

## City LG—July 31st, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Under Control (Taming of the Tongue) • *James 3:1-6*

**Today's Bottom Line:** God gives you the power to have self-control.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NirV)

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

**WORSHIP: Unshakeable and Standing in Your Light**

**Supplies Needed: Tongue Twisters List (1 per Group)**

**NOTE: Hand these sheets out to Small Group Leaders ahead of time, or as you are explaining the game below in the Script**

“Hi, everyone! Today, we’re looking at a really cool way that we can make waves in the world around us. (*Hold up Bible.*) It’s something that a man named James wrote about in a letter, which is part of the Bible. We call it the book of James.

“Now, let me tell you something interesting about James. James was Jesus’ younger brother. Can you imagine if your big brother was Jesus? That would be pretty cool! We don’t really know what it was like for James and Jesus growing up, but we do know that eventually, James came to believe that Jesus is God’s Son.”

“In the letter James wrote to a group of Jesus-followers, he talked about how important it is to have self-control. We need to be in control of the way we act and the words we say. If we believe in Jesus and we have the power of God’s Spirit, then our lives should show that!

“Here’s what James had to say about that.

*Open the Bible to James 3:3 (NirV) and read.*

*“We put a small piece of metal in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it.*

**SLIDE: Horse’s Bit Image**

(*Reference the screen.*) “Okay, if you’ve ever seen someone riding a horse, you’ve probably seen how they hold the reins—which are connected to this little thing in the horse’s mouth, called a bit. The rider uses the bit to guide the horse where it needs to go.

“A horse is a big, powerful animal. But it can be controlled by something as tiny as this. (*Point to the bit on screen.*)

“In the same way, our tongues are a small part of our body. But the words we say can have a lot of power. Our words can lead us in the right or wrong direction.

**SLIDE: Ship’s Rudder Image**

“How about this one? Right, it’s a ship. And right here is the rudder that the captain uses to steer the ship.

“James wrote this about ships.

*Open the Bible to James 3:4 (NirV) and read.*

*“They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go.*

“In the same way that a rudder controls a ship, our tongues can change the direction we go. As James wrote . . .

*Open the Bible to James 3:5 (NirV) and read.*

*“The tongue is a small part of a person’s body. But it talks big.”*

“It’s a good thing if we can stay in control of the words we say and the way we treat people around us. But what happens if we DON’T stay in control? What happens if our Tongues get Twisted? Before we move on any further, let’s play a game in your Groups! Your Small Group Leader has a list of tongue twisters that they will read to you one-by-one. Let’s see if you can say them back without messing up and getting tongue tied. 3 minutes on the clock! Have FUN!”

**CG: 3-Minute Countdown Video**

“Great job everyone! That was a lot of fun to hear you all! But sometimes when the tongue gets twisted, it’s not as fun as that game was. James wrote about that, too. He said . . .

**SLIDE: Forest Fire Image**

*Open the Bible to James 3:5-6 (NirV) and read.*

*“Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire. The tongue is also a fire.*

“Yikes! If we don’t have self-control, then our words can cause big problems. It’s like we’re making a tiny spark that can set a whole forest on fire. Let’s learn some more about the power of the words we say, with the help of this week’s video!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:00)**

“It’s important that we take our words seriously and choose them carefully. Every word that comes out of your mouth has the power to give life and encouragement to someone. Or to cause a lot of hurt.

“That’s why self-control is such a huge way that we can make waves in the world around us. I know it’s not easy to hold back your words when you feel angry or frustrated. But with help from God’s Spirit, you can stop and CHOOSE what to say. You can choose words that will build people up instead of tear them down. You can use words that will make things right. And what you say will begin to change your world for good!

“We need to have self-control with our words and with the way we treat people in general. And God is there to help us! Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!”

*CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)*

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.**

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that now.”

**PRAY:** “Dear God, thank You for the reminder today of how powerful our words can be. We need help from Your Spirit to choose words that build others up, not tear them down. Show us how we can find self-control and use our words and actions to make a difference in the world around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“I know that if I’m just living my life and reacting to things that happen to me, I’m not as likely to have self-control. So it’s important that I talk to God and ASK God for help. I know that will help me **make the wise choice!**”

“You probably have people in your life that you sometimes find yourself speaking harshly to—like maybe your brothers or sisters, kids in your neighborhood, or people you don’t get along with at school. Let’s ask God to give us self-control as we talk to those people, and everyone else we see as we go about our day. Let’s use our words to change the world around us for the better!”

**OFFERING:**

“As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. When you bring your offering in, you are helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!”

*CG: Malawi Wells Pictures*