



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



1. GAME SHOW REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, and buzzer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Direct both teams to gather on different sides of your group space.
- Encourage each team to come up with a team name.
- Set out the buzzer in the middle of your group space.
- Instruct each team to take turns sending one kid to the middle to hit the buzzer and answer a review question.
- Share that the kid who hits the buzzer first gets the chance to answer.
 - If the kid answers correctly, their team earns two points.
 - If the kid answers incorrectly, the other team gets the chance to answer for one point.
- Invite teams to send their first two kids over to you.
- Read a question from the list below.
- Repeat until all questions have been correctly answered.
- Celebrate the team with the most points as the winner.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

These Words

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's
best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Review Questions:

1. What book of the Bible does the verse we heard about today come from? (*Proverbs*)
2. What is the book of Proverbs known for? (*It's a collection of wise sayings—many from King Solomon.*)
3. Early in King Solomon's reign, how did God speak to Solomon? (*a dream*)
4. What did God say to Solomon? (*God told Solomon that he could have any gift he wanted.*)
5. What gift did Solomon ask for? (*wisdom*)
6. Why did Solomon want the gift of wisdom? (*He wanted to be the best leader for his people.*)
7. The wise saying from Proverbs we heard about today says that: "the words of thoughtless people cut like _____. (*Proverbs 12:18, NIV*) What word goes in the blank? (*swords*)
8. What do you think it means that words that are thoughtless can cut like swords? (*Our words can hurt someone deeply.*)
9. Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) also says that: "the tongue of wise people brings _____." What goes in the blank? (*healing*)
10. What does it mean that the tongue can bring healing? (*Our polite words can be helpful and bring healing to people.*)

Bonus question (repeat as desired): What is one healing or kind word you could speak to someone this week? (*answers will vary*)



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(1. GAME SHOW REVIEW, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Use the Bible to read Proverbs 12:18 to the group.) "When we think before we speak, we give ourselves a better chance at getting things right. This verse reminds us how important it is to choose our words carefully. If you don't pause and **think before you speak**, you can lose the opportunity to bring kindness to those around you and therefore, end up hurting them. Whether it's responding to your sibling when you're frustrated, or answering a question from a parent about your day, God can help us have the self-control to **think before you speak.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



*2. THINK [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: White construction paper or cardstock, markers, and additional craft supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of white construction paper (or cardstock).
- Set out the markers and other craft supplies.
- Grab a marker and a piece of paper for yourself.
- Instruct kids to write down the letters "T-H-I-N-K" down the left side of their paper, leaving space to write beside each word.
- Explain that kids will be creating an acronym to help them remember how they can choose their words carefully.
- One by one, talk through each letter, inviting kids to share what they think each letter could stand for, leading them to each question listed below in the "THINK Acronym."
- Instruct kids to write down what each letter represents as you talk about each one.
- Create your own acronym alongside the kids so they can reference it.
- After writing in each question, give kids time to decorate their paper however they wish.
- As kids are working, invite them to share scenarios when they may need to ask themselves these questions in order to choose words that are healing, not hurtful.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on the back of their papers.
- Set the papers aside for the Pray and Dismiss activity.

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I need to make the wise choice.

THINK Acronym:

- T:** Is it true?
- H:** Is it helpful?
- I:** Is it inspiring?
- N:** Is it necessary?
- K:** Is it kind?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Asking ourselves the questions from this acronym gives us time to pause before we speak so we can be careful with our words. **[Make It Personal] (Share a story of a time you decided to think before you spoke and how it made a difference in the outcome of your situation.)**

"You can hang your creation up somewhere you will see it every day as a reminder to slow down with your words. Remember our words have the power to change someone's day and make our world a better place. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with you and give you the strength to choose your words with kindness and compassion. You can ask God to remind you to slow down before you speak."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Kids' completed acronyms from the "THINK" Activity, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their completed acronyms from the "THINK activity."
- *NOTE: If you did not do the "THINK" Activity, briefly introduce the following with the kids:*
 - **T:** Is it true?
 - **H:** Is it helpful?
 - **I:** Is it inspiring?
 - **N:** Is it necessary?
 - **K:** Is it kind?
- Set out the markers.
- Invite kids to spend some time writing a prayer on the back of their acronym, asking God to help them slow down and think before they speak.
 - *NOTE: If you did not do the "THINK" Activity, invite kids to share their prayer with a partner nearby.*
- Close your group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for the power to slow down our words. We want to remember to **think before we speak**. We know it's not always easy to pause when we're angry or excited. Help us find the self-control to slow down so we can bring You glory with healing and helpful words. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show off their acronyms and read off what each letter stands for.