

Solomon's Proverbs

About the Tongue

James 3



Old Testament 6
Part 2: David and Sons

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Passages given throughout lesson; James 3

MEMORY WORK:

“Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles” (Proverbs 21:23).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“If Your Words are Sweet as Honey”](#)
- [“Being Kind To Others”](#)
- [“Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [King David and His Sons](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “O.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Picture or objects to illustrate main points of lesson. Examples:
- Large poster board toothbrush (or small toy broom) to talk about cleaning up bad speech
- Large ear to illustrate listening more than talking
- Nail, hammer, small board: Make small indentations in board with nail and hammer to illustrate how even small words can damage a reputation or hurt someone.
- Small gift box to illustrate words of encouragement



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Words are very powerful; I can use them for good or bad. If I love God and want to obey Him, I will be very careful about what I say and how I say it.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

We have been talking about King Solomon and how very wise he was. He wrote the Old Testament book of Proverbs. He had a lot to say about being careful what we say to others. We can use our words for good and that makes God happy. When we use our words in a wrong way, then God is sad. Listen carefully and we will learn more about how we should use our words.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Who has heard the saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”? What does that mean? Is that saying true? Does it matter if we are careful about what comes out of our mouths? Solomon wrote the Old Testament book of Proverbs—a book of many wise sayings. One thing he talked a lot about was how we should be careful what we say. Let’s see what Solomon had to say about words and how we use them.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Solomon was a very, very smart man. He wrote the Old Testament books of Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs. In the book of Proverbs, he wrote a great deal about the importance of using our tongues wisely (i.e., as God wants us to). He knew that if a person is careful about what he says and how he says it, he will not have as many problems as people who don’t care what they say. (Practice the MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 21:23)
2. Words can hurt other people (making fun, calling names, etc.). Words can destroy someone else’s reputation (make other people think badly about them). Read and discuss these passages, as well as the others in this lesson, as you come to them:
Gossip: Proverbs 16:27-28; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:22; Titus 3:2
Lying: Proverbs 12:17-22; 14:25; 4:24; 6:12,17,19
Angry words (loss of self-control): Proverbs 29:11; 15:1; 18:7
3. Words can destroy our own reputations. If we use bad language, we are showing other people that we’re not trying to be like Jesus. Using curse words and using God’s name in disrespectful ways isn’t “cute” or “funny.” It is absolutely **wrong** (Proverbs 17:20; 19:1; Exodus 20:7). We can’t say that we’re trying to be like Jesus if we use our mouths to sing and pray to Him one day and the next day use His name in bad ways (James 3:9-12). [A good example kids can relate to is speech before, during, and after ball games, compared to speech used before and after worship service!]
4. God gave us tongues and mouths and the ability to speak, but He also gave us ears to listen. It is not good or healthy for us—or anyone else—to talk too much (Proverbs 13:3; 17:28; 12:13; 18:6-7,13; 15:28,31). The more we talk, the more likely we will say something we shouldn’t! In the list of seven things that are an abomination to God (Proverbs 6:16-19), three involve the tongue.

5. What are some **good** ways we can use our tongues (Proverbs 25:11)?
 - To encourage (Hebrews 10:25)
 - To teach others about Jesus (2 Timothy 4:2)
 - To comfort, help others when they're sad (1 Thessalonians 5:11,14)
 - To sing and pray to God and each other (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6-7)
 - To thank God and others who love us (Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 1:21; Colossians 3:15)
6. Words are very powerful. Many people throughout the Bible (prophets, preachers, good kings, apostles) used words to powerfully teach God's Word. But others used their powerful words to encourage people to turn away from God. God expected the people in the Bible to be careful about what they said and how they said it, and He expects the same from us. Jesus was the best Example of how to use our tongues and control our words. If we are ever in doubt about what to say, we should ask ourselves, "Would Jesus say that? What would He say?" Solomon was wise about how we should and should not use our tongues, but Someone even wiser tells us to be careful what we say. That Someone is **Jesus!** Jesus said that we must be careful about our words, because God knows absolutely everything we say and everything we think! And He warns that we will be judged by those words (Matthew 12:36-37)!

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- "[Solomon's Proverbs About the Tongue Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- "[Friendly Frank and Mean Marvin](#)" game: Draw two male faces, one kind and the other mean (provided in activity sheets). Write different behaviors (good and bad) on small disks or squares made from card stock. If you have a magnetic board, put magnetic tape on the back of each disk (or square). Let each child choose a disk from a bag or bowl. Read what is on the disk, and let the child decide which behavior goes with which boy. (Frank = the boy who makes good choices and is kind; Marvin = the boy who makes bad choices and is mean). Let the child place it beside (or under) the smiley face or the sad/grumpy face.
- "What Can We Use Our Words For?" game: On one side of a board (poster board, chalk board, magnetic board, etc.) put a smiley face; on the other side put a sad/grumpy face. Buy or make lip cutouts, and write things on the lips that we should and shouldn't do/say. If you have a magnetic board, put magnetic tape on the back of the lips. Let each child choose one pair of lips. The teacher reads what is written on them. Then the child decides if what is written is good (smiley face) or bad (sad/grumpy face) and places the lips on the correct side of the board. ([Lip cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children each have a puppet (sack, sock, finger, etc.), and make up some things to say to other puppets—both good things and bad. (Don't allow the children to get carried away with their "bad" comments!) For good things, puppets can use their words for teaching others, encouraging, singing and praying to God. For bad things, puppets can use their words in the wrong way (lying, gossiping, bad words, etc.). Talk about which way makes God happy and which way makes God sad.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Lies, Lies, and More Lies Activity](#)” (example verses provided in activity sheets): Divide the class into two teams. Give teams (one person from each team competing at a time) a verse about lying. The two students from each team race to look up the verse and read it first. The team that has it right first, gets a point.
- “Listen to Wise Solomon” game: On 8-10 Bible cutouts, write different passages from the book of Proverbs about lying and telling the truth. On 10 different Bible cutouts write the matching Scripture references. Mix up the cards in each group. Have enough so that you have one set per number of teams in your class. Using their Bibles, each team will work together to match the scriptures with the correct references. ([Bible cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- “[Friendly Frank and Mean Marvin](#)” game: Draw two male faces, one kind and the other mean (provided in activity sheets). Write different behaviors (good and bad) on small disks or squares made from card stock. If you have a magnetic board, put magnetic tape on the back of each disk (or square). Let each child choose a disk from a bag or bowl. Read what is on the disk, and let the child decide which behavior goes with which boy. (Frank = the boy who makes good choices and is kind; Marvin = the boy who makes bad choices and is mean). Let the child place it beside (or under) the smiley face or the sad/grumpy face.

3rd-4th Graders:

- “[Lies, Lies, and More Lies Activity](#)” (example verses provided in activity sheets): Divide the class into two teams. Give teams (one person from each team competing at a time) a verse about lying. The two students from each team race to look up the verse and read it first. The team that has it right first, gets a point.
- “Listen to Wise Solomon” game: On 8-10 Bible cutouts, write different passages from the book of Proverbs about lying and telling the truth. On 10 different Bible cutouts write the matching Scripture references. Mix up the cards in each group. Have enough so that you have one set per number of teams in your class. Using their Bibles, each team will work together to match the scriptures with the correct references. ([Bible cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - James 3
 - *Berenstain Bears and the Truth* book, by Stan and Jan Berenstain, Random House (DISCLAIMERS: remove “My goodness!” on p. 10 and “I bet” on p. 11)

SONGS:

“IF YOUR WORDS ARE SWEET AS HONEY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

If your words are sweet as honey, praise the Lord.
If your words are sweet as honey, praise the Lord.
 If your words are sweet as honey,
 Then your days will all be sunny.
If your words are sweet as honey, praise the Lord.

“BEING KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Being kind to others, every night and day.
Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Jesus ever taught us that we must obey.

CHORUS:

O we must be kind! O we must be kind!
Jesus ever taught us that we must be kind.

(REPEAT)

“OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little feet where you go.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little ears what you hear.

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say. (REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little mouth what you say.

Oh, be careful little hands what you do.

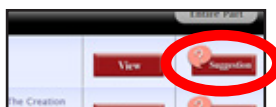
(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little hands what you do.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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Passages given throughout lesson; James 3

MEMORY WORK:

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Words are very powerful; I can use them for good or bad. If I love God and want to obey Him, I will be very careful about what I say and how I say it.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions.).

Talk with the kids about good and bad things they’ve said this week so far, and talk specifically about other things they could say for the rest of the week that would make God and others happy.

Discuss Bible characters that said bad things (Ananias and Saphira lied about their contribution; Peter lied and cursed about knowing Jesus; the serpent lied in the Garden about the death of Adam and Eve; Isaac lied about Rebekah being his wife; Joseph’s brothers lied about his being killed by a wild animal; Rahab lied about the spies, even though she had great faith; the Jews lied about Jesus during His trial; Cain lied about not knowing where Abel was after he killed him; etc.).

Help the kids make cards of encouragement to send to the sick, shut-ins, someone they know who’s hurting or having a bad time, etc.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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