

“T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak” - LESSON 3

“H = Helpful”

Main Focus:

We must use our words
to help others!



Power Verse:

“...Let everything you say be good
and helpful, so that your words will
be an encouragement to those who
hear them.”

– Ephesians 4:29



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Use My Words
To Help, Not Hurt!”

LEADER’S INFO

Nobody enjoys being around a gossip
or complainer. Complaining comes
from a bad attitude. Gossip never helps
anybody - only hurts!

When someone gossips and complains,
the words they are saying may techni-
cally be True, but they are not help-
ful. Gossip and complaints never help
anybody. In fact, these kinds of words
come from a bad spirit and a horrible
attitude.

In this lesson, the children are going to
learn about someone who paid a high
price for their gossip and complaining!
From the story of Korah in Numbers
16, they will learn all about the dan-
gers of using our words to gossip and
complain.

It’s so important to “T.H.I.N.K. Before
You Speak” and ensure that every word
uttered is truly *Helpful*.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Is It Helpful?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Peggy Sue teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Gabby McChatterbox”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Three-Legged Race”



Bible Story

“Korah’s Huge Mistake”



Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“H = Helpful”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Use My Words
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Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Gabby McChatterbox” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Three-Legged Race” Graphic
- Two Bandanas
- Masking Tape
- Two Chairs/Cones

Bible Story

- “Korah’s Huge Mistake” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “H = Helpful” Graphics
- A Small Sponge
- A Glass Of Red Kool-Aid
- A Large Glass Bowl

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Nametags
- Scissors
- Tape
- Several Bags Of Dried Beans
- Styrofoam Cups
- Bowls
- A Way To Keep Time
- Use My Words To Help, Not Hurt Print Piece
- Pencils, Pens, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Is It Helpful?”

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Offering Time

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Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are continuing our series called “T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak.”

Have you ever been around someone that complained a lot? Maybe they said things like, “It’s too hot in here!” or “That’s not fair!” or “Nobody likes me!” It’s almost as if every word out of their mouth is a complaint about something or someone. Doesn’t that make you tired? *(allow response)*

Perhaps you’ve known someone who always wanted to talk about other people. They say things about other people that may be true, but they are mean and certainly not helpful.

We’ve been learning how to “T.H.I.N.K.” before we speak. We already learned that the “T” in “T.H.I.N.K.” stands for _____. *(allow response)* Right! Before we speak, we are supposed to ask ourselves about the words we are about to say, “Is it true?” Today, we are going to learn what the “H” in “T.H.I.N.K.” stands for. We are going to learn another important question we have to ask ourselves before we choose to open our mouths to speak.

But first, check out this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: Gossip hurts. Complaining is not helpful. Before we speak, we should always ask ourselves, “Is what I am about to say Helpful?” If it isn’t, then we should choose to not speak it. After all, our goal as Christians should be to help others, not hurt them.

Today we’re going to learn what the Bible says about gossip and complaining. We’re going to learn how important it is that every word out of our mouths be helpful and not hurtful to others.

But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Gabby McChatterbox” *(She is a bubbly and outgoing person who never seems to run out of things to say! She talks a mile-a-minute and loves gossip, leaving her with a hunger for the center of everyone’s attention!)*

Gabby: *(Enters with a big, fake smile, talking to the kids)* Hello! How are you? Good! And you? Good! How about you? That’s so great. Absolutely fantastic! Everyone is so good! That makes me so happy. *(Trying not to cry but keeping the big smile)*

Leader: Hi, Gabby McChatterbox. It’s so good to see you. How are you?

Gabby: Well, I’m great! See? *(Puts on a big smile)* I’m smiling. Big smile, right? It doesn’t matter what’s going on, just smile. Can you see my smile?

Leader: We see your smile, Gabby, but I have a feeling it’s not real.

Gabby: What? Not real? How can a smile not be real? See? *(Smiles super big)*

Leader: I know the difference between a real and not-so-real smile. That is definitely a not-so-real smile.

Gabby: Oh, I can’t do this anymore! You’re right. That was a fake smile. I tried, but I just can’t do it right now.

Leader: Why are you trying so hard to smile?

Gabby: That’s what I’ve always been told to do. “Just grin and bear it!” So, that’s what I’ve always done.

Leader: I’ve heard that too, Gabby, but sometimes, we just can’t do that.

Gabby: All I want to do right now is cry! And scream! And cry and scream again! Actually, I’m angry.

Leader: Does this have anything to do with what happened last week with your friend?

Gabby: It has everything to do with what happened last week with my friend. Or should I say, my NOT-so friend anymore!

Leader: Oh no! I was really hoping that would all work out for you and her. What went wrong?

Gabby: Everything! I tried to do it right, but she would not have it.

Leader: What do you mean, Gabby?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Gabby: She said she was getting me back from something I said a few months ago. But I know what I said about her was true!

Leader: So, you repeated something you had heard about your “so-called” friend?

Gabby: Well, yes, but....

Leader: Gabby! It sounds like you started this mess you’re in. You listened to something negative about her, believed it, and then told someone else. The one you told told someone else, and on and on it went!

Gabby: I think you’re right. I went to see her a few days ago, and I told her how hurt I was. But now I see how hurt she was, too. How do we stop this?

