

City LG—January 23rd, 2022

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

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you speak.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service

ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY: Space Racers On-Screen Racing Video

CG: Space Racers Version 3 Video (Runtime 2:30)

NOTE: Play the Video and encourage Kids to cheer on which video character they think will win the Space Race. Keep the energy high, cheer at the end, thank everyone for playing, and invite the Kids to stand for Worship.

WORSHIP: Something Good and Believe It

"Hi, everyone! This month we're talking about how it's always wise to choose self-control. We can actually find a lot of wise sayings about self-control in the book of Proverbs. (*Hold up Bible.*)

"Many of these sayings came from King Solomon, who was one of the wisest people who ever lived. In Proverbs 12:18, Solomon talked about something that all of us need to control: our WORDS!

"As Solomon said . . .

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

"The words of thoughtless people cut like swords. But the tongue of wise people brings healing.

"Did you catch that? Let me read it one more time.

"The words of thoughtless people cut like swords. But the tongue of wise people brings healing."

"Wow. If we don't have self-control, our words will be thoughtless. That means we'll just speak without thinking. And that can be dangerous! Because according to Solomon, *'the words of thoughtless people cut like swords.'*

"We might say something without thinking that could really hurt someone else. Or maybe WE feel hurt, so we say something hurtful to get back at someone. But that's a real problem. Because our words can cut WAY deeper than we ever imagined. Before we dive any deeper, I want us to do something. Let's spend 3 minutes in our group saying kind words to one another. It can be things like "You're funny." Or "I like your shoes!" Anything that you can think of. So long as it isn't hurtful. 3 minutes on the clock! Let's do this!"

CG: 3-Minute Countdown Timer Video (Runtime: 3:00)

(Kids and Leaders will spend 3 minutes saying nice things to one another. Walk around and chime in with some kind words yourself as necessary!)

"Great job everyone! It was so good to walk around and hear everyone encouraging one another with their words! Thoughtless words can make someone believe a lie. They can even end a friendship. Once you've said something hurtful, you can't take it back."

“BUT . . . there’s a MUCH better way! Remember Solomon said, *‘the tongue of wise people brings healing.’* In other words, the words we say can make things BETTER. Our words can heal!

“Think about it. Our words can encourage others and bring comfort. When someone is sad, a kind word can let them know we care . . . and sometimes even put a smile on their face!

“But this only happens when we use our words CAREFULLY. When we stop and think about what to say before we say it, then our words can speak truth and bring wisdom.

“We can use our words to do what Jesus said is most important. Jesus once told His friends:

Open the Bible to John 13:34 (NIRV) and read.

‘I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.

“We can use careful, positive words to encourage others and show them the love of Jesus.”

“So what does this look like for us? We know that thoughtless words can cut like a sword. They can be really hurtful.

“But we also know that wise, thoughtful words can bring healing.

“Let’s look at our video today, to see what else we can learn!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 4:30)

“Great job, everyone! Thanks for helping me think through where each of those cards should go. It’s nice when we can step back and decide which words are hurtful and which words are healing. It was easy for us do that because we gave ourselves some time to think.

“We need to do the same thing when we speak to the people around us. We’ve got to stop and think about what we want to say, BEFORE we open our mouths. We need to use self-control instead of just blurting out the first thing that pops into our heads. Then we can choose to say wise, helpful words (*point to the bandage*) instead of mean things that hurt someone’s feelings.

“Let’s all try to do this. Before you speak, ask yourself if your words will hurt or help. Let’s learn our Bottom Line for this week!”

CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:30)

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Think before you speak.

“What do you think? Can we give it a try? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

PRAY: “God, thank You for giving Solomon such great wisdom! What he said is true: our words can be hurtful or they can bring healing. We know that if we don’t stop to think, we can easily say something that hurts someone and makes them feel sad or upset. Please give us the self-control to think before we speak . . . so our words will always help and bring healing. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Our words really are a gift from God! Have you ever thought about it that way? I mean, think about how you feel when someone says something kind or encouraging to you.

Think of how great you feel when someone makes you laugh! Thank about when someone comforts you when you're sad. It makes you feel so much better to know that they care.

"Those are some great examples of words that heal. Unfortunately, we also know what thoughtless words can do. They can really hurt! They can cut like a sword.

"Words are powerful. That's why it's important that we learn to use self-control and choose our words carefully. Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Think before you speak.

"As we read in James 1:19 . . .

Open the Bible to James 1:19 (NirV) and read.

"Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.

"Our words can hurt or help, and WE get to choose how to use them. The really great news is that God is always there to help us **make the wise choice.**

"So 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 might affect other people. And if you can't think of any healing words to say . . . press the mute button.

"You can now start Small Group Time and listen to each other's ideas about how you can stay in control of your words!"

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!"

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri

New Lenox: Daniel

Homer Glen: Victor