

## Alley Rundown—January 23rd, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Blank Space (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

**Today's Key Question:** How can words make things better?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Think before you speak.

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

*CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos*

*CG: SuperStart! Video Promo and Slide*

**“SuperStart! is coming up next month and you won’t want to miss this yearly event. It’s an overnight event just for you in Bloomington, IL, where you’ll get to play games, eat pizza, make new friends, and hear an awesome message about how much Jesus loves you. Sign up today!”**

“Welcome to my favorite time of the week, kids! Honestly, I love being a part of this learning and discovering with you because I get just as much out of God’s Word as you do. Sometimes *I’m* the one learning new things, not just teaching!”

“This week just might be the most important one for you because it deals with something that is one of the hardest things to master for everyone everywhere. But before we get too far into it, let’s do a bit of an experiment.”

“In just a moment, we’ll put a random word up on the screen. When you see it, say the very first word that pops into your head. It’s called ‘Word Association,’ and it can be pretty fun!”

“We’ll do the whole group together at the same time for the first few! Don’t be shy—shout out the first word that pops in your head!”

*Show the first three words on the screen one at a time. Take time in between each word to acknowledge words that the kids shout out.*

*SLIDE: Word Slide 1: Balloon*

*SLIDE: Word Slide 2: Pizza*

*SLIDE: Word Slide 3: Pencil*

“Not bad! Now let’s pair up. This time let’s see if the words you shout out match!”

*Show the next words, pausing to ask if partners match words. For a few of the words, ask the partners to talk to one another telling why they thought of that particular word—if they don’t match.*

*SLIDE: Word Slide 4: Food*

**SLIDE: Word Slide 5: Family**

**SLIDE: Word Slide 6: Work**

**SLIDE: Word Slide 7: Play**

**SLIDE: Word Slide 8: Difficult**

**SLIDE: Word Slide 9: School**

**SLIDE: Word Slide 10: Happy**

“That was great! Playing a word association game can be fun, but it can also be interesting to discover what words pop into our minds without really thinking about them. But I guess that’s like life, isn’t it? Sometimes we choose our words carefully, like the moments when we’re asking our teacher for extra credit. Other times our words just seem to come out without any thought at all, like when we stub our toe on the kitchen table. This doesn’t just happen when we’re alone, either; sometimes there’s a person on the receiving end of our thoughtless words. In a moment, we’ve hurt someone and our relationship with them.”

“I just keep wondering why we aren’t able to think before we speak every time we speak? Why do we speak without thinking? Why do we just say whatever pops into our heads without thinking of other people first? Why do we say things that can ruin a friendship or a conversation in just a few words?”

“These are great questions for us to think about today. We say this a lot, but it’s worth repeating. When we have big questions, the first place we should look is the Bible. In fact, several of the people who God inspired to write the Bible had a whole lot to say about the way we use our words. Let’s check out one of those right now that we find in the book of Proverbs.”

“Now, a good portion of Proverbs is full of the wisdom of someone who to this day is considered one of the wisest men who ever lived. His name was Solomon. He was King David’s son. Now, Solomon didn’t always get it right, but God gave him some wisdom that’s definitely worth checking out. Like this this idea we find in Proverbs 12:18.”

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) and read.*

**SLIDE: Proverbs 12:18**

*“The words of reckless pierce like swords. But the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

On the surface, this seems pretty straightforward. Thoughtless words hurt. Wise words heal. But there’s so much more than that packed into this little verse.”

“Words are powerful. A single word can end a friendship, a single word can make someone believe a lie, and a single word can cause people to stop trusting you. Let’s take a look at this week’s Episode to see what more we can learn about this topic today!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:00)**

Let’s check out Proverbs 12:18 one more time.

**SLIDE: Proverbs 12:18**

*“The words of reckless pierce like swords. But the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

“If you don’t engage your brain before you speak, you could really hurt someone. Your words are powerful—sometimes more powerful than you realize. They can help or hurt, and you get to choose how to use them.”

“The next time your mouth is moving fast-forward and you’re about to say something hurtful, switch to slow motion. Think about how your words are going to affect other people. If you can’t think of any healing words to say . . . press the mute button.”

“As you head to Small Groups, think about this question:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**“How can words make things better?** Or better yet, how can YOUR words make things better? What things can you think of to say to someone else to lift them up and not tear them down? Our words are so often quick and thoughtless, and they can hurt someone else’s feelings in an instant. How can we stop that from happening? You’ll talk more about this in Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray. Let’s ask God to help us hit the pause button before we say something we regret. Let’s also pray for opportunities to tell others words that will lift their spirits, not tear them down. Let’s pray.”

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

**OFFERING:**

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor