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Taming the tongue sunday school

It seems that the majority of issues in my own home stem from our words. Complaining. Whining. Arguing. So most of the verses I feel we are memorizing lately have to do with our tongues and learning how to use them for God’s glory. As I was planning for my chapel this month, I thought I would share some of the things my boys and I have been studying and, by God’s grace, trying to apply. But boy am I thankful the Lord is patient! Click Image for Photo Credit Click Image for Photo Credit Click Image for Photo Credit To start the chapel, I told the kids that I was going to show them some funny pictures on the screens and they were going to have to guess what they thought my chapel topic would be. I shared a bunch of ridiculous photos of animals sticking out their tongues that I found on the internet. Of course, they all shouted, “TONGUES” when the photos were done. And I said, yes, we are going to talk about the tongue and how God wants us to use it to honor Him. I shared James 3:5 - “The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.” I asked the kids if any of them had ever had a puppy before and what happens when you leave something so small alone in the house. Then I showed another photo I found on Google of a giant mess a puppy had made with a roll of paper towels. In the same way, our tongues are a small thing, but we can make enormous damage to people’s hearts and situations. Then I taught them another verse that is a favorite in our house, “Keep your tongue from evil.” Psalm 34:13. We had some fun and got into it with a rhythm and some hand motions. Next, I said, how can we keep our tongues from evil? We need to look to God’s Word! Then I invited 3 volunteers up and placed them in front of a table which I had prepped with some props. I instructed the first volunteer to take what was in the bag and dump it out. BLOCKS! Next, I told him to build a tower. I shared the verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - “Encourage one another and build each other up.” I had the kids repeat it and sing it with me to help them remember. When we say kind words to others, it helps their hearts grow. It makes others stand taller and stronger. On the opposite side of that - have volunteer knock the tower down - when we say unkind words, we crush people’s hearts. So with our tongues we BUILD EACH OTHER UP. The second volunteer had a bowl of cotton balls. I said, “Aren’t those cotton balls so hard and pokey?” Haha - no. They are so soft. Soft things make us feel good. I asked the kids if they have a lovey at home - typically bedtime lovesies are not made with spikes. They are soft and cuddly and help us feel comforted as we fall asleep. In a similar way, when we use gentle, or soft, words, we can calm a person down. I had fun with this one and as I taught, I kept rubbing the volunteer’s face with the cotton balls. Then we memorized Proverbs 15:1 - “A soft answer turns away wrath.” I had prayed and prayed for a relevant illustration of this and the morning of the chapel, I remembered a scene from the movie Moana where at the end, Moana is singing all of these beautiful and gentle words to the crazy lava lady and it totally calms her down. You can take or leave that - but I thought it was helpful and so many of the children had gone to see the movie with their families over Christmas break. So we can use our tongues to BUILD EACH OTHER UP and we can use SOFT WORDS to help others. Finally, the last volunteer had a tambourine. We talked about how the best thing we can fill our mouths with is PRAISE. I shared one of my favorite verses, Psalm 34:1 - “I will praise the Lord at all times; His praise will ever be on my lips.” I had the volunteer play the tambourine while we all practiced memorizing this verse. We tend to want to whine and complain about things, but God’s Word challenges us to use our words to praise Him at ALL TIMES - no matter what’s happening in our lives. How instructive and life-giving I went back and we reviewed all 3 verses and concepts of how we can use our tongues in ways that honor the Lord. Finally, we prayed and committed these things to God and asked His Spirit to help us grow in how we use our words to build His kingdom! When we said “Amen,” I had one last funny picture of an animal sticking out its tongue hit the screens. In case it is helpful, I am including the Powerpoint that I used for this presentation. If you choose to download it, please know that I used images that I found off of Google and I didn’t properly credit them, so maybe don’t share that part lol and extend to me all the forgiveness. I hope this blesses you and helps you teach kiddos this important topic! CLICK HERE FOR THE POWERPOINT CLICK HERE FOR MY SCRIPT Joyfully, Julie Learning to master your tongue is the final