

WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say
Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

Bible Verses

- Ephesians 4:29

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your words wisely.

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host

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, NIRV

Storyteller

WHAT YOU NEED:

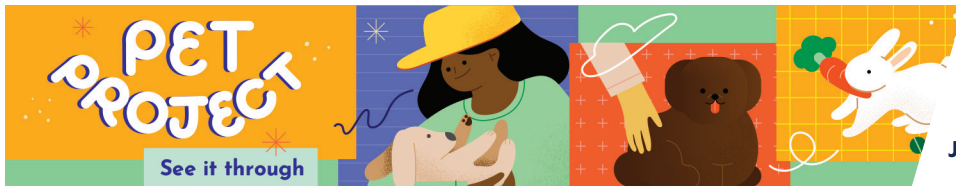
- Storyteller
- Kid volunteer
- Bible
- Table
- Large tube of toothpaste
- Paper plate
- Hand wipes
- Small board (a piece of a 2"x4" would work)
- Hammer
- Nails
- Storyteller's phone
- Charging cable for the Storyteller's phone, plugged into an outlet with an extension cord

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say
Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

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, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of 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

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]."

"This month, we're talking about something really important that God can help us live out every day. We're talking about responsibility!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Responsibility is **showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.**"

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

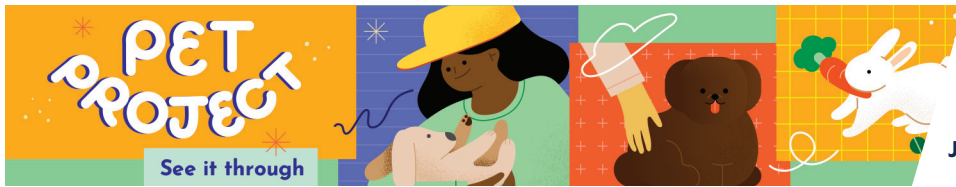
"Really quickly, I'd love to hear about some things you're expected to do. It could be at home, at school, or anywhere. What kind of responsibilities do you have?"

Take a few answers from the kids.

If they don't mention pets, be sure to prompt them.
("What about pets? If you have a pet at home, what kind of responsibilities do you have to take care of them?")

"Wow. Thanks for sharing all of those important responsibilities! When you 'see it through' and take care of the things that people expect from you, do you know what happens? It shows that they can trust you!"

"I'm glad you mentioned responsibilities that you have with your pets, because we have another really fun pet game to play today. It's called 'Pet Sounds.'"



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

“First, Small Group Leaders, could you please give each person in your group a number between one and five? Just point and go ‘one, two, three, four, five,’ and so on. Everyone, when you have a number, raise your hand—and make sure you remember what it is!

Give the leaders time to number their kids. Look for everyone to raise their hands as your cue to continue.

“Okay! Nice work, everyone. Now we’ll put an image on the screen that will let you know what your number means.

SLIDE: “PET SOUNDS” ANIMAL KEY

“On the screen, you’ll see what animal matches your number. If you’re number one, it’s a cat. If you’re number two, it’s a frog. Three, bird. Four, horse. And five, dog.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll start making the sound of the animal that matches your number. You can move around the room, but make sure you listen closely as you make your animal sound. Once you find someone who’s making the same animal sound as you, stay with them! Together, you can keep trying to find MORE people who are making the same sound. Eventually, we’ll get to the point where we have five different groups that match the animals on the screen.

“Are you ready? Then let me hear those pet sounds. Here we go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

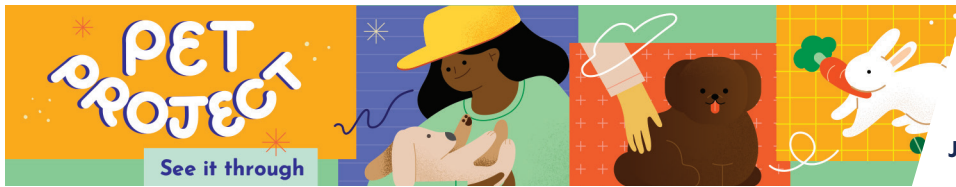
As the kids try to find their groups, move around the room and help as needed. Look out for any kids that might seem overwhelmed and help them find their match.

Once everyone has found their group, go to each group and have them demonstrate their sound for the rest of the room!

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“Way to go! Everybody did a really great job of finding their groups! Now, let’s all get ready to make our best HUMAN sounds as we sing and worship God!”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "God deserves ALL of our worship and praise. This song says, 'At the top of my lungs, I'll sing. With all of my heart I will praise You.' Let's lift this up in worship. Sing it with me!

