

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

HOST SUPPLIES

- Host
- Remote control
- Bible

STORY SUPPLIES

- SEE PAGE 8

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Invite Challenge

- This is a **NEW YEAR** and people are ready to start some new habits
- Our challenge is for you to think of someone you can invite in the month of January to come with you to church

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost

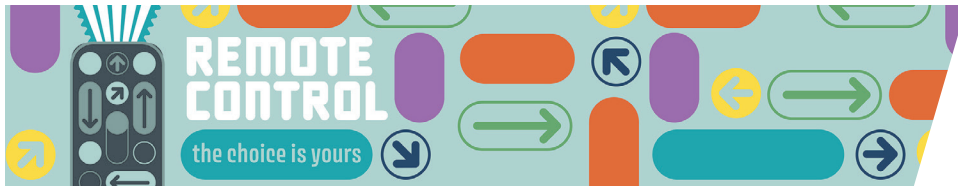
Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens

Week 5 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space
Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY 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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "I am so thankful for this time that we have to sing and praise God.

AUDIO: Might Get Loud

AUDIO: Graves Into Gardens

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "What's up, everybody? It's so great to see you! I'm really excited about the awesome day we've got planned for you. In case you missed it, this month we're talking about self-control.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

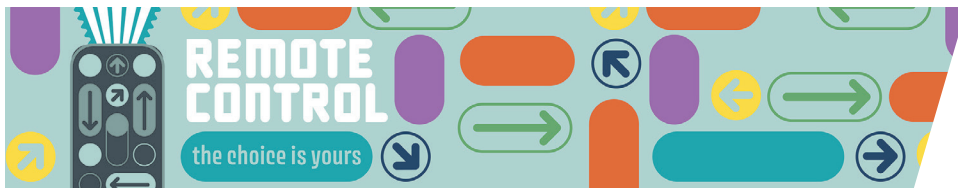
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"Self-control can be difficult for all of us, but we're not in it alone. God is always there to help us. When we trust God, we can find the strength we need to CHOOSE self-control . . . in any situation.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Who’s ready to practice some self-control with a fun game? *(Pause for response.)* Oh, good; me, too! *(Hold up the remote control.)* I’ll use my handy-dandy remote to play a sound. You’ll try to guess what the sound is—but you can’t shout out your answer! You’ve got to have self-control. Stop and think. Hold your tongue if you have to. *(Hold your tongue.)*”

“Instead of shouting your guess out loud, talk quietly with your small group. You’ll have just a few seconds to decide together what you think the sound is. I’ll go around and ask each group what their guess is . . . and THEN I’ll reveal the correct answer.”

“Are you ready? *(Pause for response.)* Let’s do it! We’ll start with an easy one.”

Press a button on the remote dramatically as the tech team plays the sound. (It’s okay if this doesn’t match up perfectly; it’ll be funny.)

AUDIO: BARKING DOG

Allow groups to confer. If kids shout out the answer right away, remind them to talk with their group instead. After 10-15 seconds, have each group share their guess.

“All right. You all guessed the same thing. And you’re right!”

Press a button on the remote.

SLIDE: BARKING DOG

“It’s a dog.”

AUDIO: BARKING DOG

“Okay. Let’s try some that are little more difficult.”

Go through the other sounds the same way: give the groups some time to confer. Let them share their guesses, then use the remote to cue the slide and reveal the answer. (Play the sound again as well.)

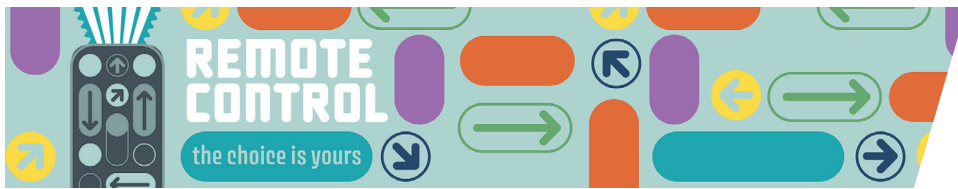
(Host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: OCEAN WAVES

(When you’re ready to reveal the answer, follow Host’s cue)

SLIDE: OCEAN WAVES

AUDIO: OCEAN WAVES



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

(When the host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: FIRE TRUCK

(When you're ready to reveal the answer, follow Host's cue)

SLIDE: FIRE TRUCK

AUDIO: FIRE TRUCK

(When the host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: BITE OF AN APPLE

(When you're ready to reveal the answer, follow Host's cue)

SLIDE: BITE OF AN APPLE

AUDIO: BITE OF AN APPLE

(When the host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: TRAIN WHISTLE

(When you're ready to reveal the answer, follow Host's cue)

SLIDE: TRAIN WHISTLE

AUDIO: TRAIN WHISTLE

(When the host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: POPCORN POPPING

(When you're ready to reveal the answer, follow Host's cue)

SLIDE: POPCORN POPPING

AUDIO: POPCORN POPPING

(When the host presses a button on the remote)

AUDIO: KOALA

(When you're ready to reveal the answer, follow Host's cue)

SLIDE: KOALA

AUDIO: KOALA

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“Wow! You were really great at guessing those sounds. Some of them were really tough!”



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! This month we're talking about how it's always wise to choose self-control. We can actually find a lot of wise sayings about self-control in the book of Proverbs. *(Hold up Bible.)*

"Many of these sayings came from King Solomon, who was one of the wisest people who ever lived. In Proverbs 12:18, Solomon talked about something that all of us need to control: our WORDS!

"As Solomon said . . .

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

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

"Did you catch that? Let me read it one more time.

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

THOUGHTLESS WORDS

STORYTELLER: "Wow. If we don't have self-control, our words will be thoughtless. That means we'll just speak without thinking. And that can be dangerous! Because according to Solomon, *'the words of thoughtless people cut like swords.'*

Place the drawing of the sword on the left side of the display board.

