

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Say What You Need to Say
Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your words wisely.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little.
Then you can also be trusted with something very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Friend Like You" from *This Love* and "(I Want To Say) Thank You" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Build Up!
Application Activity: Kind Words
Memory Verse Activity: Use Your Words Wisely
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to guide kids to have self-control when it comes to their words, and to use them wisely. Pray that kids would see that the words they use can be stewarded for good or they can be weapons to hurt others or to get our own way. Pray that they would use their words to build others up and show them God's love.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer, Mad Libs®, and pencil or pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container and guide them to apply hand sanitizer.
- Ask kids to provide words to fill in the blanks for your Mad Lib.
- Be sure to explain noun, adjective, verb, and other words your kids may not be all that familiar with.
- Read the story aloud.

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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

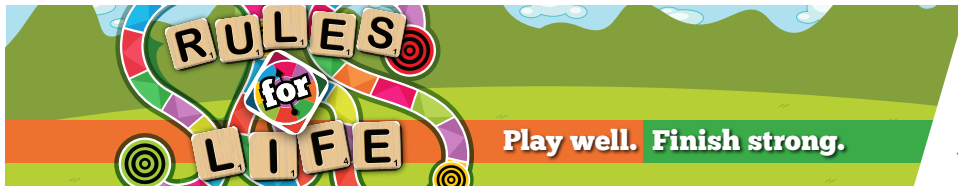
WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Begin a story with the line: Once upon a time there was *(name something interesting to your group such as a small snowman, a happy horse, or a little dinosaur)*.
- Going around the circle, lead kids to take turns adding a line to the story. If kids get stuck, ask guiding questions to spark ideas. You might ask: What did they do? Where did they go? How did they feel?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You used words to make a great story! **[Transition]** Let's go to Large Group to learn how GOD wants us to use our words. Let's go learn more."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



* 1. BUILD UP!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Build Up!" Activity Page, hand sanitizer, building items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids apply hand sanitizer. Guide kids to get into groups of two or three. Give each team a set of building materials and a deck of "Build Up!" cards. Instruct kids to set the cards facedown. Lead kids to take turns drawing a card from the stack, reading the words, and either "building up" a tower or "tearing down" a tower depending on the card drawn. If they draw a green speech bubble, kids gather the number of items shown and "build up" their tower. If they draw a red speech bubble, they remove that number of items to "tear down" their tower. The game ends when kids use all their items to build their tower.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our words have a lot of power. They can either build others up or tear them down. What does it mean to build others up? (to make them feel good; to say kind things) What does it mean to tear others down? (to say mean things, to not be nice) What kind of words does God want us to use? (words that build others up; words that are kind, nice, and helpful) Yes! Paul said, Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29, NIV)

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when the words you used built someone up. It may have been a word of encouragement for someone who was sad, a card you sent to congratulate someone, or a time you chose to say something kind instead of something mean to a sibling.)

"So what are some words that YOU can say this week that will build others up? (I love you; you did a great job; thank you. Encourage responses by saying things like: Great answer! Good thinking! Ooh, I hadn't thought of that! What else?) So, this week, be responsible and choose words that will build up and help the people around you. You can use your words wisely."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. KIND WORDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board and marker or butcher paper and marker, mugs or cups with shreds or crumpled scraps of brown paper, and marshmallows

WHAT YOU DO:

- Draw a large speech bubble on your white board or paper.
- Lead kids to brainstorm kind and helpful words they can say to others. Print their ideas on the board/paper.
- *If kids are stuck for ideas, ask prompting questions like: What's something kind that you can say to your brother or sister? Your grandma or grandpa? Someone who's sad? Someone who needs help?*
- Guide kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a set of six cups and each kid two or three marshmallows.
- Lead kids to arrange the cups in a triangular formation like bowling pins.
- Direct kids to stand a few feet from their cups and take turns attempting to toss a marshmallow into each cup.
- Give kids as many chances as they need to be successful.
- Before every toss, kids should say something kind or helpful.

