



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

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What You Need:

- Host
- Host's phone
- Table
- Three bottles of baby lotion with retractable sides (so you can squeeze the lotion out and then suction some of it back in)
- Three paper plates
- Trash can

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- High-energy music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Self-control Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- Pre-set the table, trash can, and game props on stage.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Toy sword
- Handwritten note (with scribbled “writing”)
- Storyteller’s phone
- Prop box
- Wooden board (such as a section of a two-by-four)
- Hammer
- Three nails
- Trash can (from the Opener)

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Proverbs 12:18 Slide

What You Do:

- Put the board, hammer, and nails in the prop box for the Storyteller to bring out.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- This is Living
- Alive Again

What Would You Say?

Bible Story: What Would You Say? (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

Bottom Line: Choose your words carefully.

Memory Verse: “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters with smartphone, tablet or computer in hand.

Opener

HOST: “What’s up, everybody? Welcome to [your environment’s name]. My name is [Host’s name], and I’m so glad you’re here with us today. We’ve got a LOT of fun stuff planned!

“We’ve been talking this month about our operating system—not the kind of operating system in a computer or tablet, but the operating system in each of us. When something happens to you, you’ve got to choose how you’re going to react. When things don’t go your way, you can get really upset or angry. You might say or do things you shouldn’t. OR you can make a different choice. You can update the way you react. You can react with self-control!

CG: *Self-control Slide*

“Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to.

“Just like an update on a computer or tablet gives you the very best version, we want to be the very best version of ourselves. We can do that with self-control. We can do it with God’s help!

“I’ve got a fun game that will help us get started today. I need three kids and their Small Group Leaders to come up and play.

Choose three kids and their Small Group Leaders to join you on stage. Give each team a bottle of baby lotion and a paper plate.

“Okay, for each team, here’s a bottle of baby lotion and a paper plate. Kids, when I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll squirt all of the lotion onto the plate as fast as you can. Once all the lotion is out, you’ll hand the bottle

to your Leader, and he or she will have to use that same bottle to suction the lotion back into the bottle. When time is up, whichever team has the LEAST amount of lotion on the plate will be the winner!

“Let’s get 60 seconds on the clock. Are you ready? Go!

Set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

SFX: High-energy music

Comment on the action. Lead the audience in cheering for the contestants.

“Wow! Once that lotion is out, it’s really tough to get it back into the bottle. You all did a great job trying, though. It looks like today’s winner is [Leader’s name] and [kid’s name]. Great job, all of you! You can toss your trash in the trash can as you head back to your seats.”

Dismiss contestants to their seats. Hold up the trash can for them as they go.

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they’re pretty amazing. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!**

“I have just a few announcements for you all today...”

Share any/all announcements.

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, [Name of Host]. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for

who God is and what he's done for us!

This is Living

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let's give everything we have and worship God together!

Alive Again

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! Believe it or not, there's something you're carrying around with you right now that's so sharp and so dangerous that it's like you're carrying one of these.

Hold up the toy sword.

"That's right. There's something you're carrying right now that could hurt people just like a real sword. Yikes! But it's true. (*Hold up Bible.*) Check out this verse from Proverbs 12:18.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 12:18 (NirV) and read.

CG: Proverbs 12:18 Slide

"The words of thoughtless people cut like swords. But the tongue of wise people brings healing.

"Okay. So what do we have that cuts like a sword? (*Pause for response.*) Right. Our words. When we're thoughtless—when we say things without thinking—our words can be like swords. It's like they cut others. If we're not careful, our words can really hurt someone!

"This is another verse in Proverbs from King Solomon, who was one of the wisest people who ever lived. King Solomon used a lot of word pictures in his writing. That means that when he was trying to explain something that might be difficult to understand, he would often use words and ideas we already know. He knew that most people would understand that a sword could hurt someone, so by saying that thoughtless words are like a sword, it helps us to understand just how dangerous and powerful our words can be.

DANGEROUS LIKE SWORDS

STORYTELLER: “Has anyone ever said something mean to you? Or have you heard people use mean words to each other? How does that feel? Not good, right? Our words can be dangerous. If we don’t have self-control, we might end up saying something we wish we hadn’t. But words aren’t just dangerous when they’re spoken. They can be dangerous when they’re written or texted, too.

“When we SAY mean words, they can cut like a sword.

Hold up the handwritten note.

“When we WRITE mean words, they can cut like a sword.

Hold up your phone.

“When people TEXT mean words, or when we post something mean online, our words can cut like a sword.

