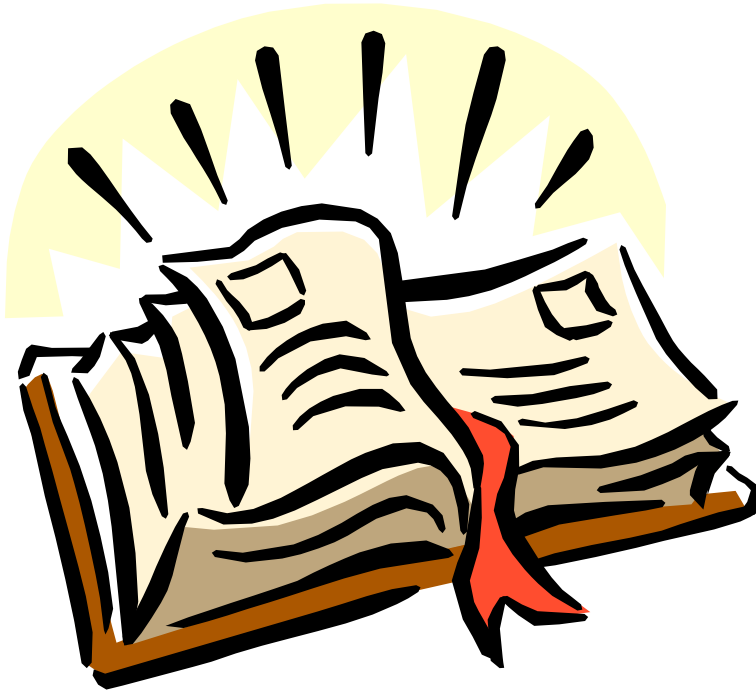


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Taming the Tongue

THEME: God wants us to watch what we say.

SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! This is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week we learned about **Taming the Tongue**. The theme was "**God wants us to watch what we say.**" Our words can either bless others or be the source of a lot of problems. The Bible has a lot to say about our words. As Christians our desire is to become more and more like Jesus. Part of that is learning how to speak the way He would speak.

James tells us that the tongue is very powerful and hard to control. In order for us to watch what we say we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus will help us to watch what we say and use our words to encourage and to help others.

The section of scripture that we studied was **James 3:1-12**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Pride Goes Before a Fall

Text: Proverbs 27:2 - "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips."

Also read: Proverbs 16:18-19; 27:1-2

"I'm going to ace the test tomorrow! I know I'm going to do so well on the test that I don't even need to study. In fact, I think I'll watch a movie instead. I'm so good at math I can do this test blindfolded." Joel went on and on about how well he was going to do on the big math test. This was going to be the most important test all year long. Most of the kids' grade in math would come from this one test. All of the other children were busy studying and a little nervous about the test. But not Joel, he was convinced that he would go to pass it with no problem.

The day came for the big test. All the children were sitting at their desks with their pencils in hand and ready to go. Joel looked around at all of the other children and how they looked a little bit scared as the test booklets came to them. Joel just grinned a great big grin and thought, "How sad that all the other kids won't be able to do as well as me."

Joel opened his booklet and read the first question. No problem, he was able to answer it right away. Then the second problem; he had to think for a few moments on that one. It seemed that with each problem they kept getting a little bit harder and harder. After about half way into the test Joel began to panic. It took him almost 30 minutes just to do one math problem. He realized he had never even seen problems like some of these. What would happen if he ran out of time? What if he didn't finish? What if he failed?

Joel began to wish that he had studied the practice test. The teacher announced that time was up and for all of the children to pass in their test sheets. Joel still had ten problems left on his sheet that weren't even answered and he wasn't sure if he was right on many of the other ones. Joel realized that he had been very proud. One of the other kids asked Joel how he did. He looked down to the ground and said, "Not so well, I guess I must have sounded pretty silly these past few days, please forgive me." "I forgive you," the other student answered back. Joel went home and prayed and asked Jesus to forgive him for having so much pride in his heart. We are learning this week about watching what we say. Sometimes we can talk about ourselves in a way that is very prideful. We need to speak with humility and put others first.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Pride: Thinking more highly of ourselves than we should.

Put Away Lying

Text: Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another.'

Also read: Daniel 6:1-28

Another way that we need to guard our tongues is in the area of speaking truth and lying. The first lie that we see in the Bible comes from Satan. That shouldn't be a surprise because he is the father of all lies. In the Garden of Eden we see how that Satan comes to Eve and deceives her.

The first thing he does is to get her to question God's Word. He asks Eve, "Did God really say that you can't eat from every tree in the garden". That caused Eve to start thinking. She responded that God said there was one tree God told them not eat from or they would die. The Satan says back, "You surely won't die!" Here he completely lies to her. Adam and Eve didn't die physically, but they died spiritually by being separated from God.

By telling these lies to Eve he convinced her to do what he wanted. There are many reasons why people tell lies. But often we tell a lie in order for us to get something we want for ourselves or to make someone else think something that isn't true so we can get out of trouble. But just as Satan wanted to harm Eve and even destroy her, when we lie it is going to hurt others. We can't look like Jesus and be lying at the same time. Ephesians 4:25 tells us to put away lying. As believers in Jesus we should only speak the truth. We no longer follow the devil or his ways, rather we desire now to look like Jesus in all we do and in all we say.

