

Showing God's Love By Using Kind Words

(Proverbs 12:25)

Objective: *The students will learn that they can show God's love by using kind words.*

Materials: *Bibles, books, four 5x8" boards or pieces of cardboard, aluminum foil, cooking oil, four paper cups, four aluminum foil pie pans, four dimes, four paper clips, apple, toy sword or arrow, honey, toy snake.*

Before Class: *Set up four centers around the room with the following items in each: two or three books, one small board or cardboard covered with aluminum foil, a small cup of cooking oil labeled "kind words," paper clip, aluminum foil pie pan.*

Stack the books. (The height of the books should be around 3 inches.) Make a ramp by propping up the top of the foil-covered board against the top of the books. Put the lower end of the board inside the pie plate to catch excess oil.

Set the other items (toy snake, toy sword or arrow, honey, and apple) on a tray in the front of your room. (You can also use pictures of each item if these items are unavailable.)

Pre-Session Warm Up

- What are some of the strongest wild animals you can think of? (Lion, bear, gorilla, elephant.)
- What is the difference between a wild animal and a tame one? (A wild animal can't be controlled. A wild animal won't listen to people.)

In today's lesson we're going to talk about a part of our body that is even stronger than a wild animal.

Opening Prayer

Lord, thank You for being such a kind and loving God. I pray that today we will learn how powerful kind words can be. Amen.

Memory Verse

Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up. (Proverbs 12:25)

Lesson Review

We've been learning about how to show God's love to others.

1. In our first lesson we learned that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. Next, we learned that God knows all about us. He always knows where we are, what we're doing, what we're thinking and feeling. And, even so, He still loves us completely. In the same way, He wants us to love others, even people who do wrong to us and don't deserve our love. Because that's the way He loves us.
3. Third, we learned that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love Him by taking care of our environment properly. We did an activity that showed the effects of an oil spill on the ocean, birds, plants and animals. We talked about ways to care for God's possessions.
4. Next, we learned that one way of showing God's love is by being a good neighbor—that is, by thinking of others first and sharing what we have with them. We did an activity to show how sharing brings people together and often brings beautiful things into our lives—we put individual drops of food coloring in a dish of milk. Then when we added drops of dish soap it caused the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.
5. Then we learned that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. God wants us to help those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. We put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talked about ways we can help people with hurts on the inside.
6. In last week's lesson we learned that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We counted out

490 bird seed to show just how many times 7 times 70 is – that's the number of times God tells us to forgive others!

Lesson

[Teacher, for a hands-on demonstration of the unruliness of the tongue, purchase a cow tongue at the butcher shop. Let the children look at it. They are gross and the kids won't soon forget this lesson!]

The Bible talks about a part of our body that is even stronger than a wild animal. Can you guess what part of your body that is?

James 3:5-6

*In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. (6) And among all the parts of the body, **the tongue is a flame of fire**. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.*

James compares the tongue to a small spark that can set an entire forest on fire.

A person can set a whole forest on fire by letting one spark carelessly jump out of a fire pit, or by thoughtlessly flicking a cigarette out the car window. And, just as a little spark can cause a huge, uncontrollable fire, just a few words can cause a lot of trouble!

Words can be used to encourage people to do good things *and* they can be used to encourage others to do bad things. There have been times when people have done some extremely bad things because someone told them it was OK to do it. Words spoken out of turn can lead to anger, hurt feelings, and even murder and war.

James 3:8-10

but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. (9) Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. (10) And so

blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

- What do you think the Bible is telling us about our tongues? (We have a hard time controlling the things we say.)

Our tongues can do good things but sometimes they can get out of control and do harmful things. We should use our tongue only to say good things.

- What good things can our tongues do? (Say kind words; give compliments; tell others about Jesus.)
- What ways do our tongues get out of control? (When we say bad words; when we make fun of others; when we tell lies.)

The Bible compares kind words to certain objects. It also compares the tongue that uses mean or bad words to certain objects. Let's find out what these objects are.

[Have the children look up and read the following verses. After someone has read the verse, have them come up and choose the object that the verse is talking about:]

Proverbs 25:11

Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket.

What are kind words compared to here? (Apples)

Proverbs 16:24

Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

What are kind words compared to here? (Honey or a honeycomb.)

Kind words are compared to sweet tasting foods. When we give compliments and say kind things to people, it makes them feel good just like we feel when we eat sweet treats.

Psalm 64:3

They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their bitter words like arrows.

What is the tongue that uses unkind or bad words compared to here? (A sword or an arrow.)

Psalm 140: 3

Their tongues sting like a snake; the venom of a viper drips from their lips.

What is the tongue that uses unkind or bad words compared to here? (A snake.)

Unkind words are compared to things that hurt us. When we gossip, talk about others, or say bad words, we make people feel sad. Our words hurt them

Proverbs 12:25

Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.

The Bible says when people feel sad, their hearts feel heavy. But kind words can make that heaviness go away.

Oil of Kindness

Let's do an activity that helps us understand this. Each group can use one work area that I have set up.

[Help groups find a work area then direct their attention to you.]

Let the ramp represent someone you know. Perhaps it could be your mom or dad, a neighbor, or a friend. The paper clip will represent something like hearing bad news or being made fun of at school. When bad things happen, they just sit on our hearts and won't go away. To show how this happens, set your paper clip on the ramp.

- What is the paper clip doing? (It is just sitting there.)
- What sad thing could this paper clip represent? In your group, make up a pretend situation that makes a person feel sad. Perhaps a friend's pet died or your sister broke her arm and can't roller blade anymore.

Just as the Bible says, people we know often have things that make their hearts sad or heavy. They want the sadness to go away. Our kind words can show them God's love and help their sadness go away—even if for just a little while.

We can let the oil represent kind words. Pour oil on the paper clip.

- What happened to the paper clip? (It moved and slid off the ramp.)

Just like the oil helped the paper clip move, our kind words can help people who have heavy hearts move their sadness away. The more kind words we say, the more we help a sad person feel better.

Kindness takes practice. Let's practice saying kind words to each other. Turn to your neighbor on the left and give that person a compliment.

Now give the person on your right a compliment.

God wants us to show His love by using kind words, but it's not always easy to do that. Let's ask Him to help us do that this week.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your example of kindness. Help us use kind words this week. Especially with friends whose hearts are heavy. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Apple Star Prints

Did you know that there is a star hidden in an apple? Can you guess where the star is? If you cut an apple in half horizontally, you will see it! Our kind words make someone feel good on the inside. We may not always see these good feelings in our friends, but the feelings are still there, just like the hidden star in the apple.

Make apple star prints on a sheet of paper by placing apple halves in paint and pressing them on paper. Write kind words on the paper by each star print.

Hang your apple star print posters on the refrigerator to remind you to speak kind words to the members of your family.

Serve caramel for dipping and eating apple pieces.