



WEEK
FIVE
JULY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Control

Taming of the Tongue
James 3:1-6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God gives you the power
to have self-control.

MONTHLY 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

HOST SUPPLIES

- pitcher of water and ice (in the same type of cup that you're using for the game)
- Packages of 25 to 50 Dixie cups (one package per small group)
- Yardstick or measuring tape
- Host's phone

STORY SUPPLIES

- Table
- Jenga® tower built 3/4 of the way, plus the remaining pieces
- Large box to cover the Jenga tower until it's time to reveal it

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

- SUMMER IS HERE!!!!

- MAKE WAVES Ñ What you do today can change the world around you

- All month long, we will be talking about what it would look like if we could **CHANGE** the world around us
- To **MAKE WAVES** means that we are being intentional about what we do each day because it can have bigger effects than we could ever imagine

- MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This is Living & Good Grace

Week 2 - Let Go & Graves Into Gardens

Week 3 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Who You Say I Am

Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker

Week 5 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Good Grace



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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MAKE WAVES

What you do today can
change the world around you.

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

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME
AUDIO: GOOD GRACE

Host enters.

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

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everyone! If you're feeling good, give me two thumbs-up like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Awesome! I'm so glad we're all here together. All summer long, we've been finding out how we can make waves.

"When I say, 'Make waves,' I mean we can change the world around us by showing things like love, joy, peace, faithfulness, and gentleness. God's Holy Spirit helps us to live that way every day.

"We know that this is true.

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

"What you do today can change the world around you.

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



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"I don't know about you, but that's so exciting to think about! It's so cool that I can make life BETTER for the people around me, just by living the way God made me to live. And I don't have to do it alone. I have God's Spirit to help me make waves—today and always.

"We've had a lot of summer fun here at [your environment's name]. We've played a lot of summer games. And we've got another great one to play today.

Hold up the cup of lemonade.

"It has to do with this—one of my very favorite things in summer—an ice-cold cup of lemonade. *(Take a sip.)* Mmmm, that's delicious! Okay, maybe the game doesn't use actual lemonade. But it does use these plastic cups!

Give a package of plastic cups to each Small Group Leader.

"You'll play this game together with your small group. When I say, 'Go,' you'll have two minutes to make the tallest cup tower you can. But you've got to stay in control and build carefully, or the whole thing will come tumbling down!

"After two minutes of building, the small group with the tallest tower of cups, wins! Let's get started. Three, two, one, GO!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Set a timer on your phone for two minutes.

Provide funny commentary and cheer the teams on as they build. Give updates on the remaining time, and give a ten second countdown at the end. When the time is up, use a yardstick or tape measure to determine the tallest tower of cups.

"You are all really impressive! I can't believe some of those towers you just built! Leaders, you can stack your cups and pass them back to me."

Collect the cups from each leader.



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! Today, we're looking at a really cool way that we can make waves in the world around us. (*Hold up Bible.*) It's something that a man named James wrote about in a letter, which is part of the Bible. We call it the book of James.

"Now, let me tell you something interesting about James. James was Jesus' younger brother. Can you imagine if your big brother was Jesus? That would be pretty cool! We don't really know what it was like for James and Jesus growing up, but we do know that eventually, James came to believe that Jesus is God's Son."

A BIT AND A RUDDER

STORYTELLER: "In the letter James wrote to a group of Jesus-followers, he talked about how important it is to have self-control. We need to be in control of the way we act and the words we say. If we believe in Jesus and we have the power of God's Spirit, then our lives should show that!

"Here's what James had to say about that.

Open the Bible to James 3:3 (NirV) and read.

"We put a small piece of metal in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it.

SLIDE: HORSE'S BIT IMAGE

(*Reference the screen.*) "Okay, if you've ever seen someone riding a horse, you've probably seen how they hold the reins—which are connected to this little thing in the horse's mouth, called a bit. The rider uses the bit to guide the horse where it needs to go.

"A horse is a big, powerful animal. But it can be controlled by something as tiny as this. (*Point to the bit on screen.*)

"In the same way, our tongues are a small part of our body. But the words we say can have a lot of power. Our words can lead us in the right or wrong direction.

SLIDE: SHIP'S RUDDER IMAGE

"How about this one? Right, it's a ship. And right here is the rudder that the captain uses to steer the ship.

"James wrote this about ships.

