

WISE

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

We can ask God for the right words.

BIBLE

Solomon's Wise Ruling: 1 Kings 3:16-28; (Proverbs 18:4-8, 21; 21:23)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Going on a Trip ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *One kid starts and says, "I am going on a trip and I will bring. . . (insert item)." The next kid says what the first kid said, and adds something of their own. For example, the first kid says, "I am going on a trip and I will bring carrots." The second kid says, I am going on a trip and I will bring carrots and books." This goes on until someone can't remember what to say.*
 - It can be challenging sometimes to remember the right things to say!

ACTIVITY | In a Pinch ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into two teams. Give each team a bucket of clothespins with either kind words or unkind words written across them. Hang two strings across the room from the teams. Instruct them to pick up a clothespin and run it to either the kind words or unkind words line. Once the first kid gets back to their team, the next kid will follow in the same way. The team that divides their bucket of clothespins first is the winner! (Some examples of unkind words: go away, boring, that's dumb, you suck, give it, you're annoying, I was here first, I'm telling, etc. Examples of kind words: I'm*

sorry, thank you, please, let me help, you're awesome, let's share, good job, etc.)

- Great job, everyone! But let's think a little deeper. **Can some of these kind words be used in an unkind way?** For example, you might say sorry without really meaning it, or tell someone "good job" in a sarcastic or mocking way.
- Saying the right words involves saying it the right way, too!

POLL | Kind or Unkind ▲

- **Which is easier, saying kind words or saying unkind words?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to decide their answer and give them a few minutes to discuss.

THE BIG IDEA | We can ask God for the right words. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids any story you want but pause throughout the story and say you can't think of the word. Prompt kids to help you fill in the missing words by describing the word you want to say. For example, "Once upon a . . . hmm, what's the word?" Kids might shout, "Time!" "Oh right, time. There were three. . . um, animals. They're kind of big. They like honey?" "Bears!"
- Sometimes, we might find it hard to find the right words. Today, we will be talking about how to find the right words, and use them in kind, loving ways.
- Our Big Idea for the day is: **We can ask God for the right words.**

SO WHAT?

VIDEO | Wise, Episode 3 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 3:16-28 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read this passage aloud and encourage the kids to follow along.*
- Wisdom helps us know we can go to God for the right words. When we know what words to use, it can help us in almost every area of our lives.
- **What was the problem King Solomon had to solve?**
- **How did he use the right words to find the truth?**
- This was an incredibly difficult situation for anyone to figure out, but Solomon was calm because of the wisdom God had given him. He had no intention of hurting the baby! But he knew that by saying what he did, he would be able to figure out who the real mother was. King Solomon knew what words to use, so the truth came out!
- **Are your words kind and wise when you are in a difficult situation?**

VIDEO | We Should Say This More ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) of Kid President's, "20 Things We Should Say More Often."

OBJECT LESSON | Can't Take it Back ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Squeeze a tube of gel onto a plate or bowl. After all of it has left the tube, attempt to put it back in through the opening.*
- Once I squeeze the gel out of this tube, it's impossible to put it back to its original condition. This is similar to our words. Once we say them, we cannot take them back. Even though you say you're sorry, the hurt from your words might linger for a while. . . so we must be wise with the words we use!

SCRIPTURE | Proverbs 18:4-8, 21; 21:23 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open your Bible and read the passage aloud, and encourage the kids to read along with you. As you read, have papers and colored pencils ready for designated kids to draw the imagery used in different scriptures (one draws a flowing river, another draws fruit, etc). Then,*

read the passage again and ask those artists to lift up the images drawn when they are mentioned!

- **What does that passage say happens to people who are foolish with their words?**
- **What does the passage say happens to people who are wise with their words?**
- **What do you think it means when the passage says, "Those who love to talk will eat the fruit of their words?"**

NOW WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Words vs. Actions ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line up all of the kids on one side of the room. Yell out different instructions for the kids to follow as they try to reach the other side of the room. The catch is, they have to do an action that is the opposite of what they're being told to do. Here are some examples:*
 - Run! (Walk.)
 - Jump high! (Crawl.)
 - Walk backwards! (Walk forward.)
 - Hop on one foot! (Hop on two feet, or don't hop at all.)
 - Shout! (Whisper or say nothing.)
 - Wave your arms up high! (Wave them low.)
 - Walk with super speed! (Walk in slow motion.)
- It was kind of strange for actions not to match words, right? When we ask God for the right words, we are also asking God to help us to follow up our words with the right actions, too.

PRAYER ▲

- Dear God, Help us to use wise words to speak kindly to others. Help us to be like Solomon, remembering that our words are powerful and we should use them the right way. Thank You for helping us to have wisdom in everything we do.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What was the problem the women brought before the king?**
- **How did King Solomon use the right words to make a hard decision?**
- **How did Solomon know who the real mother was?**
- **Re-read Proverbs 18:21. Our words hold a lot of power. What is one way we can use our powerful words wisely?**
- **What do you think it means to use the "right words?"**
- **Did you ever find yourself in a situation where you couldn't find the right thing to say?**
- **Why should we use words that are kind?**

ACTIVITY | Throw Kind Words Around

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Give one kid a ball of yarn and have them wrap a piece of it around their hand. Tell that kid to pick a friend in the circle and tell them something they like about them. As they tell them, instruct them to toss the ball of yarn to that person, while still holding on to their piece of yarn.. Continue this until everyone has had a chance to share and every kid has had a kind word said about them.*
- See how we are all connected by the words we say? Our words affect each other, in both good and bad ways, so let's remember to go to God for the right words!

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*