

Stained Reputation

Scene 1 (Late for School)

Teacher Hi Sam, you are late for school. You promised me that you were going to be on time today.

Sam I'm sorry I am late again today, but my mom forgot to make my lunch so I had to make it myself.

Teacher Really? Your mom just emailed me and said that you were late because you were playing video games before school. Sam, why do you feel you must lie to me and make up excuses?

Sam I don't know. I think I was disappointed that I didn't keep my promise to you.

Teacher Sam, you have to start telling the truth, or I don't know if I will be able to trust you.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt.)

Scene 2 (Back at Home)

Friend *(Pretend to call Sam on the phone)* Hi. Is Sam there?

Sam This is Sam.

Friend Sam, I waited for you after school today.

Sam You did. Why?

Friend Remember, you promised that you were going to help me with my homework.

Sam Oh, yeah. My mom asked me to come home right away to watch my baby sister. Sorry.

Mom Get off the phone Sam. You have not done any of your homework. All you have done is play football with Dan all afternoon. It is time to get off the phone and do your homework.

Friend You played football with Dan after school? You said your mom wanted you home. Sam, I just don't know if I can trust you anymore. You never keep your promises and you always make up excuses. Goodbye.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt, making another stain.)

Mom Sam, you said you were going to do your chores when you got home.

Sam Yes, I know Mom, but I was busy helping my teacher after school.

Mom Sam, you need to tell me the truth. Did you forget that I found out you were playing football with Dan after school? Why didn't you come straight home after school?

Sam You can call my teacher, Mom. I swear on my life that I was helping her after school. I started playing football with Dan, but then my teacher saw us playing and asked us to both come back in the classroom to help her.

Mom Sam, your teacher called me after school to inform me that you lied to her again. Now you are lying to me. Please, Sam, you have to stop lying. Your reputation is being stained. No one is going to trust you if you can't keep your word and be honest.

(Adult leader smears the charcoal across Sam's white T-shirt, making another stain.)

Sam I'm sorry, Mom.

Mom Sam, come here. I want you show you a passage in the Bible. *(Open the Bible and read Proverbs 12:22)* You see, the Lord condemns lying, but takes joy in those who are trustworthy. I want you to memorize this verse; it will help you stop lying.

Sam Thanks, Mom, no more lying for me. I am going to start memorizing that verse right now. *(Sam takes the Bible and begins memorizing Proverbs 12:22.)*