



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

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.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

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

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Zip It!
Application Activity: No Take Backs
Memory Verse Activity: What's Missing?
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God helped you to choose your words carefully. Ask God to help the kids in your group choose words that are healing, not hurtful, when they speak.

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, NIRV

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.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask:
 - Were you ready to show self-control this week? How did it go?
 - If you lost control, when did you lose control? What happened?
- Once a few kids have arrived, lead them in a game called "Loud or Quiet."
- Share that you are going to call out an action and then say "loud" or "quiet."
- Instruct the kids to perform the action loudly or quietly, depending on your command.
- One at a time, call out an action from below and say "loud" or "quiet" after each action, depending on how you'd like that action performed.
- If time allows, invite older kids to come up with different actions, then say "loud" or "quiet."
- Actions:
 - Stomp your feet
 - Clap your hands five times
 - Give a friend a high five
 - Sing "The Alphabet Song"
 - Jog in place
 - Say your name
 - Roar like a lion
 - Gobble like a turkey
 - Yawn
 - Name your favorite color



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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: "Taboo Cards" Activity Pages, dry-erase board and dry-erase marker (or poster board and washable marker), and timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
 - Make sure you have a mix of older and younger kids on each team.
- Lead the kids to play a game that's like Taboo®.
- Share that the goal of the game is to guess what's on the card without saying any of the words that are listed on the bottom of the cards—the taboo words.
- Choose a kid from each team to be your scorekeeper.
- Encourage each team to select the oldest kid on their team to go first as the "clue giver."
- Select another kid on the opposite team (not a pre-reader) to be the "buzzer."
- Explain the following to the group:
 - The "buzzer" will look over the "clue giver's" shoulder to make sure they don't say any taboo words when giving clues.
 - If the "clue giver" says a taboo word, the kid watching will say "BUZZ!" For every buzz, the team loses a point.
 - *NOTE: Support pre-readers by quietly reviewing the words on the card with them beforehand.*
- To start the game, choose a team to go first.
- Set the timer for one minute.
- Pile up the cards from the "Taboo Cards" Activity Page.
- Set the pile of cards in front of the first "clue giver."
- Prompt the "clue giver" to begin drawing cards from the "Taboo Cards" Activity Page.
- Instruct the "clue giver's" team to try to guess as many items on the cards as possible in one minute without the "clue giver" saying any of the taboo words.
- Start the timer as play begins.
- Remind the "buzzer" to check if the "clue giver" says any taboo words.
- Invite the scorekeeper to mark their team's score after the round ends on the board.
- Once the round is up, instruct the next team to take their turn in the same way.
- Play back and forth between teams as time allows.
- Total up the points and celebrate a winning team!

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love this game! But it's hard NOT to say the words at the bottom of the card when giving clues! To be successful at Taboo®, you have to choose your words carefully so you don't get buzzed and lose points. **[Transition]** Today, we'll hear about the power of our words and why self-control is important. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



* 1. ZIP IT!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page, and markers or colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get in pairs.
- Choose a kid to look up Proverbs 12:18.
 - Encourage the kid to open to the middle of the Bible to find the book of Psalms, then to the right to find Proverbs. Help them navigate to chapter 12 and verse 18.
- Choose another kid who would like to read the verse out loud to the group.
- Repeat the verse one more time by reading the verse out loud to the group.
- Remind the kids that words can help or heal. Also remind them that showing self-control can help us choose our words carefully.
- Give each kid a "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers or colored pencils.
- Encourage kids to color and add details (hair, eye color, etc.) to make the picture on the "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page look like them.
- Point out the verse inside the mouth.
- As kids finish coloring, show kids how to fold their mouths to close up the lips.
 - See this link for an example or scan the QR code below: <https://bit.ly/3xD0rKs>

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



- Encourage older kids to help younger kids with the folding.
- Read a few of the suggested scenarios below, and instruct the kids to open and close the mouths of their drawings in the "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page as you do.
 - When I'm really mad and just want to yell, I'll pause, close my mouth, (*lead kids to close their "mouths"*) and think first instead.
 - When someone is kind to me, and I want to say, "thank you," I'll open my mouth (*lead kids to open their "mouths"*) and say it!
 - When my brother takes something, and I'm SUPER mad, I'll close my mouth, (*lead kids to close their "mouths"*) then take a deep breath to calm down!
 - When my friend pays me a compliment, and it makes me feel good, I'll open my mouth, (*lead kids to open their "mouths"*) and say something kind back!
- Ask kids to write their names on their "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page, and set them aside for the Pray and Dismiss Activity.

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:

"Your mouth drawings look awesome! The words you say really matter. We can all name a time when someone's words really hurt us. And we can also think of times



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 1. ZIP IT!, CONTINUED)

when someone's words built us up and helped us feel better. None of us mean to say words that hurt. But sometimes, we're careless and we don't stop to think before we speak. This week, I want you to think first and speak second. If the thing you're about to say isn't helpful, it's best to close your mouth and keep it to yourself! We can ask God to help us speak carefully and choose to **think before you speak.**"

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when someone said something to you as a kid that really built you up. How did those words help you feel better? Point out how those words are words you still remember all these years later.)