in our masterclass series. We’ve talked about mastering the various aspects of Print off this Sunday School lesson about using the tongue to honor God. It is based on James three and will help children see that God is pleased when they use the tongue in right ways. God himself is our example on righteous speech. This lesson was intended for a Sunday School classroom setting but could also be modified for a children’s church lesson about the tongue. Bible Truth: Good speech can honor God - using the tongue. Scripture: James 3:1-12 Target Age Group: Age 7 - 12 (U.S. 1st - 6th Grade) Original Learning Context: Sunday School Target Time Frame: 30 minutes Supply List: white/black board; writing tool; paper, matches, and cup of water Learning Goal: After this lesson, children will understand proper speech that honors the Lord and others. Learning Indicator: By retelling the lessons taught in the passage back to the teacher with understanding to James teaching on the tongue. Optional: Download our Book of James Bible coloring page. Learning Activity #1 Active Listening: Divide the children into two groups and assign the first group the task of listening for the ways that James compares the tongue. Assign the second group the task of listening for the importance of controlling the things that they say. Immediately following the reading of the passage call on some volunteers from each group to share what they discovered in the listening assignment and write their answers on the white/black board. Learning Activity #2 Agree/Disagree: Read the following statements and have the children take turns telling whether they agree or disagree with the statement. Encourage them to give a small statement about why they agree or disagree about the statement from the passage read in James. 1) The tongue can be tamed. Disagree. (Js 3:2, 8) 2) We stumble in many ways with what we say. Agree. (Js. 3:2) 3) As Christians our tongue can only bless God now. Disagree. (Js. 3:9) 4) A rudder is small but controls the ships directions. Agree. (Js. 3:4) 5) A fountain can give bitter and fresh water at the same time. Disagree. (Js. 3:11) 6) A small flame can cause a forest to burn down. Agree. (Js.5) Learning Activity #3 Open Discussion: Help the children understand the difficulty of controlling the tongue especially without the Lord by using paper and matches. The first time you burn a small piece of paper talk about how you can’t do anything to control how quickly it burns the paper and it’s direction. With a second piece a paper, dip ½ of it in water and as it burns the half not wet talk about the wet side representing how when we give the Lord control of our tongue, the Holy Spirit can temper the damage our tongue can do by controlling it’s direction. Test: Ask several volunteers to give examples of ways they can use their tongue to bless the Lord and others. Ask several others to give examples of ways the tongue can be used to curse the Lord and others. Connection with the Gospel: This lesson gives an opportunity to speak to the children about the way the Lord can make a difference in their lives when they put their faith and trust in Him as Savior. The children should be told that the Holy Spirit resides within them when they become Christians, and it’s the Holy Spirit that enables them to live in obedience to the Lord. Present the opportunity to the children to personally accept Christ as their personal Savior by giving a simple presentation of the gospel to them. Have all the children bow their heads with their eyes closed and ask any children wishing to pray and seek Jesus as their Savior to raise their hand. Be sure to pull them aside separately to speak with them and determine their understanding and desire for salvation. Connection with Life: Help the children elaborate on ways they can use the things they say to encourage others and be examples to those around them that do not know Jesus as their Savior. Talk to the children about common areas of sin and encourage them to seek forgiveness from the Lord for the times they have used their words to hurt others. Challenge them to seek forgiveness from those they have said unkind things to that day. Check our our FREE Taming the Tongue Sunday School Lesson. Teach kids how important it is to “tame our tongues.” Our words can get us into some pretty big trouble, but when we “tame our tongues,” we think before we speak. God can help us control what we say and do. Kids will make a choice to not use angry words after hearing this lesson; instead, they’ll learn more effective ways to manage their tempers. When we obey God’s instructions in the Bible, we’ll become better at controlling our tongues. It’s easy to get caught up in silly arguments and insults. Take a look at the full Angry Words 4-Week Children’s Ministry Curriculum series. This lesson is great for every Children’s Ministry, Kids Church, and Sunday School! And, if you like this lesson we have over 100 more free Sunday School Lessons for Kids! BOTTOM LINE: God can help us control what we say and do. OBJECTIVE: Kids will make a choice to not use angry words this week; instead, they’ll learn more effective ways to manage their tempers. KEY PASSAGE: James 1:19-27, Taming the Tongue MEMORY VERSE: “. . . Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19b, NIV) SUMMARY: When we obey God’s instructions in the Bible, we’ll become better at controlling our tongues. If we don’t obey God’s instructions, it’s easy to get caught up in silly arguments and insults. SIMPLE PRAYER: Dear God, Help us learn to keep our mouths under control so we’ll use them to say kind things instead of mean things. In Jesus’ name, Amen MEMORY VERSE “. . . Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19b, NIV) Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry. (James 1:19b, NIV) LARGE GROUP: Put the verse on the big screen and read it aloud with the kids. SMALL GROUP: Ask the kids what they think James was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today’s story. SKIT PIGS VS. BIRDS. PART 1 ITEMS NEEDED: 2 pig hats (like this one: 1 bird hat (like this one: CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1 male, 2 females CHARACTERS: Bob, a quick-tempered pig Jill, his level-headed sister Katie, their classmate, a bird (Jill drags BOB onstage and holds onto his arms, trying to calm him down. BOB is furious.) BOB: Did you hear what that little squawker called me? Didya? Huh? JILL: She didn’t mean it— BOB: It’s the worst thing you can say to a pig! JILL: Well, you didcall her a— BOB: That’s not the point. Nobodycalls me “Bacon Bits!” (KATIE comes onstage, almost as angry as BOB. JILL stands between them, keeping them from coming to blows. In the process, they push her around quite a bit.) KATIE: Back off, Jill. Your brother and I have something to settle. JILL: So you’re gonna fight about it? Real mature, Katie. KATIE: Outta the way before you get hurt. Your brother called me a chicken! A chicken! JILL: What’s so bad about chickens? KATIE: They can’t fly! They have ugly feathers! People turn them into boneless wings and drumsticks! It’s the worst thing you can say to a bird. JILL: You called him “Bacon Bits”— BOB: —And “Pork Chop”— KATIE: And I meant every word of it! JILL: But how did this whole thing start? (BOB and KATIE are suddenly very quiet.) Well? KATIE (embarrassed):Technically . . . it’s possible . . . BOB (equally embarrassed):She means . . . if you insist on an explanation . . . KATIE: Bob had this toy pig that squeals if you squeeze his snout. It’s socool . . . BOB: And Katie was playing with a toy bird that really flies . . . KATIE: And we both wanted to play with the other’s toy, but . . . we didn’t wanna share ours. JILL: So let me get this straight: You were both being selfish? BOB: I wouldn’t put it that way— JILL: So you started calling each other names. KATIE: I guess that’s one way to say it— JILL: And now you’re ready to hit each other, all because of some silly toys that cost about five bucks? (BOB and KATIE shrug sheepishly.) Maybe if you listened to each other and tried to work things out— BOB: I guess letting Katie use Mr. Squeals isn’t a big deal. JILL: Instead of calling names, KATIE: Bob will take good care of Sir Squeaks-A-Lot. JILL: You wouldn’t hate each other’s guts right now? (KATIE and BOB hang their heads.) Bob, is there something you’d like to say to Katie? BOB: Maybe . . . but she has to apologize first. KATIE: Why am Ihrs?You’re the one who should be sorry! JILL (realizing the fight is heating up again, she desperately tries another strategy):Not again . . . Katie, why don’t you say something kind about Bob? Like, “You have very nice snout”? KATIE: Something kind? About that big, fat sausage? BOB: Oh, yeah? You’re still a chicken—anda turkey! JILL: Guys! Let’s try to be slow to anger— BOB and KATIE (in unison): Stay outta this, Jill! (BOB and KATIE exit, still arguing. JILL throws up her hands in frustration and follows them offstage.) OBJECT LESSON ITEM NEEDED: Handheld mirror Blindfold We’re talking this week about using our mouths wisely. How many of you know you should use your mouth to say kinds things, instead of mean things? (Every hand will probably go up.)Everybody knows that, right? The problem is, we don’t always do it. In today’s Bible lesson, there’s a word picture about knowing what we shoulddo, but not doing it. Can I have a volunteer to help me demonstrate? (Choose a volunteer who’s wearing an elaborate outfit. The student is about to describe what he/she is wearing without looking, and you don’t want to make it an easy task.) That’s a really nice outfit you’re wearing. [Volunteer’s Name],I’m going to give you ten seconds to look in the mirror and admire your fabulous