



WEEK FOUR – JULY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: “All That Power” Activity Pages, markers, freezer bags, permanent marker

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
- Invite kids to sit in groups of 3–4 and provide them with a set of puzzle pieces to share.
- Instruct them to color their set of puzzle pieces.
- Encourage them to not assemble their puzzles, as you will do this later.
- While groups are coloring, ask them the question, “If you could have any super power, what would it be?”
- When groups are finished, ask them to place their pieces in a freezer bag.
- Write their names on the bag with a permanent marker, and set them aside to use again during Groups.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

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.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Zip It Up

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Zippers, markers, glue sticks, “Zip It Up” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Provide each kid with a zipper.
- Review the true and false statements below from today's Large Group.
- Instruct kids to zip up the zipper when the answer is "true" and to open the zipper if the answer is "false."
- Continue until all questions have been reviewed.
- Provide each kid with an Activity Page, and instruct them to glue their zipper in the blank space on the page.
- Explain that they need to only glue the edges of their zipper, (not the whole zipper) so that they are still able to zip it up and down. Provide help as needed.
- Allow kids to decorate their papers when finished.
- Review questions:
 - Our Scripture today was from the book of James. (true)
 - Our story said that small bits make horses go crazy. (false; they control horses)
 - Our story said that really large ships are controlled by a small rudder. (true)
 - Our tongue is also a small part of our body but has the power to control us. (true)
 - God wants us to say whatever we want, whenever we want. (false)
 - Something small can control something big. (true)
 - When someone says something not nice to you, you should say something not nice back. (false)
 - God can give us the power to have self-control. (true)

What You Say:

*"Did you know that our mouths have that much serious power? That's why it's so important to show self-control and think about what we say. Like when our sister or brother REALLY gets on our last nerves and we want to yell, we can learn to . . . (prompt kids to zip their zipper shut by saying, "Zip up our self-control!"). Or what about when our coach decides to let someone else play in the game and asks us to sit on the bench? Instead of being frustrated, we can (prompt kids) zip up our self-control. Just like we learned in our story today, tongues can be hard to tame. The good news is, **[Bottom Line] God gives you the power to have self-control. God will always provide the power!**"*

2. Big Picture Puzzle

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Puzzle pieces from Early Arriver

What You Do:

- Ask anyone in your group if they have the verse memorized. (Allow time for kids to share if so.)

- Divide kids into the teams they were in when they first arrived.
- Provide each group with their puzzle.
- Encourage them to assemble their puzzle pieces to discover what the big picture looks like!

What You Say:

*“Well, look at that! We finally get to see the whole picture. You know, when we put puzzles together, all we have is several pieces of the picture. But when you work on putting them together one piece at a time, before we know it, the big picture is formed. This is just like life for me and for you. Right now, we only have a few pieces of the picture, but God has a beautiful plan in store for every single one of us! There will be times when we are impatient and maybe even frustrated when we wish we knew everything God has in store. Whenever we face difficult times like these, we can trust that **[Bottom Line] God gives you the power to have self-control.**” **[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of a time it was hard not to know God’s plans for you, but God helped you have self-control.)***

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Plastic sandwich bags, puzzle pieces (from earlier activities)

What You Do:

- Provide each kid with a plastic sandwich bag.
- Place all of the puzzle pieces in a pile and encourage kids to pick out one to place inside their bag.
- Encourage them to look at their puzzle piece this week and be reminded that God has some really awesome, big-picture plans for them

What You Say:

“God, we are so happy to know that we get to be pieces of the big picture puzzle You have planned in this world! We praise You for the unique gifts and talents You have given each of us for Your glory. Help us to take things day by day, piece by piece, and remember that You give us the power to have self-control whenever we are in need. We love You so much! In Jesus’ name, amen!”

As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid display their zipper craft. Ask them, “What is one way you hope to show self-control this week?” Remind them that they aren’t alone and that **[Bottom Line] God gives you the power to have self-control.**

