



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2024

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 with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Why do your words matter?
- Why is it so hard to undo the damage caused by harmful words?
- Who can help us with our words?
- When have you used words that helped someone?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why do your words matter?

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.



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MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: White board, dry-erase marker, index cards, pens, tape, Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids if anyone is able to recite Luke 16:10a from

memory.

- Invite kids to say the verse if they know it.
- Write the words to the verse on the white board:
 - NIV: *Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. —Luke 16:10a*
 - NIRV: *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much. —Luke 16:10a*
- Be sure to spread out the words as you write so there is room to cover them with index cards.
- Give every kid an index card and a pen.
- Ask the kids to think of words that are positive or kind that they might use to build someone else up. Like:
 - beautiful
 - thoughtful
 - love
 - thanks
 - talented
- Instruct the kids to write the word they thought of on their index card.
- Depending on how many kids are in the group, you may need to ask some kids to write more than one word.
 - You will need 20 cards for the NIRV, 14 for the NIV.
 - Write a few words of your own if more cards are needed.
- Once all the index cards have been created, invite the group to read Luke 16:10a out loud.
- Choose a kid to pick a word from the verse and ask them to use the tape to stick their index card on the white board so it covers up one word of the verse.
- Invite the group to read the verse again, using the word on the index card in place of the word it is covering.
- Repeat until everyone has had a chance to tape their cards on the board and all words of the verse have been covered up.
- Each round, instruct the group to say the verse, substituting words for the ones written on the index cards.
- Eventually, on the final round, the group will be reading only a series of words of affirmation.
- Again, ask kids if anyone remembers Luke 16:10a.
- Allow the kids to take turns saying it from memory.
- Give a kid a Bible.
- Ask them to look up Ephesians 4:29 and read it out loud.

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Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

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(4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Ask:
 - What are some ways you can keep from saying things that tear others down?
 - What are some ways you can practice using words that build others up?
- Say: "We will become people who others trust when they can depend on us to use words that build others up, rather than tear others down."



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Notecard

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

- Encourage the kids to think of specific ways they need to work on using their words.
- Examples of prayers might include:
 - Use kinder words with my brother.
 - Stop gossiping about people.
 - Text a compliment to a friend.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why do your words matter?

- Encourage kids to take their notecards home and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Challenge them to set aside time in the week ahead to pray each day.
- Say: "Praying doesn't have to be complicated or take a long time. Just taking a little time talking to God each day is a great way to spend time with God and also to stay focused on using our words for good."
- Close your group time in prayer, making sure to say something edifying or encouraging about each kid.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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