



WEEK
FIVE
JULY 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-3

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 regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for giving us the power to have self-control, especially when it comes to our words. Ask for forgiveness for the times this week when you've used harsh words or haven't responded to someone in kindness. Ask God to use your stories of when you've messed up to help kids know they're not alone when they struggle with self-control.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Control
Taming of the Tongue
James 3:1-6

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Challenge the kids with some tongue twisters!
- See if the kids can say the following statements five times fast:
 - Red leather, yellow leather
 - Rubber baby buggy bumpers
 - Sally sold seashells down by the seashore.
 - Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
 - If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
 - Four furious friends fought for the phone.
 - How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

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

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.





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FIVE
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



SWEET AND SOUR

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Sweet and Sour Scenarios" Activity Page, sweet and sour candy

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the sweet and sour candy in the middle of the group and put the stack of "Sweet and Sour Scenarios" beside you.
- Draw a scenario and read it out loud.
- Instruct the first kid on your left to come up with a response to it.
 - It can be any response deemed "appropriate."
 - Encourage kids to think of how they would personally respond in that situation or how they want themselves to respond.
- After they respond, let the group decide if that was a "sweet" response or a "sour" one.
- If the response was determined sweet, direct the kid to take a candy.
- If the response was determined sour, invite the kid to come up with a sweet response then take a piece of candy.
- Play until everyone has a turn and everyone has candy.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our words can be sweet or sour. What we say can be helpful for others or hurt them. Have you ever thought about what a huge responsibility you have to control your words?"

"Not only do we have the potential to build up or tear down others, we can hurt our relationships with our words. What if you say something disrespectful or sassy to your parents? What happens then? (*Invite responses—get in trouble, face consequences, things get heated and someone yells, no one is happy.*)"

"If you say something hurtful to a younger sister or brother, what happens? (*Invite responses—they get sad or cry, I feel awful.*) Our words have power—power to influence someone else's feelings and power to influence our relationships with others."

"When you feel tempted to just say something mean or unkind because you're upset, remember that **God gives you the power to have self-control**. You can choose to keep quiet, even when you're ready to blurt out a snappy comment. Stop and pray and ask God for help."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- It can be easy to start gossiping and saying bad things about others when we're in a group of kids saying that kind of stuff. What can you do when that happens?
- When is it the most difficult for you to control your tongue? Is there a way to avoid that situation?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Taming of the Tongue
James 3:1-6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



RED TONGUE, GREEN TONGUE [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Red Tongue, Green Tongue" Activity Pages, "Stop and Think" Activity Page, Bible marked at Philippians 1

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Philippians 1.
- Read the verse aloud, encouraging the kids to say it with you.
- Unpack the phrase "He will carry it on," emphasizing the truth that when we ask, we have GOD's power to make the wise choice and have self-control.
- Lead kids in a variation of "Red Light, Green Light."
- Guide kids to line up shoulder to shoulder at one end of your environment.
- When you hold up a "Green Tongue," kids tip-toe slow motion forward.
- When you hold up a "Red Tongue," kids freeze!
- When kids freeze, read a scenario from the "Stop and Think" Activity Page and guide kids to say how—with God's help—they could show self-control in that situation. Ask guiding questions if kids are stuck for ideas. *(If you run out of scenarios, create your own or simply repeat some scenarios—repetition is a great teacher!)*
- When kids name a way, say something like, "Great idea!" or "Good thinking!" followed by the Bottom Line. **God gives you the power to have self-control.**
- Hold up the "Green Tongue" to start the game again.
- Keep interest high by varying how long kids move before you "freeze" them!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The things you say can make a BIG difference. Your words can hurt, or they can HELP. What kind of words does God want you to say? (*kind, helpful, good, etc.*) Yes! And when it's hard to say kind or helpful words, God can give you power to choose your words wisely. The important thing is to STOP and THINK before you speak and ask God to help you. Because **God gives you the POWER to have self-control.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Control

Taming of the Tongue
James 3:1-6

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The things you DO and SAY can make a BIG difference. They can hurt, or they can HELP and HEAL. That's why it's so good to know that when you ask for God's help, the Holy Spirit can help you choose your words and your actions wisely. **God gives you the POWER to have self-control.** Let's pray and ask God to give us power to help us stay in control."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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

(Pray, asking God to help both you and the kids rely on God's power to stay in control of your words and your actions this week. Thank God for giving us the power to have self-control.)

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them today's Bottom Line.
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