

CITY LG – January 27- 28, 2024

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 (NirV)*

WORSHIP

Live Differently

Give My All

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here in the CITY! This month, we're talking about something really important that God can help us live out every day. We're talking about responsibility.

SLIDE: Virtue

Responsibility is **showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.**

SLIDE: Theme

Really quickly, I'd love to hear about some things you're expected to do. It could be at home, at school, or anywhere.

Take a few answers from the kids.

If they don't mention pets, be sure to prompt them. ("What about pets? If you have a pet at home, what kind of responsibilities do you have to take care of them?")

Wow. Thanks for sharing all those important responsibilities! When you 'see it through' and take care of the things that people expect from you, do you know what happens? It shows that they can trust you!

I'm glad you mentioned responsibilities that you have with your pets, because we have another fun pet game to play today. It's called 'Pet Sounds.'

First, Small Group Leaders, could you please give each person in your group a number between one and five? Just point and go 'one, two, three, four, five,' and so on. Everyone, when you have a number, raise your hand—and make sure you remember what it is!

Give the leaders time to number their kids. Look for everyone to raise their hands as your cue to continue.

Okay! Nice work, everyone. Now we'll put an image on the screen that will let you know what your number means.

SLIDE: "Pet Sounds Animal Key"

On the screen, you'll see what animal matches your number. If you're number one, it's a cat. If you're number two, it's a frog. Three, bird. Four, horse. And five, dog.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll start making the sound of the animal that matches your number. You can move around the room, but make sure you listen closely as you make your animal sound. Once you find someone who’s making the same animal sound as you, stay with them! Together, you can keep trying to find MORE people who are making the same sound. Eventually, we’ll get to the point where we have five different groups that match the animals on the screen.

Are you ready? Then let me hear those pet sounds. Here we go!

As the kids try to find their groups, move around the room and help as needed. Look out for any kids that might seem overwhelmed and help them find their match.

Once everyone has found their group, go to each group and have them demonstrate their sound for the rest of the room!

SLIDE: Theme

Way to go! Everybody did a really great job of finding their groups!

Today, we’re looking at an important part of responsibility that the apostle Paul wrote about in the book of Ephesians. (*Hold up Bible.*) We call this the book of Ephesians, but it was originally a letter that Paul wrote to the believers in a city called Ephesus. Paul had helped to start a church in Ephesus, but he had to leave suddenly.

Paul knew that the Jesus-followers in Ephesus still had a lot to learn. So later, while he was under house arrest, he wrote a letter to encourage the Ephesians. He wanted to help them keep following Jesus and keep growing in their faith. Let’s check out our Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

I don’t know about you, but for me, it’s hard to stop and think about the words I say BEFORE I say them. If I’m not careful, I’ll just say whatever pops into my mind first. But God can help us make a much better choice—to really think about what we say and make sure it’s something helpful.

That’s what Paul wanted the Ephesians to know—and it’s a BIG responsibility that you and I have each day. We need to use our words wisely. Let’s check out our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Use your words wisely.

This isn’t easy to do. But remember, you don’t have to do it alone. When we choose to follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside us and help us make wise choices. We can stop and ask God for help anytime we feel tempted to say something hurtful.

So, let’s not be the kind of people who walk around hurting others because we don’t pay attention to the words we say. Let’s go out into the world and be people who are positive, kind, encouraging, helpful, honest, and thankful! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You so much for this reminder of how powerful our words can be. Please help us choose words that build others up not words that tear them down. When we get angry or upset, and we feel tempted to say something hurtful, guide us to stop . . . take a breath . . . and ask You for help BEFORE we speak. Help us always remember that we need to make the wise choice. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

SLIDE: Theme

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps people who are struggling financially. They help them with their basic necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to get in a better place and support their families. I know it was just Christmas a month ago but look at this video about one of Missions of Hope's programs called Stars of Hope. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this...

VIDEO: Stars of Hope

So Merry Christmas...WAY early. But Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to have gifts at Christmas available to give kids in families that need the help. So make sure to go home this week, look at all of your blessings, and do what you can do to raise some money for kids in need in our area!