

# ALLEY Rundown- October 12-13, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** These Words (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

**Today's Key Question:** How can your words change things?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Think before you speak.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.*

2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

**PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS:** *Dude Perfect*

**SLIDE:** *Theme*

Hey, everybody! It's so good to see you in the Alley today! I look forward to this time all week, and it's great to be together.

Now, we all know that words matter. What you say matters. It's not like you can just say whatever you want and have no consequences. I'm sure you've heard the phrase 'use words that help, not words that hurt,' right?

Maybe people have used words to make you feel bad. Or hurt you in some way. It stinks when that happens. Even though they're just words, they still affect us.

Find someone near you, a partner, and talk about a time when you heard words that really hurt someone or tore them down a bit. Doesn't have to be you, personally, it could be something you saw or heard. Go ahead and discuss.

*Allow a moment or two for kids to share with one another, then as time allows ask some kids to share a few summaries of what was shared.*

Yeah. It's the worst. Sometimes people can be so mean. Thankfully, on the flip side, though, sometimes people can be amazing. Same partners, new question: When was a time you heard words used to heal or help someone? Build someone up, or encourage someone? Take a minute and chat about that."

*Again, allow a moment or two for kids to share with one another. Then as time allows, ask some kids to share a few summaries of what was shared.*

It's interesting how words can be used in two totally different ways, right? Words can heal or words can harm.

Here's my question . . . do you think about that before you speak? Or do words just come flying out of your mouth as you react to whatever is happening around you? If I'm honest, there have been all sorts of times when I said something without thinking and ended up hurting people who actually meant a lot to me.

It's important for us to consider why we choose to speak without thinking about the power of our words. Sometimes the things we say without thinking can totally ruin a conversation, a moment, or a friendship . . . maybe even permanently. That's a hard question—because I think if we're honest, most of us would answer, 'No, we don't really think about that too often.' Sometimes, I'd even say *most* times, we don't think about how our words will affect someone else.

**VIDEO** *The So and So Show* (12:53)

Words have power. Plain and simple. The power to destroy or the power to heal. But sometimes it's not just the actual words. Maybe it's the way you say it. You can say "I'm so sorry that happened" (*sincerely*) or "I'm SO sorry that happened" (*sarcastic*).

Or maybe it's your motivation. The person who did something wrong and wants to be forgiven might say "I'm sorry that *I* offended you." (*sincerely*) but they might also say "I'm sorry that *YOU* were offended" (*snarky*), as if it's their fault for being so easily offended!

Words matter, but so does the way we say them and the reason behind why we're saying them! God wants all of this to come together in a way to build and heal, not to tear down and destroy. Words are a gift from God, and we can use them to bless other people.

As you go to your groups today, think about this—

#### **SLIDE: Key Question**

**How can your words change things?** I want you to talk about the difference between using words to tear down or to build up . . . to heal or to hurt, to burn or to soothe. Think through different times when you might feel like you need to be harsh with your words. Then consider what might happen if you choose to be kind instead. Thankfully, we don't have to do this alone. God can help us!

#### **SLIDE: Memory Verse**

It's like our memory verse this month says, *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a

Let's pray and ask God to help us use words in a way that helps and heals others.

#### **SLIDE: Theme Background**

*Lead the group in a prayer related to what they just heard.*

**CHECK THE TIME:** There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.

### **OFFERING:**

We are collecting money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It provides wheelchairs to people with physical challenges in Africa. But they provide a lot more than just wheelchairs. Check out this video.

#### **VIDEO: Michael's Story 2**

Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

#### **SLIDE: Theme**