



BIG IDEA

When we live for Jesus, what we say matters.

JAMES | LIVING IT | WEEK 2 OF 4

Words

GOD STORY

Words, Words, Words
James 3

KEY VERSE

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.
Colossians 3:12 (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

This series focuses on James's letter. The letters in the Bible (aka the Epistles) have a lot going on in them, and there are many things you could highlight. That's why we have a Big Idea for each lesson. It emphasizes one thing that we really want the kids to learn, understand, and apply to their own lives.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

Lead into today's lesson by discussing how our words can affect people. Introduce the Big Idea.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Read encouraging and discouraging statements, then rate how the words make the kids feel on a scale of one to 10.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Make encouragement cards for the kids to give to other people this week.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Encourage one another in your small group and pray together.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- Use this quick activity to welcome the kids, build community, and set the tone for your group's time together.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- b. Ask:
 - Who do you think would be the most encouraged if you said something nice to them? Why?
 - Who do you think would be the most saddened (or discouraged) if you said something mean to them? Why?
 - How do your words affect other people?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- d. Introduce today's Big Idea: **When we live for Jesus, what we say matters.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Masking tape
- Signs (numbered 1, 5, 10)

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Before the kids arrive, tape a long line on the floor in the middle of your group's space.
- Place the 1 sign at one end of the line. Be sure to tape down all four sides of the paper to prevent anyone tripping on it. Tape down the 10 sign at the opposite end of the line. Tape down the 5 sign in the middle of the line.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Explain that you will read some statements. After each one, the kids will decide how it makes them feel on a scale of one (not good) to 10 (awesome).
- b. Read the following statements, then prompt the kids to stand somewhere along the line depending on how it makes them feel:
 - You look like a 5-year-old.
 - You're funny!
 - You can sing beautifully.
 - You have a kind heart.
 - Your ears are big.
 - I'm so glad you're here today.
 - God has a cool purpose for you.
 - You make our group even better.
 - You have smelly feet.
 - I love that we're both part of God's family.
- c. Discuss:
 - How do you feel when someone says something nice (or not-so-nice) to you or about you?
 - How do you want others to feel?
 - How do your words affect other people?



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Make sure the kids understand the links between today's Big Idea, the God Story, and the Life Story.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Words, Words, Words, James 3)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Kids share how words have an impact on them.)
- b. Discuss:
 - What is the Key Verse for this series? (Colossians 3:12)
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**When we live for Jesus, what we say matters**) connect?



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My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Paper squares
- Markers
- Pens
- Paper clips
- Reminder notes

LEADER TIP

- Make sure everyone's names are written on their reminder notes. Clip the notes to the encouragement cards to take home.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather your small group to sit together.
- b. Discuss:
 - What kinds of things do you think God wants us to talk about or say to one another?
 - In today's God story, James wrote that our tongues can have a big impact! What does he compare our tongues to? (A spark that starts a fire)
 - How does what you say matter to your family? To your friends? To your teacher?
- c. Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- d. Guide the kids to look up Ephesians 4:29. Show them where the table of contents is and then navigate to the start of Ephesians together. Explain that the big numbers are the chapters and the following, smaller numbers are the verses.
- e. Read Ephesians 4:29 out loud.

- f. Discuss:
 - Is this something you do well or not so well?
 - What do you think would help you be more aware of the words you say—and what you say about others?
- g. Emphasize that encouraging words can have a huge impact! Let the kids know they're going to create cards with kind words to encourage other people this week.
- h. Give each person six paper squares.
- i. Place the markers and pens where everyone can reach them.
- j. Direct the kids to write something they could say to encourage someone on each of their squares of paper (e.g., You have an awesome heart for others; You are so patient; You are kind). They could also decorate the cards if they wish.
- k. Instruct everyone to write one day of the week on each card.
- l. Challenge the kids to carry each day's card around with them until they find someone to give that encouragement card to. When they present each card, they should read it aloud to the recipient.
- m. Give each person a reminder note and a paper clip to keep all their cards together.



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Encouragement cards from Small Group Activity

LEADER TIP

- Encourage each person based on their character and not their physical appearance!

INSTRUCTIONS

- Remain in your small group.
- Ask the kids to share some of the things they wrote on their encouragement cards.
- Share your own words of encouragement for each person in your small group. Invite the kids to say kind words to one another, too.
- To wrap up, pray for each member of your group by name.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

LEADER TIP

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.