



## 4. Bible Study

### Yes Means Yes: Matthew 5:33-37

**Set Up:** Create a dialogue in which one friend asks another for assistance, promising a reward (candy, toy, etc.) after the favor is completed. Use J. B. as one of the characters.

**Skit:**

JASON: Hey, J. B., could you help me?

J. B.: Help with what?

JASON: My mom says I have to give my puppy a bath. If you'll help me, I'll give you my baseball (*or candy or some other item*).

J. B.: Sure, I'll help. I love baseball.

*(Pretend to wash a stuffed dog. You could have real suds to make the skit funnier. Finish up, and towel off the dog.)*

J. B.: Wow! That was messy, stinky, hard work. But I really love baseball. Let's play.

JASON: Well, I think I'm just going to watch TV. I didn't really mean it when I said I'd give you the baseball, and I don't really feel like playing.

*(Let the dialogue end on an awkward note.)*

Ask the boys what a promise is and what it means to keep a promise. How do others feel when we break our promises? What promises has God made to us? Let the boys name a few. (*We'll spend forever with Him if we're saved. He won't flood the earth again. He will love us and be with us.*) Remind them that God is always faithful; He always keeps His promises.

**Commander Says:** One day Jesus went up on a mountainside to preach. Many people came to hear Him. What He said to the people that day is called the Sermon on the Mount. It was common practice among the Jews, and still is among people of Eastern cultures, to swear oaths. If a person swore to God, the Jews considered the promise to be sacred. When a person swore by anything else, the promise was not as important. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:33-37 not to swear ever. To swear by heaven is wrong because that is God's throne. Swearing by anything on earth is wrong because the earth is God's footstool. Swearing by anything about yourself is wrong also, because you cannot make even one hair white or black. Jesus said, "'Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one'" (v. 37). Jesus wants us to be honest with each other, not because we swear, but because honesty is the best policy.

**Review: Ask:** "What is a promise?" (*A commitment to do what you say you will.*) "What did Jesus say about making promises?" (*Let your yes be yes and your no be no. Mean what you say.*)

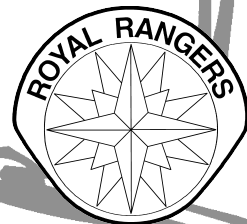
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# Honest J. B.

Color this picture of J. B. Beaver.  
Can you say the blue point Honest?



A Royal Ranger is Honest.  
He does not lie, cheat, or steal.



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