



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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Note cards, pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two note cards and a pen.
- Ask them to write a descriptive sentence of ten or more words on one of the note cards. Their sentence can be about

anything from describing their dog to what they ate for breakfast yesterday. The main thing is that they use a lot of descriptive words in their sentence. For example, *A purple bird ate large seeds from a tree near the water.*

- Make sure kids don't let others know what they are writing about.
- Ask kids to use the second card to write the same sentence but replace four key words with a blank space. Tell them to choose words that would change the sentence completely if replaced with a different word. For example, the sample sentence above might look like this: *A purple ____ ate large ____ from a ____ near the ____.*
- Bring kids together and sit in a circle.
- Collect the note cards kids filled out first with their completed sentence and let kids keep the fill-in-the-blank cards.
- Direct kids to pass their cards to the left once if your group is five kids or less and twice if more.
- Let kids check to make sure they don't have their own card then tell them to read the card to themselves then fill in one of the blanks with a word of their choosing.
- Pass the cards again and repeat until all of the words are filled in. Check at the start of each round that kids do not have their own card. They can fill in the same card more than once as long as it's not their own card.
- When finished, take turns reading the card they are holding then compare it with the original from the stack you collected earlier to see how closely the sentences match.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can words make things better?

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What a difference one word can make, right? The words you chose to fill in the blanks changed the sentence completely. That's how powerful words can be.

[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and discover some ways we can use the power of our words for good."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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:

- What's a good test to use in deciding what we should or should not say? Is your test different when you're talking to someone who's younger than you? How about someone who is older?
- Just because something is true, does it mean it is okay to say it? Why or why not?
- How do you decide if something is necessary to say or if it's better to leave it unspoken—even if it's true?

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VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE

ACTIVITY] **WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, paper, fine tip markers, clear tape, clipboards (if needed)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Form two groups.
- Give each group a Bible and a sheet of paper. *(If you don't have a table or other hard surface on which kids can write, attach the paper to a clipboard.)*
- Give each kid on the team a fine-tip marker in a different color.
- Assign one group to look up Proverbs 15:1 and the other James 1:19b (beginning with the word, "Everyone."). If kids need help finding the verses, direct them to the Table of Contents in the front of their Bibles.
- Invite teams to write out their verse by letting one kid use their marker to write the first word then passing the paper to the next kid who will use a different colored marker to write the second word and so on. Continue until the verse is completed.
- Bring the kids together and ask them to share their verses with each other by reading from their papers.
- Discuss the verses together.
 - What do these verses say about the way we use our words?
 - When you're trying to choose your words carefully, how do these verses help you know what to say and what not to say?
- Ask kids to look at their team's verse then find the words they wrote in their specific color of marker.
- Allow each kid to tear off a piece of the verse containing one word they wrote that they feel is most important to the meaning of the verse. If the word they want to use has already been torn off in a section by a previous kid, they can remove it from that portion already torn off.
- Invite kids to share their words and why they chose them.
- Instruct them to tape their papers back together the best they can.
- Ask:
 - In what ways does your torn and taped paper remind you of the effect words can have on us?
 - If you've said something you regret, what can you do to make things right again?
- Remind kids that self-control is all about taking time to THINK before we say or do something. We can't take back words once we say them, but if we play them in our head first, we're more likely to hear how they sound and stop ourselves before we do damage.

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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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Printable Scrabble letter tiles set (find printable file)

WHAT KIDS DO: use the letter tiles to spell out a single word or simple phrase that reflects something they learned

in Large Group or in their Small Group today.

- Encourage kids to share what they wrote.
- Ask the kids to spend a few minutes talking to God about the things they learned today.
- Encourage them to ask God’s forgiveness for times they have been thoughtless with their words and ask God to help them choose their words carefully this week.

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Blank Space

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Proverbs 12:18

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, You have told us that our words are important because our words show others what is in our hearts. Please help us to choose our words carefully so that we can show each other love and healing with the words we use. We pray that You would remind us of this throughout the week. Amen.”

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