

Alley SG - 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)

1. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Select** a volunteer.
- **Give** him or her a word or words to say to the group while holding his or her tongue.
- **Challenge** the group to guess what he or she is saying. The first kid to guess gets to be the next volunteer.
- **Select** words from the list below or make up your own. If time remains, **allow** kids to come up with words for the group to guess.
- Potential words:
 - Cheddar cheese
 - Sailing on the sea
 - Ton of bricks
 - Chicken dumplings
 - Penguins and pirates
 - Sweet apple pie
 - Catching fireflies
 - Green grass
 - Tongues are slimy
 - Crocodiles drink Coke

What You Say:

“Imagine if we had to hold our tongues all the time when we spoke. Not only would it be slimy and gross, but also it would be hard to understand what we were saying to each other.”

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper (2 half sheets per student), red and green markers (6 in each bin)

What You Do:

- **Ask:** When do we use words? (*talk, text, social media, letters—this is an opportunity to discuss how “words” include not just the words we speak but the words we type or write*)
- **Provide** a stack of paper and red and green markers for kids to use.
- **Ask** kids to create a speech bubble using the green markers with an example of healing words. For example: Good job! You are really creative! Thank you! I am sorry!
- **Ask** kids to **create** a speech bubble using the red markers with an example of thoughtless or cutting words. For example: You’re bothering me! You can’t do it! Why would you wear that?

- **Group** the healing speech bubbles together; **group** the cutting/thoughtless speech bubbles together.
- **Discuss** the examples:
 - Can you change healing words to cutting words by the way you say them? *(If necessary, prompt kids by using one of the examples and saying it with a sarcastic tone or with an eye-roll. This is an opportunity to talk about how our tone and body language are important as what we choose to say.)*
 - How do you feel when someone speaks to you with healing words? How about thoughtless or cutting words?

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Speech bubbles from the Take a Snapshot Activity, sticky notes, pens/markers

What You Do:

- **Review** the words in the speech bubbles from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- Using sticky notes, **encourage** kids to write the types of words that bring healing and stick them on the “healing” speech bubbles.
- **Encourage** kids to write the types of words that cut like a sword and stick them on the “cutting/thoughtless” speech bubbles.
- Examples could include:
 - Healing: praise, encouraging, nice, kind, true/fact, necessary
 - Cut like a sword: thoughtless, mean, hurtful, lies, embarrassing, negative, overcritical
- **Challenge** kids to create an acronym to help them choose words their words carefully. To help them, **ask** them to start with the sentence, “Before I speak, I should ask myself are my words . . .” An example:
 - THINK (Is it **true**? Is it **helpful**? Is it **inspired** by God or would God want me to say it? Is it **necessary** to say? Is it **kind**?)
 - FLAP (Is it a **fact**? Is it **loving**? Is it **affirming**? Is it **praising**?)
- **Challenge** kids to use their acronym to help them to choose their words carefully.

4. Discussion Questions

- What are the consequences of forgetting to choose your words wisely?
- What effect do thoughtless words have on relationships? What about healing words?
- Just because something is true, does it mean it is okay to say it? Why or why not?
- How do you determine if something is necessary to say?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Red paper, scissors, tape, Bibles, speech bubbles from the Take a Snapshot Activity

What You Do:

- **Read** Proverbs 12:18.
- **Give** kids paper and scissors and **instruct** kids to cut out large hearts.
- **Ask:**
 - What does Proverbs 12:18 say about **thoughtless** words?
 - What is an example of a thoughtless word? (*Refer to the speech bubbles from the "Take a Snapshot" activity.*)
- For each example given, **instruct** kids to cut out a piece from their paper hearts.
- Once kids have several pieces, **instruct** them to tape their paper hearts back together.
- When the heart puzzles have been pieced together, **ask:**
 - Does your paper heart look the same as before you cut it?
 - How do thoughtless or cutting words affect you? How can thoughtless words affect your relationships?
 - What about healing words? What effect do healing words have on you? On your relationships?
- **Pair** kids up and **ask** them to pray with each other.
- **Encourage** them to use the acronym they created in the "Bible Story Extension" activity as a guideline for their prayer.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!