

Alley Rundown - July 27-28, 2019

Bible Story: More Than Words (Taming of the Tongue) • James 3:3-10

Bottom Line: God gives you the power to have self-control.

Key Question: What can happen when you lose control?

Memory Verse: “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6, *NIV*

“What’s up Alley? How is everyone doing today? (*allow response*) Great! I have a question for you. Who can tell me, ‘What is the nicest thing someone has ever said to you?’ (*allow several responses*). Now, I want you to think about what is the meanest thing that has ever been said to you? Don’t repeat it; just think about it...”

“No doubt about it. Words matter. But not just any words . . . the *right* words matter. Words have power. Words have an impact. Words can have a lasting effect.”

“But here’s the thing, I think on some level every one of us would say that our words matter and have power, right? But if that’s really the case, why do we sometimes use our words without thinking?”

“That’s a good question. You know, one of the most powerful teachings about words comes from something that Jesus’ own brother, James, wrote. It was part of a letter that’s now part of the New Testament in the Bible. That’s right, Mary and Joseph had other children, so Jesus had siblings. How would you like to grow up with Jesus as a brother? You think YOUR siblings are perfect! Ha!”

“Anyhow, James wrote this letter to early Christians who had been scattered because people were treating them unfairly because they believed in Jesus. He was teaching them how to live as a follower of Jesus even when things were difficult. And one of the ways he encouraged Christians was in how they use their words. Let’s check it out!”

“(Read directly from James 3:3-4 NIV) “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.”

“Does it seem strange to anyone else that James is talking about horses and ships? Well, let’s see if this week’s episode can break it down for us. Let’s watch!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 17:30)

“Here’s the truth: God has given us an incredible gift in words. We can help one another with the words we speak. We can encourage a friend who is down. We can put a smile on someone’s face with a compliment. But we can also use words to destroy and tear down.”

“Words can control us or we can control our words. But we don’t have to do it alone. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit that God gives to us. Of course, self-control isn’t just about our words, but it certainly does include them. The more we allow God to work in us and live through us, the more we will find that He can help us take control of our words, like the bit and the horse or the rudder and the ship. And we’ll also find that the mouth that praises God is also the mouth that blesses and encourages others.”

“But sometimes, just like the *Frogger* game, we have to STOP. PAUSE . . . and think about what we are about to say. And in those moments, we can allow God to work in us and help us to control our words before we spark a fire that gets out of control.”

“That brings us to the question of the day.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What can happen when you lose control? When you don’t stop, pause, and think about what you’re about to say, what does it do to your relationships with your friends and family? How does it make you feel? It’s important for us to realize that our words and have power. And how we use them has consequences. Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose self-control when it comes to our words. Let’s thank Him for being always with us and willing to help! Let’s pray.

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering time and Worship Experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: MOHI JPEG

“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 Mission of Hope International in Nairobi where *(campus child)* goes to school! 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 (Acts 20:35)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

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

Supplies Needed: Note Cards, Pens, “Prayer Request” and “Praise Report” Bags

NOTE: This week, students will fill out prayer requests (“Please Jesus”) and praise reports (“Thank You Jesus”)

Dismiss to Small Groups.