clothes. Get ready . . . get set . . . GO! (Hand the mirror to your volunteer. Time the student for ten seconds, then take the mirror away.)Time’s up! You need to totally stop looking at your outfit, and to make sure you do, we’re giving you a blindfold. (Quickly blindfold your volunteer. Make sure he or she isn’t peeking.)Now, here’s your challenge: I’m going to ask you some questions about your outfit. (Ask your volunteer several questions about what he or she is wearing. Make the questions hard! The illustration works best if the student gets some answers wrong. When you finish asking questions, remove the volunteer’s blindfold and reward him or her with a round of applause.) Answering questions about your clothes is harder than it looks—even when you’ve just looked in the mirror! James says the same thing happens with us when we learn what the Bible says about using our mouths. We shouldsay kind things, because we just talked about it in church. We shouldcontrol our tempers, because it’s what God wants us to do. But sometimes, before we’re even out the door, we forget what we learned. Maybe you’ll argue with your brother in the church hallway, or insult someone right in Sunday School. Why? Because you got so angry that you forgot what God wants you to do! Today, let’s make sure we aren’t like our volunteer with the mirror who forgot what he was wearing. Don’t just listen to our lesson about controlling your mouth, and then forget about it. Instead, walk out of church today and live what you learned. Use kind words instead of angry ones all week long! LARGE GROUP GAME QUICK TO LISTEN ITEM NEEDED: Blindfold INSTRUCTIONS: Choose one volunteer and blindfold him. Ask the other students who are watching to be completely silent. Now, hold the volunteer’s elbow and guide him around the room, giving clear and calm verbal directions when necessary to help him avoid obstacles. Give your volunteer a round of applause once he has successfully navigated the room. Choose another volunteer to be blindfolded. This time, allow that volunteer to suggest a friend he trusts to guide him through the room. (Older students are a better choice for this activity.) See if they can successfully avoid the obstacles and complete the task. VARIATION: Use the stopwatch function on your cell phone to time the pairs of students as they navigate the room. See who can complete the task fastest. WHAT’S THE POINT? Today’s Bible story tells us that we should be “quick to listen” but “slow to speak.” That’s exactly what our blindfolded volunteers had to do if they wanted to make their way across the room. They had to listen to directions and not interrupt, or they probably would have tripped over something! Listening kept them safe. When we start to get angry in real life, we can use the same advice. We should listen carefully to what the other person is saying, instead of interrupting. That will help us control our tongues, because listening keeps us safe from losing our tempers. LARGE GROUP LESSON BOTTOM LINE: God can help us control what we say and do. OBJECTIVE: Kids will make a choice to not use angry words this week; instead, they’ll learn more effective ways to manage their tempers. KEY PASSAGE: James 1:19-27, Taming the Tongue INTRODUCTION Imagine that tomorrow you walk into school and find out that everything has changed—in a good way! Your first clue is when Mom drops you off in the car rider line. You have to walk past the meanest teacher at your school, the one who usually yells at any kid unlucky enough to cross her path. But today, she gives you a huge smile and says, “Have a wonderful day!” When you get to your classroom, you realize thatit’s not just a teacher who’s different. You know the bully who likes to insult people and push them around when the teacher’s not looking? He walks towards your desk, and you’re afraid he’s going to start a fight. But instead, he says, “Your drawing in art class yesterday was really good! I think you’re a talented artist.” In P. E. class, the teacher says you’re playing kickball. There’s this one girl who always argues if things don’t go her way. She’ll claim she wasn’t out even when she clearlygot tagged by the ball. Today, you get her out at first base, and you brace yourself for a fight. But she just says, “Good catch. Maybe I’ll get on base next time,” and walks back over to her team. You’re completely astonished. It’s like everybody has decided not to use a single mean or angry word today! You don’t know what made the change, but you really like it. Let’s be honest: This isn’t likely to happen at your school—or any school—tomorrow. But isn’t it a cool picture of what life couldbe like? It’s what might happen if everybody at your school, all at the same time, decided to obey what the Bible says about taming the tongue. Let’s read about tongue-taming in the book of James. READ JAMES 1:19-27 MAIN POINT We all know we should keep our mouths under control. We know that arguments are a bad idea, and listening to others is a good idea. We understand that insulting people is mean and encouraging them is nice. Still, we don’t always say the things we should. Why not? Well, James gives us the biggest reason in James 20: “. . . Anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” In other words, when you’re mad, it’s hard to stop your mouth from raging out of control. On the other hand, when you follow James’ advice in the verse right before that—“Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry”—you’ll have a much better chance of keeping your tongue in check. DRIVE IT HOME Here are some ideas to make your mouth do what it should. When you feel angry, take three deep breaths. That will make you “slow to speak,” just like the Bible says. Then hear what the other person’s saying instead of interrupting to argue. That will make you “quick to listen.” Say a really quick prayer—something simple like, “God, please help me calm down.” That will help make you “slow to become angry.” (If time permits, you might have one or two students come up front and role-play these principles. You portray the role of their antagonist—say, a little sister who’s calling them names. See if they can use the ideas here to calm themselves down.) Let’s take this tongue-taming thing one step further. We’ve talked about not using mean words when we’re angry, but what if we took the time to say goodthings more often, even when we don’t have to? Right now, I want you to turn to the person next to you. Look at that person’s face, clothes, hair—and think of a genuine compliment. “Genuine” means “real,” so make sure you mean what you say. Maybe that person has pretty blue eyes—tell him so. Go ahead! Encourage the person next to you with a compliment right now. Now, turn to someone else sitting near you and give that person a compliment too! It can be about something on the outside (like his eyes or shirt), orsomething on the inside (like he is a good friend or a really hard worker). This week, your challenge is to keep your mouth under control. If you get angry, take three deep breaths and try to really listen to the other person. Say a quick prayer in your head: “God, please help me calm down.” Hopefully, that will make you, “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” But don’t just keep your mouth from saying bad stuff—put some good stuff in it too! Look for ways to encourage the people around you. CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER Dear God, Help us learn to keep our mouths under control so we’ll use them to say kind things instead of mean things. In Jesus’ name, Amen SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND) ICEBREAKER What’s one nice thing that someone has said to you in the past week? MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY James 1:19b Ask the kids what they think James was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today’s story. SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY Ask for a volunteer who is good at complimenting people. Have your volunteer choose a friend. The volunteer’s job is to give his or her friend as many compliments as possible in thirty seconds. If time permits, choose another volunteer, and see if he or she can come up with even more compliments. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Read James 1:19-27 What does it look like when someone is “quick to listen”? How about “slow to speak”? What about “slow to become angry”? After we listento what the Bible says about controlling our mouths, what’s the next step? Let’s say you walk out of Sunday School today and immediately get in an argument. What did James say you’re like? SIMPLE PRAYER Dear God, Help us use our mouths to encourage people this week, not to argue with them or say mean things. In Jesus’ name, Amen SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH) ICEBREAKER What’s one nice thing that someone has said to you in the past week? MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY James 1:19b Ask the kids what they think James was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today’s story. SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY Ask for a volunteer who is good at complimenting people. 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Here’s a video from ShareFaith Kids that you might find helpful to go along with your Sunday School Lesson on Taming the Tongue. Take a look at the links below for other ideas for teaching a Taming the Tongue Sunday School Lesson: Taming the Tongue Sunday School Lesson for children Bible Crafts and Learning Games About Controlling the Tongue How to Train Your Tongue Childrens Lesson on James - MinistryArk

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