AUDIO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" / TRACK 1 FROM AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

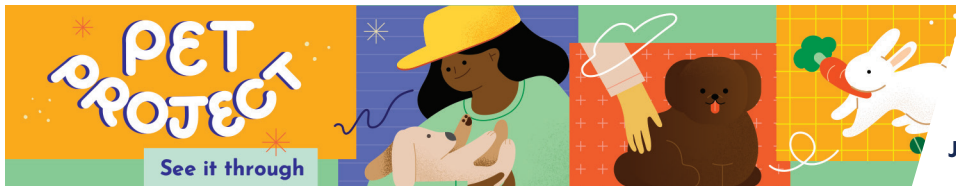
"It feels so good to sing and praise God with all of you! Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"Listen to these words from Psalm 100:1-3: 'Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. Know that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to him. We are his people.' (NirV) God loves us SO much . . . and God can help us through anything we might face in life. Let's give our all as we worship God now."

AUDIO: "ALL TO YOU" / TRACK 1 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "ALL TO YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! Today, we’re looking at a really important part of responsibility that the apostle Paul wrote about in the book of Ephesians. (*Hold up Bible.*) We call this the book of Ephesians, but it was originally a letter that Paul wrote to the believers in a city called Ephesus. Paul had helped to start a church in Ephesus, but he had to leave suddenly.

“Paul knew that the Jesus-followers in Ephesus still had a lot to learn. So later, while he was under house arrest, he wrote a letter to encourage the Ephesians. He wanted to help them keep following Jesus and keep growing in their faith.”

PAUL’S WORDS

STORYTELLER: “In his letter, Paul reminded the Ephesians that they should have hope because God had chosen them to belong to Jesus. He also wrote about the ways that following Jesus should make a difference in the way they lived their lives—not just in what they DID, but also in what they SAID. You see, part of responsibility is that we should be very careful when we choose the words we say.

“This is what Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:29 (NirV) and read.

Don’t let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.

“Let me read that again.

Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:29 (NirV) and read.

Don’t let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.”

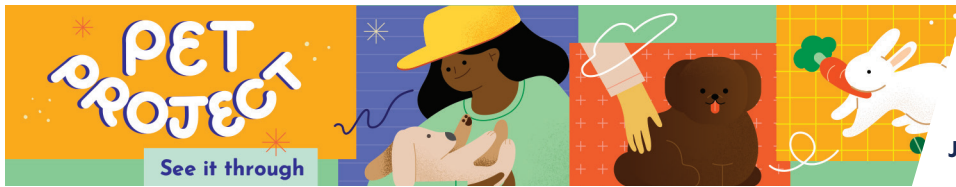
CAN’T TAKE IT BACK

STORYTELLER: “I think all of us have said things before that we wish we could take back. But that’s the thing about mean or careless words. We CAN’T take them back.

“You know what? I think I have a great way to show you what that looks like. Could I have one volunteer come up on stage? Raise your hand if you want to help.

Choose an older kid with their hand raised to join you on stage. Have them stand behind the table, and set out the paper plate and large tube of toothpaste.

“Okay, [kid’s name]. Here’s what I need you to do. Squirt a bunch of toothpaste onto the plate.



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25 MINUTES

Pause while the kid does this.

“Great job. Now, I need you to put the toothpaste back into the tube.

Pause for the kid to respond.

“You can’t do it, can you?”

Give wipes to the kid so they can clean up if they got their hands messy.

(to audience) In some ways, our words are like this toothpaste. When we say mean or hurtful things to someone else, we can’t take them back. Once they’re out, they’re out . . . and we can’t undo what we’ve said. That’s why it’s so important to be careful with the words we let come out of our mouths.

“Here’s another example.

Move the toothpaste and plate to the side. Set the board, hammer, and nail on the table.

“Sometimes we get angry or upset. In those moments, we can end up saying careless things. We let our words get away from us . . . and it’s not a very nice sound. You might want to cover your ears for this part.

Hammer a nail partially into the board.

“Sometimes we get angry and blurt out hurtful words. (to volunteer) Here, [kid’s name], you can take a turn. Just make sure you keep your other hand behind your back so you don’t hit it with the hammer.

Cue the kid volunteer to hit the nail with the hammer.

“Sometimes, we know we need to tell the truth . . . but we tell a lie instead. Or we don’t tell the WHOLE truth.

Cue the kid volunteer to hit the nail with the hammer.

“Sometimes, we whine or complain.

Cue the kid volunteer to hit the nail with the hammer.

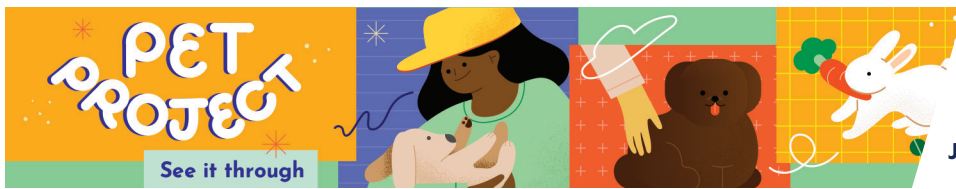
“Sometimes we might say something mean about someone else when they’re not around.

