

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: Use your words to help others every chance you get

Key Question: How can our words help people?

Memory Verse: *The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.* **Proverbs 18:21**

Overview: We're continuing in our series today about guarding ourselves from poisonous things. Poison is anything that can make us really sick. We're not talking about poison you find under your kitchen sink. We're learning about "poisons" that all of us have in us that we have to learn to fight against. Last week, we learned that our thoughts can be poisonous if we don't think the way God wants us to think. Focusing on negative, fearful, or angry thoughts will hurt us. Those kind of thoughts are dangerous to us and can lead us to act in ways that don't honor God. We learned that the Bible helps us to identify "poisonous" thinking and tells us the right way to think. Today, we're focusing on our words. Our words have a lot of power. We need to be careful about the way we talk because our words can either build others up or tear others down. We probably all have examples of mean things people have said about us. It hurts and can stick with us for a long time. Mean words can be like a poison that makes us really sick. That's why God wants us to be careful about the things we say, just like He wants us to be careful about how we think. He wants us to use kind and helpful words that encourage and build others up. Stay away from poisonous words!

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** What's the nicest thing anyone has said about you? How did that make you feel? Share something nice you recently said to someone else.
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Ephesians 4:29](#). Think of a time someone said something mean to you. Was it helpful? Explain. How can kind words build others up?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - How will you work on staying away from "poisonous" words this week?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: Get kids thinking about nice words people have spoken to them and how that made them feel. Our words have power and should be used to make people feel good, not bad.

Answer: Our words can help people by making them feel special by:

1. Giving them encouragement- telling them all the reasons why we like them.
2. Giving them value- praising them for the things they are good at (sports, art, talking, helping).

We need to use our words the way God uses His words to us. God speaks life into us by saying that He loves us and has created each of us with a special purpose. He tells us why we are valuable to Him. We should do that for our friends and family through the words that we speak to them.

Bonus Questions: What do people say they like about you? What do people say you are good at?

4-5th: What can happen if we never hear words of encouragement? Who makes you feel special through their words?

We should always be careful with our words. Mean words are never helpful to anyone. All they do is make people feel bad and worthless. Instead, we should always look to use our words to encourage others. Follow the rule that says, "If you don't have something nice to say, then say nothing". Use your words to help, not hurt.

Allow each kid to share. Poisonous words includes anything that is mean or critical about another person. Instead, choose to pay people compliments and tell them something nice.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities **K-1st**

Option #1

Poisonous Words Hot Potato

- Have kids stand in a circle.
- Give one kid the ball to start and ask a question from below.
- If they answer correct, they get to toss the ball to another kid.
- If they don't answer correctly, they toss the ball and sit down.

Questions:

1. What is poison? (stuff that can make you sick)
2. What is the Big Idea today? (use your words to help others...)
3. Is the memory verse from the old or new testament? (old)
4. True or False: Our words don't matter. (false)
5. What is the memory verse? (the tongue can bring death or life...)
6. What book of the Bible is our memory verse found? (Proverbs)
7. True or False: Our words have power. (true)
8. Who can help us with our words? (God)
9. What is the name of the book that is full of God's words? (Bible)
10. How can our words help people? (encourage, give value, make them feel special)

Supplies needed

- ball

Bonus Activity:

Play the **Fill in the Blank Game**

Put dashes on the whiteboard for every word in the **Big Idea**. Slowly start adding letters and see who's first to guess what it says.

Option #2

Kind Words Bookmark

This is a great craft that will remind kids of the kind words they should share with friends and family. Encourage them to bring it to school to help them to stay away from poisonous words.

- Give each kid a bookmark template (**pg 5**), precut.
- Give each kid a bookmark word template strip (**pg 6**).
- Have kids cut out each box and glue one into each section of their bookmarks.
- Then let kids decorate their bookmarks with crayons and stickers.

