

“T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak” - LESSON 1

“Words Have Power”

Main Focus:

We must not let our words get out of control!



Power Verse:

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

– Psalm 19:14



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Use My Words Carefully!”

LEADER'S INFO

“Watch your mouth!” This phrase has been uttered by many parents, teachers, and Children’s Leaders when dealing with children. Too often, children speak WAY before they think! More often than that, the words that are spoken do a lot of damage to others.

Learning to control the tongue is one of the hardest things a child can learn. In this lesson, the children will learn that our words have power! We should never just let them fly. We should always T.H.I.N.K. before we speak.

Through the story of Creation, they will learn the power of God’s words to create the world. In the same way, our words have power to build up or tear down. We must choose to T.H.I.N.K. before we speak!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Watch Your Mouth!”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Peggy Sue teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Gabby McChatterbox”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Who Has The Power”



Bible Story

“Story of Creation”



Power Verse Video

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

– Psalm 19:14



Call To Action

“Words Have Power!”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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– Psalm 19:14



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Use My Words Carefully!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Gabby McChatterbox” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Who Has The Power” Graphic
- Twelve Heavy Books

Bible Story

- “Story of Creation” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Words Have Power” Graphics
- A Cow Tongue
- An Ice Chest
- Plastic Gloves
- Ice
- Spider-Man Action Figure
- Surgical Mask
- Stethoscope
- A Package Of Tongue Depressors

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Pictures Print Piece
- Tongue Twisters Print Piece
- Cup
- Scissors
- Use My Words Carefully Print Piece
- Pencils, Pens, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Watch Your Mouth!”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Game Time!

“Who Has The Power”

Bible Story

“Story of Creation”

Power Verse Video

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Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a new series called “T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak.”

Have you ever had your parent say that to you? “You better watch your mouth!” Yeah, my parents used to tell me that all the time when I was young. That’s because it is very easy to let your words get out of control. And, when your words get out of control, they can do a LOT of damage to others!

Have you ever had your feelings hurt by someone else because they didn’t “watch their mouth?” That really hurts, doesn’t it? That old saying, “Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” isn’t true. Words have power. And - words hurt sometimes. Careless words REALLY hurt!

We are going to talk about the power of words, today. But first, check this video out...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Wow! Our words can be a dangerous thing when we aren’t careful, huh? Just like a careless match can burn down a whole forest, a careless word can really “burn” someone else. Today, we are going to learn what the Bible teaches us about the power of our words.

But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Gabby McChatterbox**” (She is a bubbly and outgoing person who never seems to run out of things to say! She talks a mile-a-minute and loves gossip, leaving her with a hunger for the center of everyone’s attention!)

Gabby: (Enters on the phone, always talking as fast as possible) Oh, I know, right? Well, there’s not enough time to tell you how I feel about that! She said what? He said what? They said what? NO! Oh my goodness! That’s hard to believe. Let me call you back later. Ok, bye! Hi, everyone! Sorry, I had to take that call.

Leader: Welcome! And your name is?

Gabby: My name is Gabby McChatterbox. It’s awesome to be here.

Leader: Nice to meet you, Gabby.

Gabby: Nice to meet you! It’s nice to meet all of you. I really love meeting new people and making new friends. Can we all be friends? That would be awesome! Friends are good, right? I mean who are we without friends?

Leader: Wow! You sure do talk fast, Gabby! I guess we have to listen fast!

Gabby: Oh, that. Well, yes I do. I come from a long line of fast talkers. You have your close talkers, slow talkers, loud talkers, low talkers, high talkers. I’m a fast talker. It’s just who I am.

Leader: Sure. Where did you get your name though? Gabby McChatterbox? That’s very unique.

Gabby: Us McChatterboxes go waaaaay back. In fact, no one else in the world has a name like ours. We McChatterboxes are all the same. We talk very fast! You should see us at our family reunions. They only last about 30 minutes because we say everything we need to say, and then we’re done!

Leader: Oh, I would love to be at your next reunion to see that!

Gabby: We hold the world record for the shortest family reunions in the history of reunions! But, if you were there, no one would talk to you because you’re what we call a “regular talker.” It would be a waste of our precious talking time. No offense. I’m sure you’re a wonderful person and all.