"We might say something without thinking that could really hurt someone else. Or maybe WE feel hurt, so we say something hurtful to get back at someone. But that's a real problem. Because our words can cut WAY deeper than we ever imagined.

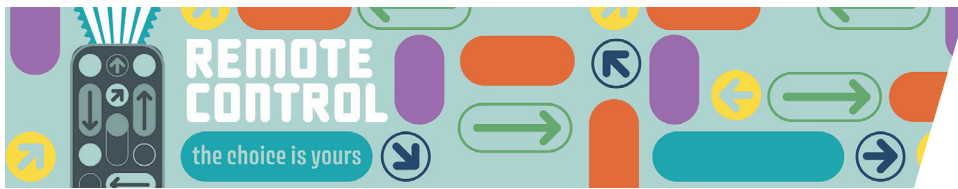
"Thoughtless words can make someone believe a lie. They can even end a friendship. Once you've said something hurtful, you can't take it back."

HEALING WORDS

STORYTELLER: "BUT . . . there's a MUCH better way! Remember Solomon said, *'the tongue of wise people brings healing.'* In other words, the words we say can make things BETTER. Our words can heal!

Place the drawing of the bandage on the right side of the display board.

"Think about it. Our words can encourage others and bring comfort. When someone is sad, a kind word can let them know we care . . . and sometimes even put a smile on their face!



25 MINUTES

“But this only happens when we use our words CAREFULLY. When we stop and think about what to say before we say it, then our words can speak truth and bring wisdom.

“We can use our words to do what Jesus said is most important. Jesus once told His friends:

Open the Bible to John 13:34 (NirV) and read.

“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.

“We can use careful, positive words to encourage others and show them the love of Jesus.”

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE

STORYTELLER: “So what does this look like for us? We know that thoughtless words can cut like a sword. They can be really hurtful.

Point to the drawing of the sword on the display board.

“But we also know that wise, thoughtful words can bring healing.

Point to the drawing of the bandage on the display board.

“Let’s look at a few examples together. For each one, we’ll decide if it’s ‘sword’ thing to say . . . or if it’s something that would make someone feel better. Would one of you like to pick a card?”

Choose a kid to pick an index card out of the hat (or bowl). Read the phrase on the card out loud, and ask the kids which side it should go on (hurtful or healing). Pin the card to the correct side of the display board.

Keep going, choosing a different kid to pick a card each time. Go through the examples until all cards have been pinned on the correct side of the display board.

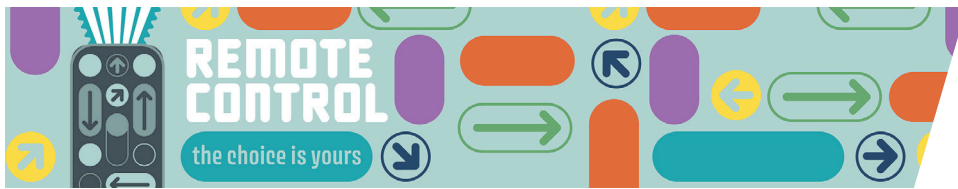
WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Great job, everyone! Thanks for helping me think through where each of those cards should go. It’s nice when we can step back and decide which words are hurtful and which words are healing. It was easy for us to do that because we gave ourselves some time to think.

“We need to do the same thing when we speak to the people around us. We’ve got to stop and think about what we want to say, BEFORE we open our mouths. We need to use self-control instead of just blurting out the first thing that pops into our heads. Then we can choose to say wise, helpful words (*point to the bandage*) instead of mean things that hurt someone’s feelings (*point to the sword*).

“Let’s all try to do this. Before you speak, ask yourself if your words will hurt or help.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

“Think before you speak.

“What do you think? Can we give it a try? (Pause for response.) Great! Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for giving Solomon such great wisdom! What he said is true: our words can be hurtful or they can bring healing. We know that if we don’t stop to think, we can easily say something that hurts someone and makes them feel sad or upset. Please give us the self-control to think before we speak . . . so our words will always help and bring healing. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Our words really are a gift from God! Have you ever thought about it that way? I mean, think about how you feel when someone says something kind or encouraging to you. Think of how great you feel when someone makes you laugh! Think about when someone comforts you when you’re sad. It makes you feel so much better to know that they care.

“Those are some great examples of words that heal. Unfortunately, we also know what thoughtless words can do. They can really hurt! They can cut like a sword.

“Words are powerful. That’s why it’s important that we learn to use self-control and choose our words carefully. Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Think before you speak.

“As we read in James 1:19 . . .

Open the Bible to James 1:19 (NirV) and read.

“Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.

“Our words can hurt or help, and WE get to choose how to use them. The really great news is that God is always there to help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

Hold up the remote control.

“So the next time your mouth is moving fast-forward and you’re about to say something hurtful, switch to slow motion. Think about how your words might affect other people. And if you can’t think of any healing words to say . . . press the mute button.

“You can head to Small Group now and listen to each other’s ideas about how you can stay in control of your words!”



Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large display space, such as a display board, creative board, cork board, etc.—or even a section of your wall
- Push pins, magnets, or tape
- Giant drawing of a sword on posterboard (to attach to the display board)
- Giant drawing of a bandage on posterboard (to attach to the display board)
- Hat or bowl to hold the index cards
- Prepared index cards with these phrases written on them:
 - *Making fun of someone*
 - *Telling someone they're good at something*
 - *Laughing at someone when they get hurt*
 - *Saying, "I'm glad we're friends"*
 - *Saying something mean about someone when they're not around*
 - *Telling someone you like hanging out with them*
 - *Yelling at someone when you're angry*
 - *Saying you're sorry when you've hurt someone*