Supplies needed

- white card stock
- bookmark template
- (pg 5), precut
- bookmark word template (pg 6), precut strips
- glue
- crayons
- scissors
- stickers

Bonus Activity:

Play the **Silly Memory Verse Game**.

Say the verse together as a class. Then, say it again while **spinning around**. Repeat, again, but **stomp feet** instead.

Don't Speak Poisonous Words

LESSON #2

KIDS GUIDE

[Online @ pursueGOD.org/kids](http://Online@pursueGOD.org/kids)

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. Words can bring _____ or _____.
2. Use your words to _____ every chance you get.
3. God can help you with your _____.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. What's the nicest thing anyone has said about you? How did that make you feel? Share something nice you recently said to someone else.
2. What do you think it means that our words can bring "death"?
3. How can God help you to choose your words wisely?
4. Where can you find words of love from God to you?
5. Words are powerful. What are some examples of powerful words you can use to help others?
6. Read [Ephesians 4:29](#). Think of a time someone said something mean to you. Was it helpful? Explain. How can kind words build others up?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

"The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences."

Proverbs 18:21

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week

- Read [Psalm 19:14](#). How does what's in your heart affect the words that you say?
- Read [Colossians 4:6](#). What are some examples of gracious/kind words. How can your kind words affect other people?
- Read [Proverbs 15:1](#). How can kind words make peace between people. What can happen if harsh words are used instead?

Parent Signature _____

Learn the 3 basic truths of the Christian faith in the [Foundations for Kids](#) series.