Leader: None taken, Gabby. When you came in a while ago, you were on your phone. It sounded like you may have been a little upset about something.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Gabby: One of my friends, or who I thought was my friend, shared a secret of mine that I trusted her with. The person she told ended up telling another, and that person told another. On and on it went and as it went, the story was changed. It makes me so mad! I can't wait to see her and give her a HUGE piece of my brain!

Leader: Do you mean a piece of your mind?

Gabby: Whatever! If you think I talk fast now, I will be in supersonic mode when I get a hold of her!

Leader: I understand what you're saying. That has happened to me, and it happens to a lot of people. You share something personal with someone because you trust them, but then it all goes south and ends up hurting you and your friendship with that person. But, Gabby, we have to be careful how we respond.

Gabby: Oh, I'll be careful alright. I will carefully choose my words and mess her up! I hope she cries for hours!

Leader: Gabby, no! We are learning all about this is our lesson today. It's our first lesson in a new series called, "Think before you speak."

Gabby: Oh, I'm thinking! I'm thinking about how bad I will make her feel! She hurt me bad and I want her to feel even worse!

Leader: Do you really mean that, Gabby? You don't seem like the kind of person that would do that.

Gabby: Well, I want her to hurt. I think. *(Upset)* Why did she have to do that? I would never do that to her. Ugh! It's so unfair! I don't know what to do.

Leader: May I suggest just having a conversation with her? Let her know how this has caused a tear in your friendship. Be honest, and be careful not to do to her what she did to you. Words are powerful and they cannot be taken back.

Gabby: You're right. Thanks for the advice. It really was good to meet you all. Sorry for the drama. I better go and think about all of this. But I need to think fast, just like I talk. I'm Gabby McChatterbox. Life is fast, so I need to talk fast! See ya!

(EXITS WHILE HER THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Who Has The Power”

Items Needed For Game:

12 heavy books

.....

Preparation:

None

.....

How To Play:

Divide the room into two teams. Have each team choose one person to represent them. It can be a girl or a boy, but they need to choose the representative they think has the most strength. Have the two participants stretch their arms straight out, with their hands are at shoulder level. The goal is to see who can keep their arms up, even with their shoulders, the longest. Tell them that every fifteen seconds, you will make it harder by adding a book to each hand.

After the first fifteen seconds, place a book in both the right and left hands of each participant. Wait another fifteen seconds, then add another book. Continue this until each participant has three books in each hand. The last player to drop their arms WINS!



Bible Story

“The Creation Story”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Genesis 1-3; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

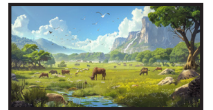
Today’s Bible Story begins long ago - even before the creation of the world. In the beginning, there was NOTHING other than God. God always existed, and He always will exist. But, one day God decided to do something incredible. He decided to create the universe.



He didn’t need any tools or supplies to create the universe. He did all of this by just speaking words. It’s true! In the middle of the darkness, God said, “Let there be light.” (*show pic*) Suddenly, there was light - the sun to light the day and the moon to light the night. God spoke again and the oceans were formed and land separated the oceans. (*show pic*) God spoke again and filled the earth with trees, plants and all kinds of vegetation. (*show pic*)



Then, God spoke again. (*show pic*) He created the animals, insects, and every living creature. But, God was not finished yet. God wanted to have a relationship with His creation. He wanted to demonstrate His love in a real way.



So, God decided to create human beings. He spoke the words and created man. A little later He created a woman. (*show pic*). The man God called Adam. The woman He called Eve.



Adam and Eve had a wonderful life. They had everything they needed. God provided for them in every way. His desire was to be a loving Father to them. Just like any loving parent, He wanted to keep them away from trouble, so He also created a very important rule. He said, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree (*show pic*) of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” Well, that’s pretty easy. Just one rule.



All Adam and Eve needed to do was obey God, and He promised to provide for them and protect them.

Can you believe God was able to create the entire world by just speaking? His words had power - power to create! Our words also have power. We may not be able to create an entire universe with our words, but our words have power to build others up or tear others down. Our words have power to help or to hurt.

In your lesson, today, you are going to learn about the power of words and how important it is that we always T.H.I.N.K. before we speak.



Call To Action “Words Have Power”

Materials Needed:

The “Words Have Power” graphics; a cow tongue (*you can get one at almost any local grocery store meat department*); an ice chest; plastic gloves; ice; Spider-Man action figure; surgical mask; stethoscope; pack of tongue depressors

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Words Have Power”; Place the cow tongue inside the ice chest with ice.



