



WEEK TWO – OCTOBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *These Words | Proverbs 12:18*

Bottom Line: *Think before you speak*

Memory Verse: *“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. – 1 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Virtue: *Self-Control – Choosing to do what’s best, even when you don’t want to*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: There are a lot of choices that we need to make in life. Some of those choices can help us grow and shape us positively. Others can pull us in different directions, leaving us struggling to figure out which choice is best. What do we do when we’re confronted with all of these choices? Do we rush ahead? Or do we pause and let God lead us toward the best way to act? Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s one of the ways we can tell that God is transforming our lives and that we’re growing in our faith. Thankfully, we don’t have to find self-control on our own. When we follow Jesus, God’s Spirit is with us and helps us make the wise choice.

Bottom Line: Think before you speak. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Ever heard or said that phrase growing up? The thing is, words DO hurt. When we aren’t careful and when we lose control, we have the potential to do damage to others and ourselves that may be harder to overcome later. However, when we take the time to sort through our thoughts before we say them, we can build better and stronger relationships in the future. Relationships matter to God, so they should matter to us as well.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to name a few superheroes they're familiar with. Ask:
 - What power(s) do they have?
 - What is their "move"?
- Encourage each kid to invent and imagine their OWN superhero! Ask:
 - What would be your superhero's name?
 - What power would your superhero have?
 - What would be their "move"?
- Invite the kids to get into pairs.
- Instruct the kids to share their superhero's name, power, and move with their partners.
- After a couple of minutes, direct the kids to find new partners and share again
- Continue as time allows

What You Say:

"You all are so creative! You came up with great superheroes, superpowers, and moves! *[Transition]* Did you know **WORDS** are like a superpower? Let's go to **Large Group** and discover how!"

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we head to Proverbs 12:18, where Solomon spoke about the power of words. He said, “The words of thoughtless people cut like swords. But the tongue of wise people brings healing.” Thoughtless, mean, and hurtful words can cause harm like a sword! But on the flip side, when we ask God for wisdom and speak intentionally with kindness, love, and care, the words we say can bring healing.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Choose Your Words

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible (marked at Proverbs 12:18), “Sword Words” and “Healing Words” Activity Pages, and straws

What You Do:

- Choose a kid to open the Bible where marked.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to line up at one end of your group space.
- Place a set of cards from the “Sword Words” and the “Healing Words” Activity Pages (speech-bubble side up) across from each team, on the other side of your group space.
- Give each kid a straw.
- Instruct the first kid on each team to run to their team’s cards, put one end of the straw in their mouth and the other end on a card, pick up the card by

creating suction with the straw, and walk back to their team, keeping suction on the straw to hold the card.

- If the card falls, share that the kids can pick it up with the straw again.
- Adjust the difficulty by decreasing or increasing the distance kids carry the cards (by moving the pile of cards from the “Sword Words” and “Healing Words” Activity Pages closer or further).
- When a team collects all of its cards, instruct them to turn over their cards to reveal the verse words, and work together to put the cards in order using the numbers on each card as a guide.
- Check each team’s work by reading the verse out loud from their cards.

What You Say:

““God honored King Solomon by making him one of the wisest people who ever lived. Many things Solomon learned and said are in the book of Proverbs, including our verse for today. (Read Proverbs 12:18 from the marked Bible.)

(Turn the first four cards over to show the red speech bubbles. Invite the kids to read some of the sword words inside the red speech bubbles.)

“What do you think it means that words can cut like swords? (Invite responses, like: Words can hurt if they’re mean or aren’t kind, what you say when you’re not thinking can hurt other people, etc.) When you don’t think before you speak, it’s easier to say things that can hurt others.

(Turn the next four cards over to show the green speech bubbles. Invite kids to read some of the healing words inside the green speech bubbles.)

“What does it mean that a wise tongue can bring healing? (Invite responses, like: It’s good to say kind things because kind words can help others, we can speak words that help people feel better, etc.)

*When you make the wise choice to stop and **[Bottom Line]** think before you speak, you can choose kind and helpful words that help others feel good. This week, let’s practice self-control with our words and **[Bottom Line]** think before you speak.”*

Everything We Need

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, whiteboard, dry erase marker, and dry eraser

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up this month’s Memory Verse, 2 Peter 1:3a, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the words *2 Peter* at the top of the page as you say “2 Peter” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 3; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the first part of the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the first part of the verse together.
 - ***Finding verses with 1st graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 2 Peter in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that 2 Peter starts with the number 2, and then the letters P-E. When the kids find 2 Peter, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 2 Peter. Help the kids find the page. When they find 2 Peter, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 1. Read the first part of the verse.
- Read 2 Peter 1:3a to the group, inviting kids to repeat it after you.
 - Repeat the verse a few times.

- After you've repeated the verse a few times, inform kids that as a group, you will come up with motions to go along with the verse.
- Write the verse on the board, dividing it into parts.
 - Divide the verse into however many sections that work best for your group.
 - For example: God's//power//has given//us everything//we//need// to lead//a godly life.//2Peter 1:3a, NIrV
- Call on a kid to give you a motion for the first part of the verse.
- Repeat the verse as a group, adding in the chosen motion.
- Call on a different kid to give you another motion for the next part of the verse.
- Repeat the verse as a group adding in both motions now.
- Continue in this pattern, saying and signing the verse phrase by phrase, encouraging the kids to do it with you until the whole verse is done!

What You Say:

*“[Bottom Line] **Think before you speak.** Sometimes, that isn't easy! But when you follow Jesus, God's power can help you. When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us think before we speak. So remember: you can [Bottom Line] **think before you speak** because God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life!”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line:
[Bottom Line] **Think before you speak***