

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Ventriloquist" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Ask if kids know what a ventriloquist is and invite responses. *(A person who can speak without moving their*

mouth so that their words seem to come from somewhere else such as a puppet they are holding.)

- Explain that teams will take turns choosing one kid to read a phrase as if they were a ventriloquist for their team to guess the phrase.
- Choose one team to begin.
- Give one of the cards from the "Ventriloquist" Activity Page to a kid on that team.
- Inform kids that no one else can see the card.
- Prompt the "ventriloquist" to say what is written on the card without moving their lips at all.
- Challenge the remaining kids on that team to guess what the "ventriloquist" is saying.
 - If they do so in 20 seconds, they earn a point for their team.
 - If they run out of time, the challenge goes to the other team. If that team also fails to guess the card correctly, give the answer and move on to a different card.
- Repeat as time allows or after using each of the cards from the "Ventriloquist" Activity Page.
- If time allows, vary the game by asking the "ventriloquist" a question. If their team correctly understands the answer, they earn a point.
- Choose simple questions such as the following:
 - What is your favorite animal?
 - If you could choose any snack to eat, what would it be?
 - What do you like to do in your spare time?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

These Words

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can your words change things?

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It can be a little hard to communicate if your mouth is shut, but there are times when it's wise for us to do so. The key is to know if it's a wise choice for us to speak or if it would be better to wait. **[Transition]** Today we'll discover some wisdom about using our words."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Sticky notes or notecards, paper, and pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids how they would finish the following sentence: "Before I speak, I should think about whether my words are . . ."
- Write each of their ideas on separate sticky notes or notecards and place them in view of all the kids.
 - If needed, lead the kids toward ideas such as: encouraging, nice, kind, true, necessary, polite, respectful, healing, etc.
- Give each kid a paper and pen.
- Invite everyone to create a short acronym or abbreviation that will help them remember to think before they speak and to choose their words carefully.
- If needed, review the abbreviation format of an acronym and give some examples such as:
 - UPS (*United Parcel Service*)
 - ASAP (*As Soon As Possible*)
 - LOL (*Laughing Out Loud*)
- Encourage creativity, but if needed, provide the following examples to get kids thinking:
 - TB4S (Think Before You Speak)
 - THINK (Speak words that are **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, **K**ind)
 - FLAP (Are the words a **F**act? **L**oving? **A**ffirming? **P**olite?)
- **[Make it Personal] Participate in this activity by creating your own acronym then share with the kids some situations when it will be a helpful reminder for you to think before you speak.**
- Remind kids that when they follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with them and gives them the strength to choose their words with kindness and compassion.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

These Words

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can your words change things?

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.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Just because something is true, does it mean it is okay to say it? Why or why not?
- How do you decide if something is necessary to say or if it's better to leave it unspoken?
- Does it change when you're talking to someone who's younger than you? How about someone who is older?
- How can your words change things?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

These Words

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can your words change things?

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, NlrV

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.