The Message: (*title slide*)

How many of you watch the news? (*allow response*) Well, if you watch the news you probably hear about wars and weapons and things like that. (*pull out the ice chest and put the plastic gloves on your hands*) Today, I have in this box one of the most powerful weapons the world has ever known. What do you think it is? (*allow response*) It’s not a bomb or a grenade or a gun. It’s... (*pull out the cow tongue*) a TONGUE! (*have a little fun showing it off; the kids will love touching it*)

Now, you are probably thinking, “How is a cow tongue a powerful weapon?” Well, today I am not talking about a cow tongue that moos or chews grass. I am talking about the human tongue that uses words that can sometimes be a very destructive weapon. Words have power, and we must understand some things...



The Tongue Is A Powerful Weapon! (*slide*)

James 3:5 says, “The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.” How many of you know that is true? Have you ever been the victim of the damage the tongue can do? Maybe someone lied about you and it hurt you a lot. Or maybe you had a friend that talked about you behind your back and that destroyed your friendship. Perhaps you have had someone make fun of you and call you names. That certainly causes damage, huh?

Words have power! We have to understand that. Have you ever heard this phrase: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but _____.” (*let them finish the saying*) “Words will never hurt me.” You know, kids, that is NOT true. Words hurt. Words hurt a lot. We have to be aware that our words can cause MAJOR damage if we are not careful.

(*pull out the Spider-Man action figure*) How many of you know who this is? Of course, it’s Spider-Man. In one of the Spider-Man movies, Peter Parker found out that he had amazing super powers. His Uncle told him

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Call To Action (Continued)

something very important. Does anyone remember? He said, “With great power comes great _____.” (Responsibility) That’s right. Peter had to understand now that he had great power, he had to be responsible and use it only to help others, not to hurt others. Kids, we have to learn the same lesson...

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility (slide)



We have to understand that we can’t just say whatever comes to our mind. We have to T.H.I.N.K. before we speak. We have to T.H.I.N.K. whether or not what we are about to say is going to help others or hurt them. In this series, we are going to use the word T.H.I.N.K. in this series to help us. (show T.H.I.N.K. graphic) Each letter stands for something that we have to ask ourselves about our words before we say anything. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? If what we are about to say isn’t a those things...then don’t say it.



There’s something else about our tongue that we need to understand. (pull out the surgical mask, stethoscope, and tongue depressors; grab a volunteer to come up and be your patient) When I was young, I used to go to the Doctor and he would tell me to stick out my tongue and say, “Ahhh.” Then, he would look at my tongue and he would know whether or not I was sick.” I was always amazed by this. How can looking at my tongue tell the doctor whether or not I am sick? You know, it is the same way with your spiritual life. A lot can be seen about what’s going on in your heart simply by looking at what is coming out of your mouth. You see...

Sick Tongue = Sick Heart (slide)



It’s true. The Bible says in *Luke 6:45*, “Whatever is in your heart determines what you say...” That means that if there are lies, bad words, cut-downs, and other negative stuff coming out of your mouth, then your heart is probably not filled with the things of God. Whatever is in your heart will determine what you say. If your heart is filled with the things of God, good things will come out of your mouth. But, if your heart is filled with sin, bad things will come out of your mouth. It’s sad, but it’s true.

With God’s help, you can recognize that “Words Have Power.” You can choose to use your words to help others and build them up instead of hurting others and cutting them down. If you have a tongue that is out of control, God can help you gain control of your tongue!

ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray for those children who have had a hard time controlling their tongue. Pray that God will show them how to use their powerful words to help others instead of hurt. Have the children write down some ways they can use their tongue the right way this week. (i.e. encourage someone, tell the truth, tell someone about Jesus)



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Use My Words Carefully!”

2. What was the powerful weapon we talked about today?

Answer: Tongue

3. In our Bible Story, who created the world?

Answer: God

4. What did God do each day to create things?

Answer: Spoke Words

5. According to our lesson today, “The Tongue Is A Powerful _____!”

Answer: Weapon

6. According to our lesson today, “With Great Power Comes Great _____.”

Answer: Responsibility

7. According to our lesson today, “Sick Tongue = Sick _____.”

Answer: Heart

8. Whose job is it to control your words?

Answer: You

9. True or False: “It’s easy to take back words once we have said them.”

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 19:14