NOTE: Adjust the game's difficulty by changing the distance kids stand from the cups.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Paul wanted to remind the Ephesians what God had done for them and how it should change the way they treated others—especially when it came to their words! He wanted to remind them that since God has been kind to them, they should be kind to others. Paul said, *Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.* (Ephesians 4:29, NIV)

"God wants us to be responsible and say words that will build up and help the people around us. Because when our words are kind and helpful, they're like a warm mug of hot cocoa on a cold day. So this week, remember to **use your words wisely.**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

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3. USE YOUR WORDS WISELY [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gameboard" and Wise Words" Activity Pages, Bible marked at Luke 16, dice, tokens

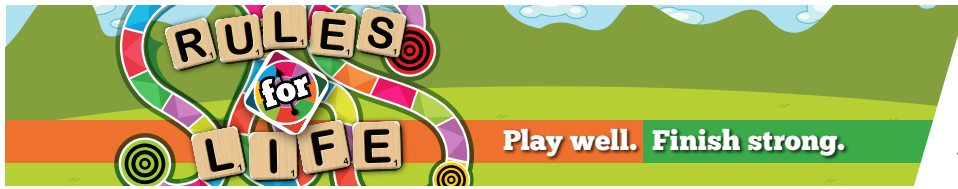
WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked. Read the verse aloud, encouraging kids to say it with you. Help kids get into groups of two or three. Give each group a "Gameboard," a deck of "Wise Words" cards, a die, and one token for each kid. Direct kids to place their token at START and set the "Wise Words" cards face down. Lead kids to take turns rolling the die and moving the appropriate number of spaces. If kids land on a heart, they draw a card from the "Wise Words" stack, look at it, and tell something kind they could say to the person in the scenario. Provide help as needed. Play continues until every kid reaches FINISH.

NOTE: If a team uses all of its "Wise Words" cards before each player reaches FINISH, have them shuffle the cards and use them again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse tells us that when we can be trusted with something little, then we can also be trusted with something large. One small way that we can show responsibility is by using our words wisely. What are some words that are wise to use? (Thank you, I love you, please, great job, are you okay) Great ideas! Every day we can choose the words we say. God wants us to choose words that will build up and help the people around us. So remember to use your words wisely."



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Speech Bubbles" Activity Page and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to tell some kind and helpful things that they

can say.

- Give each kid a "Speech Bubble" and a pencil. Guide kids to choose one kind thing they can say this week and write it on the card.

NOTE: It's okay for kids to use "inventive" spelling. The fact that your emergent spellers are engaging in critical thinking and taking risks as they explore sound and letter relationships is a valuable part of their literacy journey and helps facilitate future reading success.

- Encourage kids to put their "Speech Bubble" cards where they'll see them often and be reminded to use their words wisely. Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Paul wanted to remind the Ephesians what God had done for them, and how it should change the way they treated each other—especially when it came to their words! Our words have a lot of power, and we have the responsibility to choose words that build up and help the people around us. So let's ask God to help us use our words wisely. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You so much that all of Your words are trustworthy and true. Help us show others what You're like by saying words that build up and help the people around us. Help us say words like (restate what kids wrote on their speech bubbles). And when we make mistakes with our words, please help us be quick to say, 'I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?' Thank You for loving us so much, God. We love You, too. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show parents their speech bubbles and tell parents the kind words they can say this week.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. (Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
Hand sanitizer
Download and print free Mad Libs from a site such as https://bit.ly/33Jjb8f
Pencil or pen

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. BUILD UP!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the 'Build Up!' Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart; one set for every two to three kids
Hand sanitizer
Plastic cups, K'NEX, magnetic tiles, blocks or other building materials; one set for every two to three kids

2. KIND WORDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase board or butcher paper
Dry erase marker or marker
Non-breakable mugs or cups; six for every two or three kids
Shreds or crumpled scraps of brown paper
Fill each mug half full with paper.
Marshmallows or cotton balls; two or three for each kid

3. USE YOUR WORDS WISELY

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the 'Gameboard' Activity Page on cardstock or if saved, 'Gameboard' from Week 1; one for every two to three kids.
Print the 'Wise Words' Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for every two to three kids.
Tokens, such as buttons or bingo chips; one for each kid
Bibles
For kindergarteners, mark Bibles at Luke 16.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the 'Speech Bubbles' Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one card for each kid
Pencils

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
Tell parents about our additional family resources: Studio252.tv and the Parent Cue app.