

Topic: Think Before Speaking - Words Can Hurt

Tooth Paste
Spoon
Blindfold
Plastic Bowl
Pen / Highlighter
Script
Towel

Welcome
Prayer

Title: No Taking It Back!

Bible Verses: Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 11:9, 15:1,4, Psalm 141:3

Key Takeaway: Our words can be stones that hurt or gifts that build up. Once they are out of our mouth though, they cannot be taken back.

We probably have all heard or even sang the song – “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me.” We would also probably all agree...that just isn't so! Words can hurt. Words can damage. Words can scar!

For this next part, I need a volunteer (volunteer wears blindfold and holds tube of toothpaste over bowl)

You know, Solomon, the wisest man that has ever lived, attests to exactly this when he writes in Proverbs 15:4 – *“Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit.”* GNT

This Bible object lesson of being cautious and mindful of our words is an important one and one that the Bible speaks of often.

Ephesians 4:29 – *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”* [Other translations use “abusive word” NLT or “corrupt word” NKJV.]

I'm going to read you a story about Jacob and every time I read something mean or hurtful I want you to squeeze the tube.

Jacob was not liked by his brothers, in fact they were pretty extreme with their hate for him. Joseph's father, had twelve sons. Of all his sons, he loved Joseph best because he was born to him in his old age. To show how much he loved Joseph, he made him a beautiful coat that had many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous because it showed that he was his father's favorite son.

A few days later Joseph's father said to him, "Your brothers are out tending my sheep. I want you to go check and make sure that they are ok." Joseph did what his father told him, but when his brothers saw him coming, they made plans to kill him.

"Let's kill him and throw him into a pit and say that he was eaten by a wild animal."

When Reuben, the oldest of the brothers heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not take his life. Instead, let's throw him into this pit here in the desert, but don't harm him. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben said this because he planned to come back later and rescue Joseph and take him back to his father.

When Joseph arrived, his brothers grabbed him, ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing, and threw him into the pit. Then they sat down to eat their dinner. As they were eating, they looked up and saw a caravan of merchants coming their way. They were on their way to Egypt. "What will we gain if we kill our brother? Let's sell him to these merchants instead." So when the merchants came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

Wow! That was a lot of mean stuff to say and do! We know that later in the story there is a better ending – thankfully it didn't end there and he eventually forgave his brothers. But we can imagine that he remembered those words and actions.

Ok, lets take off that blindfold....

Isn't it amazing how sometimes we don't even know how many mean things we say?

So not, here's the spoon – I need you to put this back in the tube while I read these verses...

Proverbs 11:9 – *"With their words, the godless destroy their friends, but knowledge will rescue the righteous."* NLT

Proverbs 15:1 – *"A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."*

Are you done yet? Like we said – words can't be taken back. So think carefully with how you use them. And when we DO say something that affects others, lets apologize for that.

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Topic: Fear

Candle
Tall Candle Stick
Lighter
Piece of paper
Pen or Marker
Ziploc bag cut at the end
Teddy Bear
Blanket
Lightening sounds
Script

Hey everyone! Welcome to chapel. I am so happy to have you here today!

THUNDERSTORM sound effects!

Act totally afraid! Get down on the ground in the fetal position.

Talk about how I am so scared!

Run and grab your blanket and Teddy and hide.

But then say I remember my mom telling me that when I am afraid, I should pray.

Say it with me everyone, "When I am afraid, I should pray!"

"Dear God, I am feeling a little scared of this storm. But I know that you are a great big God and that you are with me. Amen."

Oh, I feel so much better now.

Wow! Prayer is such a powerful thing that we get to do!

I am going to do a little demonstration today using this candle. This candle is going to represent you and me.

Now I am going to ask you a question and I will write the answer down on this paper.

Have you ever been afraid of anything?

Thunderstorms, darkness, clowns, going somewhere without your mom...

Now I am going to fold this paper into a fan.

And fan it towards the candle.

What is happening to the candle?

It is getting wobbly and it is moving all over the place!

That is exactly how I felt when my fear about the thunderstorm was blowing on me!

But then what did I do to help me not be afraid?

I PRAYED!

This plastic bag is like prayer. It is clear because we can't see prayer, but we know it is there and it is very powerful because look what happens when I try to fan the flame now.

Is the candle getting scared and wobbly? NO! Because prayer is protecting it!

When we are afraid, and we pray, God gives us His courage and helps us to have His peace. We can stand firm and not be afraid.

*Sourced by Happy Home Fairy

Pray and dismiss

Guard Your Heart

Dawn Soap
Glass Bowl or 1 cup for each child
Pen or Marker
Script
Pepper
Bottle of water

Theme: Hiding God's Word in our hearts help guard our hearts

Welcome & Prayer

Use your story telling skills to bring the story to life for the children from Matthew 4:1-11 of the temptation of Jesus. Emphasize the point that Jesus used Scripture to answer each temptation. Don't forget to point out that Satan also knows Bible verses! Emphasize that Jesus had "hidden God's Word in his heart" and was able to use it to resist temptation and ultimately drive Satan away.

After you have thoroughly taught the Bible lesson, have a volunteer come up and add sin to the world. (water is the world, pepper is the sin.) explain to kids that we (a finger) are surrounded by sin when we enter the world. (dip finger in water – pepper will stick) but when we hide God's word in our hearts, we can have an answer or way out when we are tempted. (rub soap on the finger and dip into water, the pepper will rush to the edges) the soap represents the armor or verses we have learned. Surrounding ourselves daily with God's word helps you send sin away.

Tell the children that they can choose how to learn Bible verses. They can memorize them quickly to get their "reward," just like playing the game. However, chances are they won't be able to remember the verses later if they "cram."

They can also choose to follow the example of Jesus and "hide God's Word in their hearts" by practicing their verses everyday. Then, just like Jesus, when temptation comes their way or they need God's help, they will be able to recall the Bible verses they memorized.

Read Psalm 119:11 together. Encourage the children to commit to hiding God's Word in their hearts.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you have Bible verses hidden in your heart? Do you think about the verses you memorize? Do you consider what they mean and apply them to your life? You live in the world, so sin is all around you. When you're tempted to look at something you shouldn't, to disobey your parents, to use a bad word, or to sin in some other way, let the verses in your heart help you choose to obey God and send sin away.

The Anger Bomb

Script
Pen
Sharpie
Balloons

Don't blow up like a bomb- or you will have few friends.

Hold up a balloon that says ANGER BOMB

The Bible says:

An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins” (Proverbs 29:22)

If we are hot-tempered and always losing control of our anger, we are like a bomb that is ready to go off. We cause destruction to all those who are around us.

People fee like they have to be careful around us

After a while do you think people will want to be our friends if we are constantly losing control of our anger? No

Don't hang around people who always blow up or you will get burned!

As a matter of fact, the Bible tells us that we should not make friends with someone who is easily angered.

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered. (Proverbs 22:24)

Why do you think it is dangerous to make friends with someone who goes off like a bomb all the time? They may hurt us or they may get us into trouble.

Grow up – Don't blow up!

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel. (Proverbs 15:18)

Learning to spread God's peace instead of our own anger is a good sign of spiritual maturity.

Here are some ways we can spread God's peace instead of spreading anger:

- Silently pray for those who always seem to explode with anger.
- Take our own anger to God in prayer.
- Don't get even with those who make you mad – bless them instead.
- Live our lives as an example

Optional – allow kids to write on inflated balloons, things that make them angry that they can give to God. As a point of silly fun, they can pop them after praying that God can take their anger bombs away, release untied balloons etc.