

Alley Rundown - January 19-20, 2019

Bible Story: What Would You Say? (Choose Your Words Carefully) • Proverbs 12:18

Bottom Line: Choose your words carefully.

Key Question: Why are your words so important?

Memory Verse: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life...”
(2 Peter 1:3, NIV)

“Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today.

CG: Picture of Cookies

Anybody else here like to bake? There is nothing like fresh-baked cookies out the oven! So I was following this recipe to make cookies earlier today. A cup of butter, a cup of sugar . . . oh, let me just show you.”

CG: Altered Image 1a

“But when I got to the end of the recipe, this is the way I read it instead.”

CG: Altered Image 1b

“Anybody see the difference? Yeah, instead of chocolate chips, I used potato chips. Chocolate . . . potato . . . not a big deal, right? (*Pause for reaction*) Yeah, it’s a big deal! Who wants to dip a piping hot potato chip cookie into milk?!”

“Or what about driving. Now, I know you don’t drive yet, but my guess is you are pretty familiar with street signs. What does this mean?”

CG: Altered Image 2a

“Yeah, that one is pretty easy. It means STOP. When you see the red octagon, you are supposed to stop. But what if you drove up to the red octagon at an intersection and it looked like this?

CG: Altered Image 2b

“Would this matter that much? Of course it would matter! You’d have all sorts of crashes and vehicles just dangerously flying through the intersection.”

“Okay, I have one more for you. Have you ever had to assemble something while using the instruction manual? Maybe a toy, or maybe you helped put together a bookshelf? Check out these instructions for building a bookshelf.”

CG: Altered Image 3a

“Check out step 3. ‘Nail the plywood shelves to the side panels at equal spacing.’ What if it said this instead?”

CG: Altered Image 3b

“Any problems there? Can you image what happens when you set books on the shelves? I don’t think that tape will hold for long!”

“In all of these scenarios, what do you notice?”

Pause for responses.

“The instructions included the wrong words. And those words would come with some pretty bad consequences. In short, words matter. Chocolate vs. potato. Stop vs. go. Nail vs. tape. The outcome of each of these dramatically changed because a word was changed. That is because the words we use have power.

“With that in mind, think about this. If words have power, why do we sometimes use words without thinking about what they might do? Along with that, do our words only have negative consequences if they’re bad words or mean words? Or is there more that we need to talk about? The average person uses about 12,000 words every day. Maybe we should think about how we can make sure those words are doing something positive.”

“To help us figure that out, let’s get back into Proverbs.”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:25)

“Remember, your words have power, the power to destroy or the power to heal. But sometimes it is not just the actual words. Maybe it is the WAY you say it. You can say, ‘I’m so sorry that happened’ (*sincerely*) or ‘I’m SO sorry that happened’ (*sarcastic*). Or maybe it is your motivation. The person who did something wrong and wants to be forgiven might say, ‘I’m sorry that I offended you’ (*sincerely*), but he or she might also say, ‘I’m sorry that YOU were offended’ (*snarky*) as if it is your fault for being so easily offended!”

“You get it—the actual words matter, but so do our motivation and our tone. We need to use them all together to build and heal, not to tear down and destroy. Words are gift from God; now let’s use them to bless other people!

“We’ve talked a ton about the importance of words this morning. But as you go to small group today, I want you to think about this on a personal level.

CG: Key Question Slide

“**Why are *your* words so important?** Why do your words matter to your friends and family, your teachers and coaches? You’ll have a chance to talk more about this in small group, but before we head there, let’s spend some time in worship with our offering and attention.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Flag

“Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at *(your campus)*, we give our offering to help support *(your campus child)* in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of the Kenyan Flag where *(campus child)* lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin *(point children to location of bin)*

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the video plays. If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him...”

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin, then play Worship Experience Video)

CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)

Supplies Needed: Pens and Note Cards

NOTE: Students will draft a letter to give someone, anyone, with edifying words about that person. It can even be an apology letter for saying unkind words if the student desires.