Open the Bible to James 3:4 (NirV) and read.

"They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go.



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"In the same way that a rudder controls a ship, our tongues can change the direction we go. As James wrote . . .

Open the Bible to James 3:5 (NirV) and read.

"The tongue is a small part of a person's body. But it talks big."

A RAGING FIRE

STORYTELLER: "It's a good thing if we can stay in control of the words we say and the way we treat people around us. But what happens if we DON'T stay in control? James wrote about that, too. He said . . .

SLIDE: FOREST FIRE IMAGE

Open the Bible to James 3:5-6 (NirV) and read.

"Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire. The tongue is also a fire.

"Yikes! If we don't have self-control, then our words can cause big problems. It's like we're making a tiny spark that can set a whole forest on fire."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

JENGA® EXAMPLE

STORYTELLER: "I love the examples James used to talk about this: a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a forest fire.

"I have one more example that I think will help us understand how powerful our words can be. It's something you've probably played before.

Remove the box to reveal the Jenga® tower, already about 3/4 of the way built.

"Yep! Jenga. Of course, James didn't write about Jenga in his letter. Jenga didn't even exist back then. But I think the idea here is the same as what James was saying in his letter.

Hold up an extra Jenga block.

"Our words are like one of these Jenga blocks. When we use our words wisely, our words can build others up.

"If I say to someone, 'I'm glad we're friends,' that makes them feel good. That builds them up.

Add the Jenga block to the tower. Continue to add blocks for each kind thing you say below.

"Or I could say, 'You're one of the kindest people I know.'

'You're really funny.'

'I know you can do it.'

'I'm sorry I hurt your feelings.'

'It's okay. I forgive you.'



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“See what happens when we use our words carefully and choose self-control? We build up our friends and make things better in our relationships with them.

“But the opposite is true if we DON’T have self-control. *(Pause.)* I think you can see where this is going.

Start to take away blocks from the top of the tower. (Don’t let it fall over, though, until you’ve given the examples of negative words.)

“When we use our words to say hurtful things . . . when we speak without thinking . . . or when we say something mean to try to get back at someone . . . we can end up tearing others down.

Cringe as you take away some more blocks—this time, from near the bottom. The tower falls.

“Ouch! I know we don’t MEAN to knock people down with our words. But this is what can happen if we’re not careful.

Start to rebuild the tower.

“Don’t worry, though—we can always speak kind, caring words . . . and build each other up again!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “It’s important that we take our words seriously and choose them carefully. Every word that comes out of your mouth has the power to give life and encouragement to someone. Or to cause a lot of hurt.

“That’s why self-control is such a huge way that we can make waves in the world around us. I know it’s not easy to hold back your words when you feel angry or frustrated. But with help from God’s Spirit, you can stop and CHOOSE what to say. You can choose words that will build people up instead of tear them down. You can use words that will make things right. And what you say will begin to change your world for good!

“We need to have self-control with our words and with the way we treat people in general. And God is there to help us!

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“God gives you the power to have self-control.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that now.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for the reminder today of how powerful our words can be. We need help from Your Spirit to choose words that build others up, not tear them down. Show us how we can find self-control and use our words and actions to make a difference in the world around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “You know what I like to do when I feel like saying something mean or unkind? Stop. *(Pause.)* Take a deep breath. *(Take a deep breath.)* THEN choose my words carefully. That will usually change what I was about to say. And I’ll end up saying something a lot better and wiser instead.

“I know it’s easy to SAY that, and not so easy to DO it. That’s why we need help from God’s Spirit. When we put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. The Spirit can help us show self-control in all kinds of situations—with the words we say and the way we act each day.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“God gives you the power to have self-control.

“Like James wrote, we need to stay in control of our actions and especially our words. Our tongue seems small, but it can make a huge impact on us and on other people—for good or for bad.

“I know that if I’m just living my life and reacting to things that happen to me, I’m not as likely to have self-control. So it’s important that I talk to God and ASK God for help. I know that will help me **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice!**

“You probably have people in your life that you sometimes find yourself speaking harshly to—like maybe your brothers or sisters, kids in your neighborhood, or people you don’t get along with at school. Let’s ask God to give us self-control as we talk to those people, and everyone else we see as we go about our day. Let’s use our words to change the world around us for the better!

“You can talk about that some more in Small Group. In fact, you can head that way right now. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP