going to be tonight. She asked you to tell her brother some made-up story. What do you do?

**Your mother** is angry at you for talking back to her. She takes your cell away and doesn't give any indication that you'll ever get it back. You know you did something wrong but hate getting no response when you ask her about the phone. What do you do to make things right? How could you handle conflict better next time you don't see eye to eye?

**A new girl at church** likes you, but she's almost two years older than you. You lie, telling her that you are only six months younger. She finds out the truth and refuses to talk to you. What do you say to her?

You see **a schoolmate** steal a pair of earrings from the sale table of a jewelry store. The store alarm sounds as she runs out the exit. You watch her turn the corner as a security guard comes up to you and asks which way she went. What do you tell the guard?

**Your little brother** loves to draw and paint. You praise his artwork. One day a new friend visiting your house laughs at his art, calling it ugly and stupid. You laugh along with him—only to turn around and see your little brother watching you. What do you say to your brother?

Photo: Hemera/Thinkstock





# every day devos

## Lying Lips

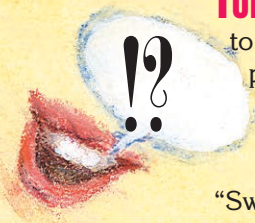
“The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”

Proverbs 12:22



**Which would you rather do—delight someone or be detested by that same person? With God, and even with other people, the choice is yours.**

**MONDAY** Think about the last time you lied to someone. Why did you do it? How could you have been truthful and still worked things out?



**TUESDAY** Think back to the last time someone lied to you. Write down how it made you feel about that person and ask God to help you forgive him or her.

**WEDNESDAY** Read Matthew 5:33-37. Is your language peppered with “I swear . . .” or “Swear to . . .”? Be conscious of your words today and let your “yes be yes”!

**THURSDAY** Look up the words “dependable” and “reliable.” Why are honest people usually dependable and reliable?



**FRIDAY** Read Acts 5:1-11. God takes dishonesty very seriously. Ask Him to bring this story to mind next time you’re tempted to lie for your own advantage.

**SATURDAY** Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Share the “truth” today with someone who needs to know Christ

