

# WORDS

## God Story:

Words, Words, Words | James 3

## Big Idea:

When we live for Jesus, what we say matters.

## 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 month, we're doing something less story-like by covering a letter. The letters in the Bible (aka the Epistles) have a lot going on in them, and there are many different things you could focus on. That's why we have a Big Idea for each lesson. The Big Idea helps bring into focus one thing that we really want the kids to learn, understand, and apply to their own lives.

## Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**  
Lead into today's lesson by discussing how our words impact people.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**  
Introduce the Big Idea by reading encouraging and discouraging statements and then having the kids rate how the words make them feel on a scale of one to 10.

## Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**  
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

## Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes \***  
Review today's video teaching and then create encouragement cards for the kids to give to other people this week.
- 5. Prayer Activity** **8 minutes**  
Encourage one another in your small group and then close by praying together.

## Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**  
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!

\* Extendable activity





## 1. CONVERSATION STARTER

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tip:

- Use the Conversation Starter to set the tone for your group's time together.

### Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, gather them together in a group.
- Discuss:
  - 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 impact other people?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

## 2. INTRO ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

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

### Before the Activity:

- Tape a long line on the floor.
- 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:

- Explain that you will read some statements. After each one, the kids will each decide how it makes them feel on a scale of one (not good) to 10 (awesome).
- Read the following statements and then prompt the kids to stand somewhere along the line depending on how it makes them feel:
  - You look like an 8-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 like that we are both part of God's family.
- Afterwards, discuss:
  - How do you feel about someone when they say something nice about or to you?
  - How do you feel when someone says something not-so-nice about or to you?
  - How do you want others to feel?
  - How do your words make an impact on others?
- To wrap up, introduce today's Big Idea: **When we live for Jesus, what we say matters.**



### 3. WEEKLY VIDEO

#### Supplies:

- Video file

#### Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

#### Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Words, Words, Words | James 3)
  - Life Story (Kids share how words impact them.)



### 4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

#### Supplies:

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

#### Leader Tips:

- Make sure everyone's names are written on their reminder notes and that they clip their note to their encouragement cards to take home.
- The kids will need their encouragement cards for the following Prayer Activity.

#### Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Discuss:
  - What is this month's Key Verse? (Colossians 3:12)
  - What was the God Story about in today's video?
  - What was the Life Story about?
  - What kinds of things do you think God wants us to talk about or say to one another?

- How often in a day do you think you say something that isn't what God wants you to say?
  - In today's God Story, James wrote that our tongues can have a big impact! Does anyone remember something he compares our tongues to? (a spark that starts a fire)
  - How does what you say matter to your family? To your friends? To your teacher?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed. 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.
- Read Ephesians 4:29 aloud together. 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?
- Say, "Encouraging words can have a huge impact! We're going to create cards with kind words to encourage other people this week."
- Give each person six paper squares.
- Place the markers and pens where everyone can reach them easily.
- Direct everyone to write something they could say to encourage someone else on each of their squares of paper (e.g., You have an awesome heart for others; You are so patient; You are very kind). They could also decorate the cards if they wish.
- Instruct them to write one day of the week on each card.
- Challenge them 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.
- Give each person a reminder note and a paper clip to keep all their cards together.

## 5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

**Supplies:**

- Encouragement cards from Small Group Activity

**Leader Tip:**

- Be sure to encourage each person based on their character and not their physical appearance.

**Instructions:**

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

## Os Our Story

## 6. DISMISSAL

**Supplies:**

- Take home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Encouragement cards

**Before Dismissal:**

- Place all take home materials where everyone can access them easily.

**Leader Tip:**

- Briefly tell parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

**Instructions:**

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- b. Give take home and Key Verse cards to parents.
- c. Remind kids to take any crafts with them.
- d. Make sure the kids' security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave.