



## WEEK FOUR – JULY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *More than Words • James 3:3–10*

**Bottom Line:** *God gives you the power to have self-control.*

**Memory Verse:** *“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6, NIV*

**Life App:** *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

**Basic Truth:** *I need to make the wise choice.*

**Summary:** In James 3:3–10, we’re reminded that our words have power. James uses practical images like a horse bit, a ship’s rudder, and a flame to show us just how powerful they are. We can use words to encourage and help others, or we can use our words to hurt them.

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## EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Lead the kids in doing various tongue tricks, such as:
  - Hold your tongue while singing a song or reciting a verse.
  - See what tricks you can do, such as curl your tongue, flip it over, touch your chin, etc.
  - Say tongue twisters, such as:
    - She sells seashells at the seashore.
    - Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers, Peter Piper picked. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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### OVERVIEW:

**Bottom Line:** *God gives you the power to have self-control. Self-control can be tricky, especially when we want something really bad or when life doesn't go our way. This can also be true with the words we use. We pray that kids will begin to see that they don't need to do this all on their own. God can help them show self-control.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Tame It!

**[Bible Story Review]**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Red party blowers, permanent markers, Bible

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a party blower, and set out the markers.
- Tell kids to carefully unroll the blower and write something to the effect of “Tame your tongue” on the blower. (They may need to pair up and help each other do this.)
- Then tell kids you’re going to read the Bible story. Each time you say the word “tongue,” they should blow their party blowers.
- Read James 3:3–10. (We recommend not including the last part of verse 6.)

**What You Say:**

*“There are a lot of areas in our lives where we need self-control. It’s one fruit of the Spirit that can sometimes be tough for me. **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids about an area of your life where you continually have to exhibit self-control and how you ask God to help you with it. Make sure to keep your example age appropriate!) God has given me the power to have self-control in that area, and **[Bottom Line]** God gives you the power to have self-control, too.”*

## 2. Stop and Tame Your Tongue

**[Memory Verse Activity]**

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Stop Scenario Cards” (Activity Page)

**What You Do:**

- Teach kids the title line to “Stop! in the Name of Love” by The Supremes. (If you’re not familiar with the song, check it out on iTunes® or YouTube®.)
- Tell them they’ll be coming up with their own versions of that song in response to scenarios.
- Tell a kid to pick a scenario card and read the scenario aloud.
- For the first one, you can suggest lyrics, such as: “Stop and tame your tongue before you hurt someone. Think it over.” Or “Stop and count to three, and then say you’re sorry. Think it over.”
- Repeat with the rest of the cards. Encourage kids to come up with different variations of the lyrics in response to each scenario.

**What You Say:**

*“That was so much fun! You definitely need to sing those lyrics to your parents and grandparents when you leave here today. They will LOVE it. And I love that you’re learning more about having self-control. We all know it’s not easy, but it is definitely possible, because **[Bottom Line]** God gives you the power to have self-control.”*

### 3. Pray and Dismiss

#### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Note cards, pens

#### **What You Do:**

- Challenge kids to think of a situation when they often need to tame their tongue. Maybe it's at school, at soccer practice, or with a family member.
- Tell kids to write a short prayer about that situation on their note card.
- Finish with a prayer like the one below.

#### **What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You for being so awesome and for giving us the fruit of the Spirit, like self-control. We all need it at times—especially those times we wrote down on our cards. Please help us to have self-control in those situations and in our entire lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*When you’re having trouble taming your tongue, remember **[Bottom Line]** God gives you the power to have self-control!”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the songs they sang today.*