

**Lesson Plan 3: Teaching Ethics**  
Hannah Carter, Abe Attah, Jae Porter  
**Total Time:** 45 minutes  
**Ages:** 5-6  
**Number of Participants:** 4-5

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**Materials:**

- What if Everybody Did That, Ellen Javernick
- Paper and markers

**Goals:**

We want to challenge the kids to think about what makes something good and something bad, through the categorical imperative to start and seeing what else they come up with for deciding what makes right and wrong. We also want to challenge them to make ethical decisions in situations where they are acting out the problem, and have them make evaluations of right and wrong (or lesser of two evils). By the end we are hoping that they can tell us at least one way to decide right from wrong.

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**Introduction: Is it ever ok to lie?**

**5 Mins**

- Go around and say names
  - Ask if they ever think it is ok to lie, and in what situation
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**Read-Aloud:**

**10 Mins**

- Read What if Everyone Did That
  - Kant for kids, talk about if that's the only way we decide good or bad, or the best way
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**MOVEMENT BREAK–wiggle it out**

**2 Mins**

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**Activity 1: Drawing**

**15 Mins**

- Draw one thing that would be good if everyone did
  - Draw one thing that would be bad if everyone did
  - Discuss why these things are good/bad and if there are any scenarios that make them okay to do
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**MOVEMENT BREAK–Stretch it out**

**2 Mins**

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**Activity 2: The trolley problem**

- We will start with a positive outcome

- Two buttons, each with a different outcome
    - You are going to get ice cream
    - You won't get ice cream but your five friends will
  - We will have them act out the problem
    1. They are driving the trolley
    2. They have to push one of us in front of the trolley to stop it
    3. They are pulling a lever
  - a. We will involve different individuals and groups,
    - i. Teacher, us, their class guy, fictional characters, etc.
  - Before we explain the actual problem, we will start with the three of us, and we will have them put two of us on one track and one of us on the other, then we will have them be the driver, as the trolley is headed for the two people, and they have the option to turn towards the one
    - We will then let them choose who goes where and go through several iterations of this problem
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### **Questions:**

- Are there rules that tell us what the “right” thing to do is?

**Ethical focus:** fairness, empathy, decision-making,

## Activity 2: The Ice Cream Delima (Trolley Problem Simplified for kids)

10 Mins

-Have kids act out the following scenario then lead a discussion about it

### Story:

You're pushing an ice cream cart at the playground. You (one of us) only have **a little bit** of ice cream. Two groups of friends are waiting—one group of **two friends** and one group of **three friends**. You can only go to **one group**, and the other group will have no ice cream or will have to wait until another ice cream cart comes.

### Questions:

- Who do you go to first?
- Why?
- How could you make it fair for everyone?

**Ethical focus:** fairness, empathy, decision-making, sharing.