

WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to guide kids to have self-control when it comes to their words, and to use them wisely. Pray that kids would see that the words they use can be stewarded for good or they can be weapons to hurt others or to get our own way. Pray that they would use their words to build others up and show them God's love.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say
Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, Mad Libs®, and pencil or pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to provide words to fill in the blanks for your Mad Lib.
- Be sure to explain noun, adjective, verb, and other words your kids may not be all that familiar with.
- Read the story aloud.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your words wisely.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

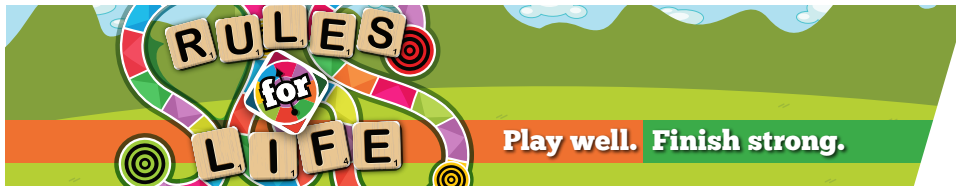
MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.





WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say Use Words Wisely Ephesians 4:29

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your words wisely.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MARSHMALLOW TOWERS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Marshmallows, toothpicks, timer or phone timer, and Twister® spinner or quarter

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your kids into three teams. Give each team several toothpicks and enough mini marshmallows to build a tall structure. Explain that the teams will build towers as fast and as high as they can in 30 seconds with the marshmallows and toothpicks. Set the timer for 30 seconds and let the teams build. When the timer stops, instruct the teams to take turns with the spinner. If you don't have a spinner, flip the quarter. "Heads" equals hand and "Tails" equals foot. If the spinner lands on a hand, the team gets an extra hand, which mean you help them with their tower for the next 30 seconds. If the spinner lands on a foot, the team must take down a total of five sticks and marshmallows then answer a review question. Continue to play as time and interest allow.

Review questions:

- Who wrote the letter that we read part of today? (Paul)
- What church did he write this letter to? (the church in Ephesus)
- Wildcard! Say something encouraging about someone in your group.
- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? (in prison)
- What was the point of the Bible truth that we read today? (We should use our words wisely and to build each other up.)
- Say something encouraging about someone in our group.
- Who gives us the perfect example of using words of hope, truth, and love? (Jesus)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Now those were some pretty impressive marshmallow towers! How did you feel when some of your tower had to be taken down? (Allow time for responses.) Yeah, I bet. But let me ask you this. How did you feel when you got an extra boost to make your tower even taller? (Allow time for responses.) Those are some great thoughts.

"Our words can either help build others up, like we built these towers, or tear a person down like we tore those towers down. Has someone ever made you feel awesome with their words about you? (Allow time for kids to share stories.) It's both awesome and a BIG responsibility to have the power to build people up with our words. This week, make the choice to stand up, use your words wisely, and lift the world around you to epic heights!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



KIND WORDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board and marker or butcher paper and marker, mugs or cups with shreds or crumpled scraps of brown paper, and marshmallows

WHAT YOU DO:

- Draw a large speech bubble on your white board or paper.
- Lead kids to brainstorm kind and helpful words they can say to others. Print their ideas on the board/paper.
- *If kids are stuck for ideas, ask prompting questions like: What's something kind that you can say to your brother or sister? Your grandma or grandpa? Someone who's sad? Someone who needs help?*
- Guide kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a set of six cups and each kid two or three marshmallows.
- Lead kids to arrange the cups in a triangular formation like bowling pins.
- Direct kids to stand a few feet from their cups and take turns attempting to toss a marshmallow into each cup.
- Give kids as many chances as they need to be successful.
- Before every toss, kids should say something kind or helpful.

NOTE: Adjust the game's difficulty by changing the distance kids stand from the cups.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Paul wanted to remind the Ephesians what God had done for them and how it should change the way they treated others—especially when it came to their words! He wanted to remind them that since God has been kind to them, they should be kind to others. Paul said, *Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.* (Ephesians 4:29, NIV)

"God wants us to be responsible and say words that will build up and help the people around us. Because when our words are kind and helpful, they're like a warm mug of hot cocoa on a cold day. So this week, remember to **use your words wisely.**"

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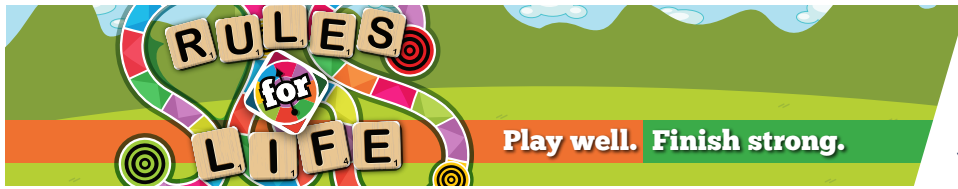
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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Speech Bubbles" Activity Page and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to tell some kind and helpful things that they

can say.

- Give each kid a "Speech Bubble" and a pencil.
- Guide kids to choose one kind thing they can say this week and write it on the card.

NOTE: It's okay for kids to use "inventive" spelling. The fact that your emergent spellers are engaging in critical thinking and taking risks as they explore sound and letter relationships is a valuable part of their literacy journey and helps facilitate future reading success.

- Encourage kids to put their "Speech Bubble" cards where they'll see them often and be reminded to use their words wisely.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Paul wanted to remind the Ephesians what God had done for them, and how it should change the way they treated each other—especially when it came to their words! Our words have a lot of power, and we have the responsibility to choose words that build up and help the people around us. So let's ask God to help us use our words wisely. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You so much that all of Your words are trustworthy and true. Help us show others what You're like by saying words that build up and help the people around us. Help us say words like (*restate what kids wrote on their speech bubbles*). And when we make mistakes with our words, please help us be quick to say, 'I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?' Thank You for loving us so much, God. We love You, too. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show parents their speech bubbles and tell parents the kind words they can say this week.

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