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. NO TAKE BACKS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic tablecloth, travel-sized toothpaste, paper plates, craft sticks, timer, and hand wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover your activity area with the plastic tablecloth.
- Instruct the kids to get in pairs. (It's okay if there is a group of 3.)
- Give each pair a paper plate, a travel-sized tube of toothpaste, and two craft sticks.
- Instruct the kids to take turns writing their initials using the toothpaste.
 - To do this have kids squeeze the toothpaste on one side of their plate, emptying the tube.
 - If both kids in the pair complete their initials and there is still toothpaste left in the tube, challenge them to squeeze ALL of the toothpaste out onto the plate.
- Once all tubes are completely empty, instruct the pairs that they'll have 30 seconds to try to get the toothpaste back into the tube using the craft sticks.
- Start the timer.
- Encourage kids to try to get the toothpaste into the tube.
- Once the thirty seconds are up, ask the pairs to share how it went.
- Enlist older kids to throw their plates and tubes of toothpaste away and dispose of the tablecloth.
- Give out wipes for cleaning hands.
- As the kids clean up, ask:
 - What was easier, pushing the toothpaste out or putting it back in?
 - How are the words you say like the toothpaste in that tube? (*Just like you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube, you can't unsay the words you've said! You can't take them back or rewind and erase them.*)

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Why do words matter? (*Invite responses.*) Because words have the power to heal or hurt. With our words, we can build someone up and encourage them. But words can also have the opposite effect. If we're not careful with our words, we could end up hurting the people around us. This week, when you find yourself wanting to say something you know you shouldn't say because you're hurt or frustrated or angry, stop and think about this toothpaste challenge! Remember that harsh and hurtful words can't be unheard. Instead, you need to stop and **think before you speak.**

"This won't always be easy for us, but when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with us and give us the strength to choose our words with kindness and compassion. You can ask God to remind you to SLOW DOWN before you speak."



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. NO TAKE BACKS, CONTINUED)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Can you think of a time when you said something in anger that you didn't mean? What happened?
- Can you think of a time when someone said something to you that built you up or made you feel good? What did the person say?
- Have you ever heard the phrase "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me"? Do you think that's true? Why or why not?



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

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



3. WHAT'S MISSING?

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, and a dry-erase eraser (or small towel)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to 2 Peter 1:3a.
- Invite an older kid to read the verse aloud to the group.
- Write out the words of 2 Peter 1:3a on the dry-erase board.
- Point to the words as you review the Memory Verse together.
- Invite the kids to repeat the verse a few times.
- Turn the board towards you, and use the eraser to erase two words from the board.
- Challenge the kids to repeat the Memory Verse again, including the missing words.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, help them arrive at the missing words by giving them the starting sound or mouthing the words.
- Repeat the process again, erasing two or three additional words for the next round.
- Continue in the same way, erasing two or three words each round until the kids can repeat the verse with NO words on the board.

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, NIRV

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:

"You guys did a great job learning our Memory Verse! To play this game, you had to choose your words carefully so you made sure to say the correct missing words. When it comes to the words that come out of our mouths, we need help in practicing some self-control. Do you know who never spoke a careless or hurtful word? Jesus! He was careful to say the right things at the right time in the right way. The good news is that when we follow Jesus, His Spirit will help us practice self-control with our words. God has given you everything you need to live a godly life with your words and actions. You can ask God to help you **think before you speak.**"



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Completed "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Pages from the Zip It! Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page from the Zip It! Activity.
 - *NOTE: If you did not do the Zip It! Activity, simply invite kids to pretend to zip their lips.*
- Challenge kids to think before they speak this week so they don't end up saying something that can make things worse!
- Give the kids a moment to pray on their own that they would choose to **think before you speak.**
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love and care for others. We want to be the kind of friends who use helpful words, not hurtful ones. Will You help us this week to stop and **think before we speak?** We know our words matter, so please help us to choose them carefully. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Pages and point out the verse from the Bible Story today as they explain why you should **think before you speak.**



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Taboo Cards" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Dry-erase board and dry-erase marker (or poster board and washable marker), one for each Small Group
- Timer, one for each Small Group

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. ZIP IT!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Print "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Markers or colored pencils, enough for each Small Group to share

2. NO TAKE BACKS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Travel-sized tube of toothpaste, one for every two kids
- Paper plates, one for every two kids
- Craft sticks, one for each kid
- Timer, one for each Small Group
- Hand wipes, one for each kid

3. WHAT'S MISSING?

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase eraser (or small towel), one for each Small Group

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Completed "Mind Your Mouth" Activity Pages from the Zip It! Activity.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**