The next time we are tempted to lie let's remember to ask Jesus to help us to put away lying and only speak the truth. The Lord will bless us when we are honest and tell the truth. Like the old saying goes, "Honesty is the best policy"!

- How did Satan lie to Eve?
- Why is it so important for us to speak the truth?
- Can God ever lie? (see Numbers 23:19)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Lie: Speaking something that is not true.
Honesty: Speaking what is true.

Day Three

No Complaining!

Text: Philippians 2:13 - "Do all things without complaining and disputing."

Also read Exodus 15:22 - 17:7 (Review story of Israelites murmuring)

"All my friends are wearing this brand of shoes, why can't I have a pair?" "I want the latest video game console, mine is already a year old!" "I wish I could look like her, she's beautiful and I'm just so plain!" Have you ever said anything like this? Sometimes our words reflect the things in our hearts and often we may complain when we either don't get what we want or things don't go the way we think they should. In our story today the people of Israel had just seen God do some amazing things to bring them out of bondage in Egypt. Surely you would think they would follow God without complaining, but no, they seemed to constantly complain to Moses and to God.

The Israelites are a lot like you and I. God blesses us and provides all of our needs, but we aren't always content with what He provides for us. We think we want more or better and then we will be satisfied. The children of Israel began to look back to Egypt and actually thought they had it better back then, when they were in bondage. So they began to complain against God's leader, Moses. God had to discipline them for their sin.

As we learn about "taming our tongues" this week an important part of that is how we use our tongues to either complain or to give thanks. The Bible says that we should give thanks for all things (1 Thessalonians 5:18). But instead of being thankful we can be selfish and speak things that are unkind. Think about all of the blessings that God has given you and take a few moments to pray and to thank Him for all He has done. If you have been guilty of complaining ask the Lord to forgive you and then remember to be thankful for all things. We need to be content with what we have and to trust the Lord for everything we need.

- Do you complain about all things or give thanks for all things?
- Why is complaining a bad thing to do?
- What happened when the Israelites complained?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Complaining: Letting others know I am displeased or dissatisfied with what I have or how people treat me.

Building Up!

Text: Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

Also read: Acts 11:19-26

In the first three devotions this week we looked at what we should not do with our tongues. In the last two devotions we are going to look at what we should do. The word "edification" is a very big word. The real meaning of that word is to "build up". So to say that we should edify one another really means that we should build up one another. Another way of putting it is that we are to encourage one another.

Think about a time when you had something really important that you needed to accomplish. Perhaps you worked really hard to complete it. Maybe there was someone who came alongside you and encouraged you. They might have said something like, "You can do it." Or "You are working so hard, I just know you have that done in no time." It is so much easier for us to finish a task when we have others around us to encourage us and help us along. When we don't have any encouragement then it can be harder for us to keep on plugging away to get the task done.

God knew that we needed encouragement to serve Him, so He tells His people to build up one another. We should be encouragers in what we say to others. Our words can either build others up and encourage them to complete what God has for them, or they can tear down and do damage. So part of learning how to tame our tongue is not only the keeping away from those things we shouldn't do, but also to begin to do those things that God wants us to do. God wants us to be encouragers like Barnabas was in the book of Acts. He was used greatly by God to encourage the believers of his day. Let's all be a Barnabas.

- What are some ways that you can encourage others?
- How did Barnabas encourage the believers in his day?
- Why is it important to be an encourager?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Edify: To build up or encourage others.

Day Five

Go Tell the World!

Text: Mark 16:15 - "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"

Also read: Acts 1:8

While our tongues can certainly do a lot of damage to other people if we aren't careful, our tongues can also do a lot of good. One of the greatest ways we can use our mouths for the Lord is to tell others about the good news of Jesus. Many of you may have already asked Jesus to come into your life. Do you remember how that happened? You had to hear about Jesus from someone. Maybe your mom or dad told you about Jesus. Maybe a Sunday School teacher told you about Jesus. Maybe you read about Him in the Bible. But somewhere and somehow you heard about Jesus.

Jesus wants to use each one of us as His children to carry His message of salvation all over the world. We can tell our friends at school about Jesus. We can tell our neighbors down the street about Jesus. We can tell those who are in our family and don't know Jesus about His great love for them. If you have a relationship with Jesus, then you certainly have something wonderful to share with other. The Bible says in Romans 10 that people believe in Jesus when they hear the word of God, and they hear the Word of God when someone preaches, or speaks it. So God wants to use us to be the ones to go and tell everyone.

But it may be kind of scary for some of us to tell others about Jesus. What if they think we are silly? What if they say, "Go away!?" How will I know what to say? We might be a little fearful the first few times we tell others about Jesus, but God promises that He will help us through His Holy Spirit to know exactly what to say and how to say it. Also we need to remember that it is not our job to talk people into becoming Christians. Our job is to simply share the good news of Jesus and what He has done for us. It is up to God to do the rest. So just pray and ask God for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with others today.

- Who do you think the Lord might like you to share the good news of Jesus with?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week let's pray that the Lord would help us to watch how we use our tongues. Let's be careful not to use it to boast, lie or complain, but rather to encourage others and tell others about Jesus. Ask God for strength to do say the right things and He will help you!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"...the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"

Third Grade and Above

"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"

James 3:5