Cue the kid volunteer to hit the nail with the hammer.

“It feels awful when we know that we’ve used our words in a hurtful way. But what if we try to fix it?”

Remove the nail from the board using the back of the hammer.

“We can apologize and do our best to make it up to the person . . . and we should. But that still doesn’t take away the hurt we caused.



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25 MINUTES

Hold up the board so the kids can see the hole where the nail was.

"As you can see, the nail is gone, but the hole is still there. We can try to take back our words, but we can't totally fix the damage they caused. That's why it's so important for us to learn to use our words wisely."

BUILD 'EM UP!

STORYTELLER: "So if we want to do that—if we want to use our words in a responsible way—what kind of words should we choose instead? Remember what Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:29 (NirV) and read.

Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.

"The best way to NOT say something hurtful is to focus on saying something HELPFUL instead!"

"I've got one more example to show you what I mean.

Hand your phone to the kid volunteer.

"[Kid's name], have you ever used a tablet or a phone before? *(Pause for response.)* Okay, great. Have you ever been using some kind of device when the battery died? *(Pause for response.)* What do you have to do to make it work again? *(Pause for response.)* Right. You have to charge it!"

"Here, show me how you'd do that.

Hold up the phone charger that's connected to an extension cord (plugged in). Wait for the kid to plug the charging cable into the phone.

"There you go! Nice work, [kid's name]. *(to audience)* Just like this charging cable can 'build up' the battery in your device, our words can build up other people! We can use our words to encourage someone . . . celebrate someone . . . thank someone . . . or even SERVE someone by putting them first and thinking about what they need.

"When we focus on words that HELP others, it's a lot easier to stay away from harmful words. We should choose our words wisely in the first place, before we let anything come out of our mouths!"

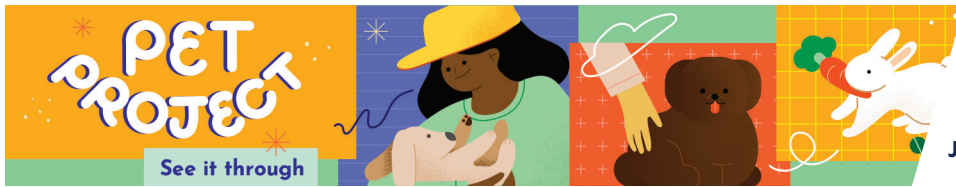
"[Kid's name], thank you so much for helping us understand what Paul wrote in his letter. You can go back to your seat.

Applaud as the kid goes back to their seat. Move to the front of the stage as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Remember how powerful your words can be. You can make someone's day—or ruin it—with just a few words. And one of the best ways to show you're following Jesus is to use your words wisely.

"That's what we need to remember today.



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25 MINUTES

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

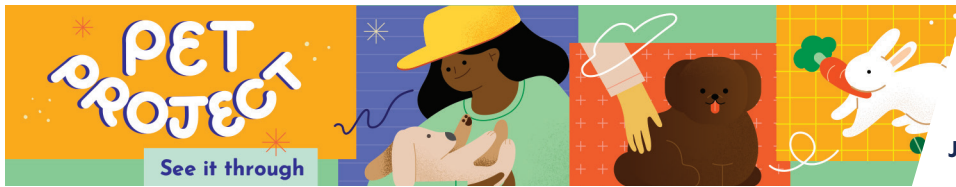
“Use your words wisely.

“It’s really important that we use our words responsibly. And we definitely need God’s help to do that. Let’s pray.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You so much for this reminder of how powerful our words can be. Please help us choose words that build others up not words that tear them down. When we get angry or upset, and we feel tempted to say something hurtful, guide us to stop . . . take a breath . . . and ask You for help BEFORE we speak. Help us always remember that **[Basic Truth] we need to make the wise choice.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “I don’t know about you, but for me, it’s hard to stop and think about the words I say BEFORE I say them. If I’m not careful, I’ll just say whatever pops into my mind first. But God can help us make a much better choice—to really think about what we say and make sure it’s something helpful.

“That’s what Paul wanted the Ephesians to know—and it’s a BIG responsibility that you and I have each day. We need to use our words wisely.

“Say this with me.”

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

KIDS AND HOST: “Use your words wisely.”

HOST: “This isn’t easy to do. But remember, you don’t have to do it alone. When we choose to follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside us and help us make wise choices. We can stop and ask God for help anytime we feel tempted to say something hurtful.

“So, let’s not be the kind of people who walk around hurting others because we don’t pay attention to the words we say. Let’s go out into the world and be people who are positive, kind, encouraging, helpful, honest, and thankful!

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about how you can **use your words wisely**. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP