

Jo saw something gold and shiny on the grass.

What's this? he wondered.

Did Rufus forget his horn?



Jo picked up Rufus's horn and began to march.
He tooted it high and low, just like Rufus.
He blew loud sounds and soft sounds.



But then Jo dropped the horn and
CLLAAANNNGGG! It fell on a rock.



*It's only a little dent, Jo thought.
Rufus will never know.*

Jo walked quickly toward the field.



Just then, he heard Rufus howling
and blowing his horn.





“Jo!” Rufus called. “My horn has a dent!
How did that happen?”

“I don’t know...maybe Hal dropped
your horn,” said Jo.



The friends all looked at Jo.
“Jo, did you do this?” they asked.



Jo shut his eyes. He knew his friends were angry.
He knew he wasn't telling them the truth.
Maybe a prayer would help.





Dear God,

*I told a lie, and then another
and another. Now my
friends are angry. Help me
tell them the truth so I can
make things better.*

Amen.



ABOUT THE STORY

Jo does things that upsets his friends...then tells them it wasn't him. A prayer helps him gather the courage to tell the truth and ask for forgiveness.

DELIGHT IN READING TOGETHER

As you read about Jo's actions, use your voice to highlight the silliness of what Jo is doing. Like many toddlers, Jo isn't trying to be malicious. But his rambunctiousness is getting him in trouble. Your child might be able to empathize!

ABOUT YOUNG CHILDREN AND LYING

Young children often lie because it's easier than telling the truth—especially if the truth is going to get them in trouble or make adults upset. Point out that Jo's friends were grateful when he told the truth, to help your child understand that being honest is always the right thing to do—even when it's hard.

FAITH CONNECTION

“You shall not bear false witness” is one of the Ten Commandments for a reason! Jesus tells us to love each other—and one way we do that is by telling each other the truth in love.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices.

Colossians 3:9

SAY A PRAYER

Say the prayer Jo said when he was trying to tell the truth.

Dear God, I told a lie, and then another and another. Now my friends are angry. Help me tell them the truth so I can make things better.

Amen.