“Our words are like a sword when we say something mean TO someone or even when we say something mean ABOUT someone. It’s easy to see why we need to be careful with our words!”

NAIL ILLUSTRATION

STORYTELLER: “Let me show you another way to understand that idea a little better.

Get the board, hammer, and nails out of the prop box.

“Take this hammer and nails, for example. These nails are like the hurtful things we say. Maybe this one (*hold up the first nail*) is when you said something mean to your sister. You didn’t really mean it, but she was getting on your nerves that day, so you said it. Sorry if this is a little loud!

Hammer the first nail into the wood. (NOTE: Don’t hammer these nails all the way in, because you’ll need to pull them out soon.)

“Maybe this one (*hold up the second nail*) is like a time when you talked back to your mom. She was telling you it was time to clean your room, and all you wanted to do was lie on the couch and watch TV. You didn’t MEAN to say something that would hurt her feelings, but unfortunately, those words just came out.

Cringe a bit as you hammer the second nail into the wood (a few inches from the first one).

“Maybe this one (*hold up the third nail*) is like a time when you just couldn’t tell the truth to your teacher. She asked who dropped the trash on the floor, and you didn’t want to get into trouble, so you told her it was someone else. Maybe that didn’t seem like it was that big of a deal at the time. But maybe it actually was.

Cringe as you hammer the third nail into the wood (a few inches from the other two). Hold up the board with the three nails in it.

“Each of these nails represents a time when our thoughtless words were like a sword—when they cut someone we care about.”

MAKING IT RIGHT

STORYTELLER: “Here’s the really great news. There’s something we can do to make it right. What are you supposed to do when you hurt someone’s feelings? *(Pause.)* Right. Say you’re sorry.

“Let’s say you go and apologize in each of these situations. You go to your sister and tell her you’re sorry for what you said.

Pull out the first nail and throw it in the trash can.

“You go to your mom and tell her you love her so much, and you’re sorry you said those mean words to her.

Pull out the second nail and throw it in the trash can.

“You go to your teacher and you apologize for not telling her the truth. You offer to help her clean up the classroom.

Pull out the third nail and throw it in the trash can.

“Apologizing can really help. You can use words to heal those hurts. But let me ask you something. What do you notice about this wood? What do you see where the nails used to be? *(Pause for response.)*

Hold up the board with the three holes still in it.

“That’s right. Even though the apology removed the nails, the holes are still there in the wood. When we use hurtful words, the hurt can last a really, really long time. And while we should always apologize when we hurt someone, an apology can’t completely undo it. The very best way to keep our thoughtless words from hurting someone is to never say them in the first place. We need to choose self-control. We need to **[Bottom Line] choose our words carefully.**

“And remember, we can also use HEALING words to build others up. That’s what Solomon meant when he said: ***The tongue of wise people brings healing*** *(Proverbs 12:18 NIV)*. When we take the time to say something kind to someone or to encourage them, it can change their whole day. Think about how good it feels when someone says they think you’re funny, they like your shoes, they think you’re a good friend, or even if they just say thank you. Our words are powerful, and we can use that power for good!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “It’s so important to control the words we say. We need to think before we speak. We need to make sure that the words we’re about to say will help and not hurt.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember to **[Bottom Line] choose your words carefully.**

“But even though we might know the right words to say, it might be hard to say them. We need God’s help. Let’s pray and ask God to help us have self-control with our words.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for giving King Solomon such great wisdom to share with us. Please help us learn to use self-control and **[Bottom Line] choose our words carefully.** Help us to use our words to bring healing to the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters, carrying a bottle of baby lotion from the Opener. Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It’s true. We can’t take back our hurtful words once they’ve been said.

Hold up the bottle of baby lotion.

“That’s just like in our game, when we couldn’t get all the lotion back into the bottle once it was squirted out.

“It’s easy for us to just use words without really thinking about them. We don’t always realize how hurtful or helpful they can be. It seems crazy to think that our words could have so much power. But they do!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“That’s why it’s so important to **[Bottom Line] choose your words carefully.**

“When we get angry or upset, it can seem almost impossible to be able to control our words. We’ve got to stop and think first, so we can use healing words instead of hurtful words. Remember, we get to choose the words we say. And we don’t have to do it on our own!

“We know that God has promised to be with us and to help us with everything along the way. He can help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** with our words. Look at our memory verse: 2 Peter 1:3a.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life (NirV).

“It’s so good to know that God is always there to help. He has given us everything we need! You’ll get to talk some more in Small Group about choosing your words carefully. Have a great time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide