



PLAY WELL.
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray for each of the kids on your list by name, thanking God for the positive things each one brings to your group, using positive words to show your gratitude to God for your kids. Ask God to guide you as you speak to your students so you are able to model positive words to your kids.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say

Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why do your words matter?

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.

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: nothing

WHAT YOU DO:

- Stand together in a wide circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns tossing an imaginary object to someone in the circle. Only the first kid tossing it knows what it is.
- That kid will name someone in the circle, then realistically "toss" the object to them.
- The kid who catches it tosses it back in the same way and says what they think it is.
- If the guess is wrong, the original kid tosses it to someone else who then takes a guess and tosses it back.
- Continue until the object is guessed correctly or until all kids have had a turn.
- Play more rounds, changing the secret object each time.
- Use objects from the list below or let kids come up with their own ideas.
 - a bowling ball
 - feather
 - baseball
 - hot potato
 - raw egg
 - water balloon
 - snake
 - mud
 - baton
 - large, heavy box



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cardstock, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sheet of cardstock and a marker.
- Tell kids to think of (but not say) what the following sentence means to them: "Use your words wisely."
- Tell them to secretly write their thought in the form of a short phrase, example, or sentence on their cardstock by drawing a blank line for each letter in each word and placing a space between words. (Similar to a game of Hangman.)
 - If they need help remembering the exact wording of their phrase, they can write the answer on the back of the card, making sure no one sees that side of the card.
- When finished, come together in a circle.
- Choose one kid to show their card to the others.
- Invite kids to take turns naming a letter.
- If the letter they guess is in any of the words, the card's "owner" fills in the blanks wherever that letter appears.
- If the letter is not in any of the words, the kid to the left of the first guesser takes a turn.
- Kids who guess a correct letter can take another turn or try to guess what's written on the card.
- Continue until the phrase or sentence on the card is guessed correctly.
- Repeat until each kid has had a turn sharing their card.
- As time allows, ask kids to talk about what they wrote and how it relates to using words wisely.

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MADE TO CREATE

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



VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, sandpaper, cotton balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a piece of sandpaper, several cotton balls, and a Bible (or let them use a Bible app).
- Ask:
 - How would you describe the way sandpaper feels?
 - How would you describe the way cotton balls feel?
 - Name some words that remind you of sandpaper. (*hurtful, mean, angry, disrespectful, lies, griping, harsh, put downs, gossip*)
 - Name some words that remind you of cotton balls. (*quiet, calm, kind, thoughtful, encouraging, helpful, loving, gentle, affirming, instructive*)
- Assign each kid a verse from the list below. It's okay if some kids have the same verse.
 - Proverbs 12:18
 - Proverbs 15:1
 - Proverbs 21:23
 - Proverbs 29:20
 - Psalm 19:14
- Ask kids to look up and read their verse then attach the cotton to the sandpaper to create an image that illustrates the verse.
 - They can tear apart the cotton into smaller pieces to create an image, word, or scene. The cotton should adhere to the sandpaper due to friction.
- After a few minutes, invite kids to take turns reading the verse they were assigned, then sharing what they created and how it illustrates the verse.
- Ask:
 - Which of the verses that were shared will help you most this week as you ask God's help to use your words wisely? In what ways will it help you?
 - What would you say is the most important thing to remember from all that we learned today about the way we use our words?
- Encourage kids to take the sandpaper and cotton with them as a reminder to watch what they say this week.

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Why do words matter so much?
- Think about times at home, school, or other places when it's hardest for you to watch your words. What sets you off? What can you do to respond the right way?
- If you're going to show God's love to those around you, how do you need to speak differently to those around you (family, friends, teammates, teachers, coaches, etc.)?
- There's an old saying that goes like this: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pom poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids that their words have the power to help or hurt. Under God’s control, the things they say can make someone’s day better. Through their words, others can come to know and follow Jesus or simply be encouraged and feel better about whatever is going on.
- Tell kids to place their checker on the corner of the checkerboard that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence – “This week I need God’s help to . . .”
 - use words that build others up instead of tearing them down (point to a RED pom pom)
 - talk less and listen more (point to a RED pom pom)
 - tell others about Jesus (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
 - apologize for something I said (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they’d like about their choices.
- Encourage them to pray aloud or silently for themselves and others in the group.
- Close with prayer

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, we all know the difference between wise and unwise words. We know what it feels like to be hurt by words as well as to be encouraged. Since the things we say can be powerful, we ask that you give us the courage and wisdom to watch what we say especially when we are upset, angry, or feel like getting even. Please give us the help we need to live, speak, and act in ways that show others we can be trusted with what is expected of us. Amen.”