



Written by  
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## "Tall Tales"

**Scripture:** Proverbs 12:22

*"The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful."*

**Dramatic Category:** Skit

**Topic:** Lies vs. Truth

**Performance Time:** 4 minutes

**Number of Players:** 2 men

**Objective:**

This skit makes the point that any deviation from the truth is a lie, no matter how creative the story or how necessary a hoax may seem. A lie is without justification.

**Synopsis:**

Fred and Bob spent the day fishing, but they didn't catch a thing! Fred is determined to tell a "fish tale" to save his dignity, but Bob has a poor memory and can't seem to get the "alternate truth" straight. What ensues is a dialogue similar to an "Abbott & Costello" routine; proving that a lie never works, not only because it is wrong, but because the average person can seldom keep the story straight.

**Cast:**

2 fishermen:

Bob	<i>a good-hearted fellow, a little slow on the up-take</i>
Fred	<i>a master of deceit</i>

**Costumes:**

Dress them as fishermen, with hats, vests, boots, etc.

**Props:**

2 fishing poles  
Fishing nets  
Coolers, etc.

**Lights:**

**Option:** Blue swirling light on back wall, at floor, to suggest a lake

**Sound:** 2 wireless mics

**STAGING NOTE:**

Have the men enter through the back door and begin their conversation down the aisles, among the audience.

**The Script:**

*(Two disgruntled fishermen enter from USL (up stage, left), weighted down with fishing gear, but no fish.)*

**Fred:** We're going to be the joke of the night when we walk in with no fish.

**Bob:** We could stop at the store and buy some.

**Fred:** No...store-bought fish are too clean; they don't even smell real.

**Bob:** Yeah...I guess you're right; the cellophane wrapping and those little blue trays would give it away, huh?

**Fred:** You had to go and tell the guys, *(mimicking)*  
"Don't bring any food to Paul's house.  
We're gonna' watch Monday night football with piles of fresh fish."

**Bob:** How was I supposed to know we wouldn't catch a thing?  
Why don't we just bring a few pizzas with anchovies?  
Those are fish!

**Fred:** Come on.....we can't humiliate ourselves like that.  
We have to come up with a story.

**Bob:** A story about what?

**Fred:** *(exasperated)* About why we didn't catch any fish!

**Bob:** Oh...*(quite serious)* Why didn't we catch any fish?

**Fred:** *(dramatically)* Because a wild bear came and stole the bait.

**Bob:** *(terrified)* A bear! *(hiding behind Fred.)* Where? Where's the bear?

**Fred:** There's no bear.

**Bob:** Then why would you tell 'em he stole the bait?

**Fred:** Because we have to tell them something.

**Bob:** What's wrong with the truth? (*pretending to serve pizza*)  
"We didn't catch anything, sorry guys; have some pizza."

**Fred:** (*very serious*) Listen Bob, sometimes the truth can make you look foolish or in our case, "inept." That's when you need to stretch the truth into a believable story that saves your self-image.

**Bob:** You mean "lie."

**Fred:** I prefer to call it an "alternate truth."  
The trick to "alternate truth-telling" is that you've got to keep the story straight with all the parties involved.

**Bob:** I thought we couldn't tell the guys.

**Fred:** What! What guys?

**Bob:** Well, it's a party, and they're all involved?

**Fred:** (*Grabbing Bob by the vest*) Listen to me, Bob!  
We are not going to look like inept fishermen.

(*realizing he has lost control, and letting Bob down gently*)  
We're just going to agree on a story that we can tell Paul and the guys about why we didn't catch any fish. Do you understand?

**Bob:** Yeah. (*straightening his vest*)  
You don't have to get so worked up over it.

**Fred:** I happen to care about what people think of me,  
and if a harmless little "alternate truth" has to be used to save my image,  
then so be it. Now, let's agree about what happened.

**Bob:** Well, the thing about the bear is good.

**Fred:** No. Why would we have stayed there all day with no bait?

**Bob:** Maybe it happened at the end of the day.

**Fred:** Then why didn't we catch fish earlier?

**Bob:** Because we're bad fishermen?

**Fred:** (*all but screaming*) No! We're great fishermen!

**Bob:** Then why didn't we catch any fish?

**Fred:** *(Trying to re-gain his composure)*  
Okay, I've got it. We caught a whole lot of fish.

**Bob:** *(in disbelief)* We did? Where did you put 'em? *(He starts looking around)*

**Fred:** We didn't really catch em.

**Bob:** I didn't think so.

**Fred:** Listen, we're going to tell they guys that we caught lots of really big fish, *(He's getting into the story now.)* Then, we tied them to side of the boat, so they could drag in the water.

**Bob:** *(getting into the story now)* Yeah...Okay, draggin' in the water.

**Fred:** Then, we caught the biggest fish we've ever seen.

**Bob:** How big was it?

**Fred:** *(spreading his arms out wide)* It was this big!

**Bob:** Wow! Where was I when this happened?

**Fred:** It didn't really happen!

**Bob:** Oh.....right.....alternate truth.

**Fred:** Then, it got away.

**Bob:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**Fred:** *(staring in disbelief at Bob)* But...It came back around and ate all the fish we had tied to the boat, and that's why we don't have any fish.

**Bob:** What a story!

**Fred:** Got it straight? Our stories have to match.  
"Alternate truth" falls apart if you don't have a good memory.

**Bob:** Right.

**Fred:** Can you remember this story?

**Bob:** Sure, a bear swam up to the boat, and ate all the fish.

**Fred:**           *(exasperated)* No! It was a big fish!

**Bop:**           How big was it?

**Fred:**           *(spreading out his arms)* It was this big!

*(Bob mimics Fred as they both exaggerate the size of the fish as they walk off stage discussing their "alternate truth.")*