

City “All Together Activities”—January 31st, 2021

Today’s Bible Story: Say What You Need to Say (Use Words Wisely) • *Ephesians 4:29*

Today’s Bottom Line: Use your words wisely.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.* Luke 16:10a (NIV)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: Room white board or flip chart – marker, eraser

What You Do:

- Write the following gibberish sayings on the board, one at a time.
- Have the kids guess the gibberish sayings.
- If your kids are unable to read, that’s okay. You can read the saying aloud and let them guess.
- Encourage kids to say the sentences out loud a few times together to help them decode the gibberish.

Gibberish Sayings:

1. GEEZ EZ RAX (Jesus rocks.)
2. CHURGE IZ KULE (Church is cool.)
3. OL EV GODE (I love God.)
4. LEVG OD LEV PEEP UL (Love God. Love people.)
5. WUR CHIP DA LODE (Worship the Lord.)

What You Say:

“Wow! That was a lot of fun. You all did a great job using your genius brains to decode these secret messages.

[Transition] Today in Large Group, we learned another way we can be smart with our words and helpful, too!

2. Compliment Who

What You Need: “Compliment Who” Face Cards (1 set of 12 per kid)

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to sit in a circle. Be sure to instruct them to maintain social distancing.
- Give each kid a deck of “Compliment Who” cards.
- One at a time, kids draw a card without looking at it, stick it on their head, and the rest of the kids give them clues about who the person on the card is.
- Instruct the kids to use words of encouragement and compliments of the person instead of normal descriptions.
- For example, for a sanitation worker they can say, “You do an incredible job of getting rid of smelly stuff. You are also a fabulous driver with that big ol’ truck!”
- Once the person on the card is guessed, the kid can put their card to the side. Then, the next kid draws a card.
- Repeat at least until each kid has a chance to draw a card and guess who’s on their head.
- Once kids finish their game, encourage them to think of other people in their life they can build up and encourage with their words.

What You Say:

“We can forget how easy it is to see the good in people and use our words to inspire others. It can even be fun!

[Make it Personal] (Tell about a time someone used their words wisely toward you and showed you Jesus’ love.) Here’s the thing, God put us on Earth to point everyone to Him. When you **[Bottom Line] use your words wisely**, everyone around us has a better chance of feeling His love and knowing Him! When we leave today, we can remember the awesome responsibility and role we have to show everyone the love of Jesus through our powerful words.”

3. Tough Words

What You Need: “Tough Words” Activity Page (1 per kid), sandpaper square (1 per kid), crayons (1 per kid), and cotton balls (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Provide each kid with a “Tough Words” Activity Page and a crayon.
- Instruct kids to fill in the missing memory verse words with the crayon.
- Give each kid a square of sandpaper and a cotton ball.
- Instruct the kids to rub their sandpaper across one of the words of their paper and observe how it hurts the appearance of the word.
- Instruct them to rub their cotton ball across a different word and discuss how it does not affect the word.

What You Say:

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever had someone say something to you that didn’t feel so good? (*Allow just enough time for kids to raise their hands.*) Me too. Our words can either be tough like sandpaper or gentle like this cotton ball. Here’s the awesome news, God has entrusted you to **[Bottom Line] use your words wisely**, so you can inspire and love everyone around you. The more we choose to use our words in a gentle way that pleases Him, the more room we give God to provide us with more opportunities to reach more people. What an awesome motivation to think before we speak!”

4. Story Time!

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Begin a story with the line: Once upon a time there was (*name something interesting to your group such as a small snowman, a happy horse, or a little dinosaur.*)
- Going around the circle, lead kids to take turns adding a line to the story. If kids get stuck, ask guiding questions to spark ideas. You might ask: What did they do? Where did they go? How did they feel?

What You Say:

“*You used words to make a great story!*”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Sandpaper from “Tough Words” Activity

What You Do:

- Have kids grab their sandpaper.
- Ask kids to think of a time they may have let their words be more tough than gentle.
- Pray and ask God to help you use your words in a wise way to build people up.
- Encourage kids to throw away their sandpaper at the end of the prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear Jesus, thank You for the forgiveness You give us in the times we allow our words to be tough like sandpaper. Please help us use our words as an encouragement to everyone we talk with! Even when we meet times of challenge, frustration, or hurt, help us remember that we can make a choice not hurt others with our words. May every person we come in contact with see a glimpse of You through the way we speak. Thank You for the example You give in the Bible to help change the world when you **[Bottom Line] use your words wisely**. In Jesus’ name, amen.”