

ALLEY SG – 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 (NIV)

Monthly Virtue: Self-control: Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, and buzzer

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Direct both teams to gather on different sides of your group space.
- Encourage each team to come up with a team name.
- Set out the buzzer in the middle of your group space.
- Instruct each team to take turns sending one kid to the middle to hit the buzzer and answer a review question.
- Share that the kid who hits the buzzer first gets the chance to answer.
 - If the kid answers correctly, their team earns two points.
 - If the kid answers incorrectly, the other team gets the chance to answer for one point.
- Invite teams to send their first two kids over to you.
- Read a question from the list below.
- Repeat until all questions have been correctly answered.
- Celebrate the team with the most points as the winner.

Review Questions:

1. What book of the Bible does the verse we heard about today come from? (*Proverbs*)
2. What is the book of Proverbs known for? (*It's a collection of wise sayings—many from King Solomon.*)
3. Early in King Solomon's reign, how did God speak to Solomon? (*a dream*)
4. What did God say to Solomon? (*God told Solomon that he could have any gift he wanted.*)
5. What gift did Solomon ask for? (*wisdom*)
6. Why did Solomon want the gift of wisdom? (*He wanted to be the best leader for his people.*)
7. The wise saying from Proverbs we heard about today says that: "*the words of thoughtless people cut like _____.* (*Proverbs 12:18, NIV*) What word goes in the blank? (*swords*)
8. What do you think it means that words that are thoughtless can cut like swords? (*Our words can hurt someone deeply.*)
9. Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) also says that: "*the tongue of wise people brings _____.*" What goes in the blank? (*healing*)
10. What does it mean that the tongue can bring healing? (*Our polite words can be helpful and bring healing to people.*) *Bonus question (repeat as desired):* What is one healing or kind word you could speak to someone this week? (*answers will vary*)

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Notecards, paper, and pens

What You Do:

- Ask kids how they would finish the following sentence: “Before I speak, I should think about whether my words are . . .”
- Write each of their ideas on separate notecards and place them in view of all the kids.
 - If needed, lead the kids toward ideas such as: encouraging, nice, kind, true, necessary, polite, respectful, healing, etc.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and pen.
- Invite everyone to create a short acronym or abbreviation that will help them remember to think before they speak and to choose their words carefully.
- If needed, review the abbreviation format of an acronym and give some examples such as:
 - UPS (*United Parcel Service*)
 - ASAP (*As Soon As Possible*)
 - LOL (*Laughing Out Loud*)
- Encourage creativity, but if needed, provide the following examples to get kids thinking:
 - TB4S (*Think Before You Speak*)
 - THINK (*Speak words that are True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind*)
 - FLAP (*Are the words a Fact? Loving? Affirming? Polite?*)
- Remind kids that when they follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with them and gives them the strength to choose their words with kindness and compassion.

3. Discussion Questions

- Just because something is true, does it mean it is okay to say it? Why or why not?
- How do you decide if something is necessary to say or if it's better to leave it unspoken?
- Does it change when you're talking to someone who's younger than you? How about someone who is older?
- How can your words change things?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Review

What You Need: Bibles and rubber pop-up toy (one per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct the kids to look up Psalm 141:3.
- Invite any kids who would like to read the verse aloud for the group.
- Say the verse together a few times.
- Ask:
 - What might be something you'd want to guard your mouth from saying?
 - How can you keep watch over the things that come out of your mouth?
 - Why do you think the writer of this Psalm used the image of a door on lips?
- Give each kid a pop-up toy then let them practice pressing them onto a flat surface, ideally an uncarpeted floor or table, then wait for them to pop up.
- Invite kids to press their pop-up toy and try to say all of Psalm 141:3 before it pops.
 - Kids will be saying the verse aloud at differing times, but that's okay.
 - Challenge kids to jump up each time their pop-up toy pops.
- Give kids time to practice saying the verse several times.

- Point out that in the time it takes for the toy to pop, they can ask God for help.
- Ask:
 - What is a situation when you could say Psalm 141:3 as a prayer for God's help to think before you speak?
 - How might it help by making it a habit to pray the words of Psalm 141:3 during the day?
- Let kids take the pop-up toys home as a reminder to take a moment to pause, think, and pray before they speak.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

"God, thank You for the power to slow down our words. We want to remember to **think before we speak**. We know it's not always easy to pause when we're angry or excited. Help us find the self-control to slow down so we can bring You glory with healing and helpful words. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guide to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to tell them a way they will think before they speak this week.