NAME: _____



ACTIVITY PAGE #1

K-1st Grade

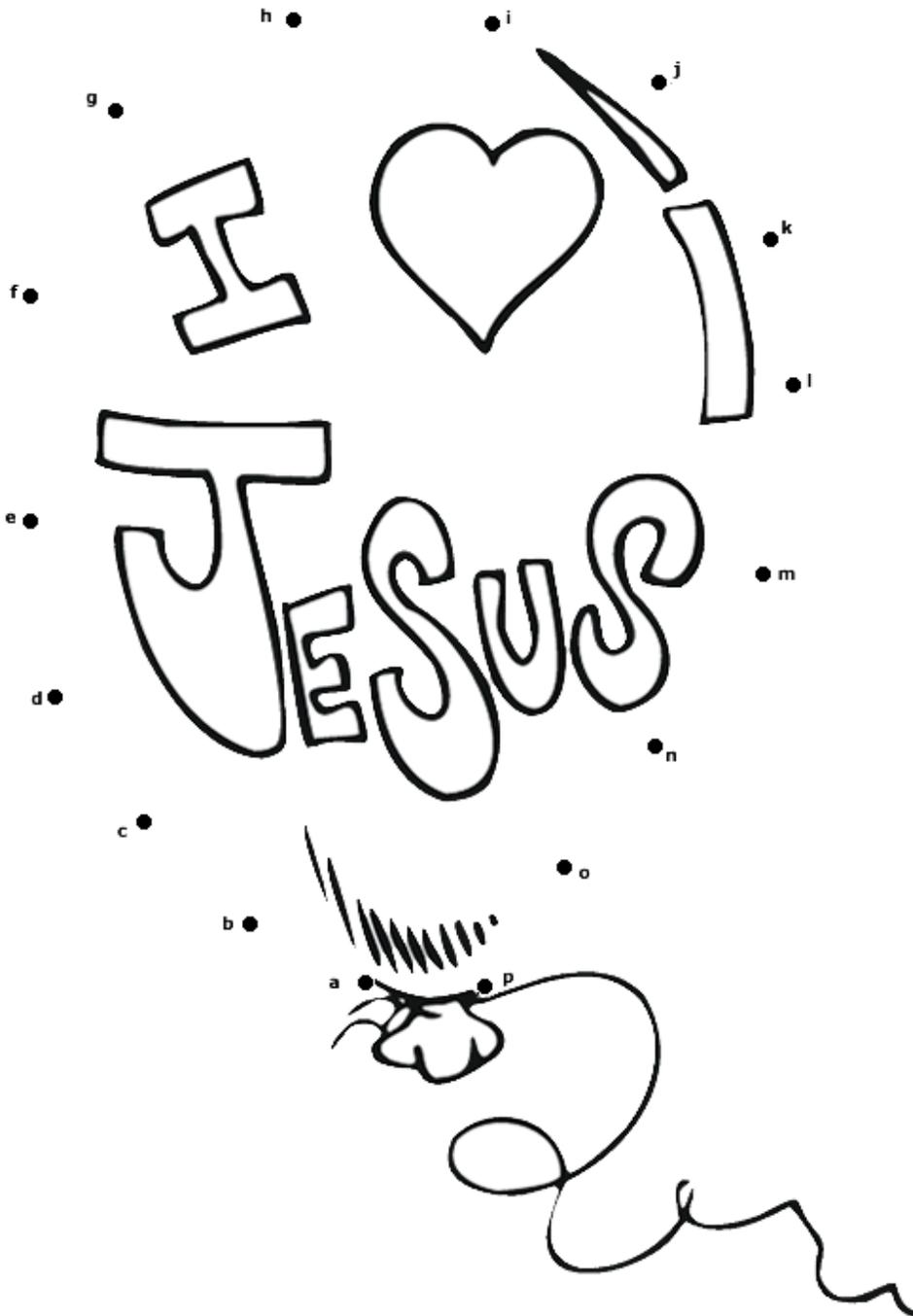
BIG IDEA

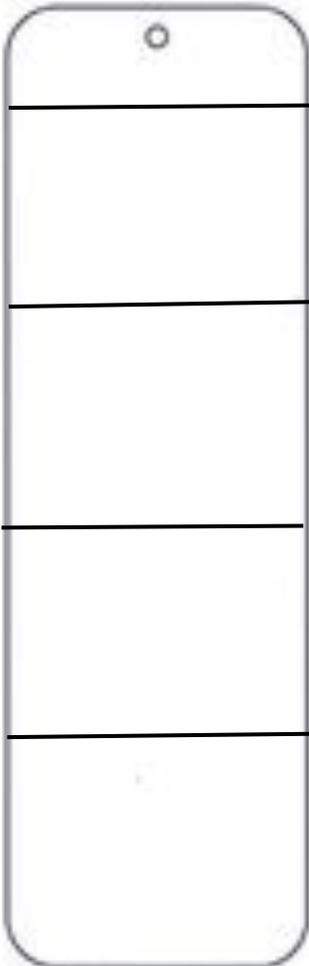
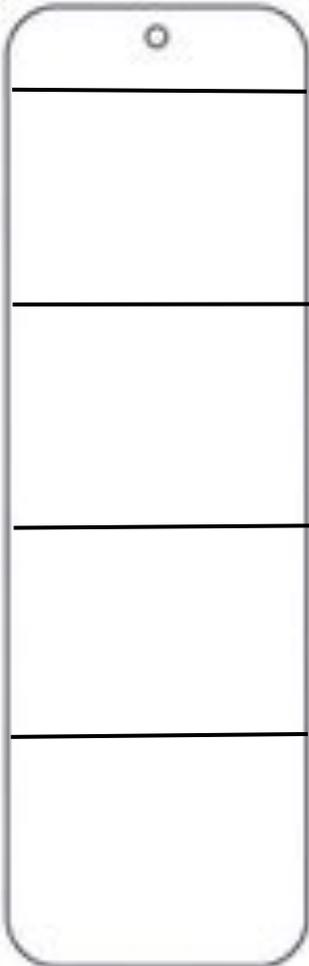
Use your words to help others every chance you get

MEMORY VERSE

"The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences."
Proverbs 18:21

CONNECT THE DOTS AND COLOR THE PICTURE





YOU'RE
NICE

YOU'RE
SMART

YOU'RE
FUNNY

YOU'RE
TALENTED

YOU'RE
NICE

YOU'RE
SMART

YOU'RE
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