Leader: It’s tough to stop it once it gets going. But I do know how to keep it from happening again. In fact, I know how to keep it from ever happening.

Gabby: You do? Please, tell me!

Leader: We are learning about this today in our lesson. This lesson is so important because if we do what God says we should do, it will keep a lot of hurt from happening.

Gabby: *(Desperately)* What did I do? How do I never do it again? Tell me! I need to know. PLEASE TELL ME!

Leader: It’s called gossip, Gabby. What you did was you spread gossip about your friend. You should have gone to your friend and told her what you heard. Then, you could have found out if what you heard was true.

Gabby: Oh, Gabby McChatterbox! You have said too much for sure this time. I need to fix this and fast!

Leader: Listen to yourself and go fix this even faster than you talk.

Gabby: I will ask God to forgive me and give me the right words to say to my friend. Will you all help me pray that this mess can be cleaned up? I really want my friend back.

Leader: We sure will, Gabby! Right kids? *(Allow kids to respond)*

Gabby: Great! Take care, everyone! Be careful what you say. When you hear something about someone, please do the right thing and not share it! I’m Gabby McChatterbox. Life is fast, so I need to talk fast! See ya!

(EXITS WHILE HER THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Three-Legged Race”

Items Needed For Game:

Two bandanas; masking tape; two chairs/cones

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to compete in this game. Set a “starting line” with masking tape, and set up the chairs/cones as the turnaround points for each team.

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How To Play:

Have the two teammates stand next to each other, side by side, and tie their inside legs together with a bandana creating the “third leg.” You will do this for both the girls’ team and the boys’ team. When the leader says “go,” both teams must attempt to make it to the chairs/cones and back. The team that gets back to the starting line first is declared the winning team.



Bible Story

“Korah’s Huge Mistake”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Numbers 16; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

In the book of Numbers chapter 16, we find one of the wildest stories ever. Moses was the leader God had appointed over His people, the Israelites. Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt, parted the Red Sea, and they were headed to the land God had promised them. The Israelites had been following Moses for many years through the desert on the way to the Promised Land. The whole trip the Israelites were complaining and whining. They complained about anything and everything.



One day, a man named Korah decided he was going to rise up against Moses as the leader. (*show pic*) He started gossiping and complaining behind Moses’ back to all the Israelites. He started saying things that were hurtful about Moses. Korah got 250 leaders in the community to take his side, then he went to Moses to complain against him. He said, “We are all just as holy as you are. What makes you think YOU need to be the leader?” Moses didn’t get mad. (*show pic*) He told Korah, “It is the Lord that you and your men are rebelling against. Come back tomorrow. We will both call on God. The one God answers is the one who is really supposed to be the leader of the Israelites.”



The next day Moses and Aaron stood before Korah and the 250 men he had been gossiping to. They both lit their incense torches and called on God. All the while, Korah and his men continued to gripe and complain about Moses. All of the sudden, (*show pic*) the ground opened up and swallowed Korah and four of his friends. They were never seen or heard from again. Wow! Talk about a huge punishment!

AND, then fire shot down from the sky and burned up the rest of the 250 men who had come with Korah to complain. How many of you would agree that it was obviously a horrible idea for Korah and his friends to gossip and complain? (*allow kids to respond*) You’re right. That’s not how we are supposed to use our words. The sad thing is, the rest of the Israelites did not learn the lesson. The next day, another group showed up to complain! You would think they would have learned a lesson from what happened to Korah.

(*show pic*) Moses and Aaron prayed for God not to punish these people for their wicked attitudes. Because of Moses and Aaron’s prayers, not everyone was punished. Today, we are going to learn a valuable lesson from this story about how we must be careful to use our words to help, not hurt! We must ask ourselves, “Is it Helpful?” before we choose to speak.



Call To Action

“H = Helpful”

Materials Needed:

The Lesson 3 graphics; a small sponge (*make sure it will fit inside the glass*); a glass of red Kool-Aid; a large glass bowl

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “H = Helpful”



The Message: (*title slide*)

Today, we have heard a really wild story from the Bible. Korah and his friends chose to gossip and complain against Moses. They suffered a terrible punishment. But, it was also horrible for the next group of complainers to do the same thing, huh? They should have learned the lesson from Korah. What lesson is that? Don't use your words to gossip or complain!

A lot of people have the bad habit of complaining. It's even worse when they complain about things in the church. They don't like the way the pastor preaches...so they complain. They don't like the songs that are being sung...so they complain. They don't like the color of the carpet...so they complain. They are constantly going around to others and complaining about all the things they don't like. That's not the way God wants us to be. Instead...



Talk To God, Don't Complain To Others (*slide*)

Maybe there really are things you are upset about. Rather than going to other people and complaining, talk to God in prayer about those things. Maybe He will give you ideas on how to fix it. Better yet, He may show you how you are wrong about the situation altogether and change your attitude about it. That would certainly be better than complaining and getting a bunch of other people involved in your complaints.

It wasn't just the complaining that was the problem. Korah went to others and complained behind Moses' back. That's called gossip. The thing about gossip is...



Gossip Doesn't Help, It Hurts! (*slide*)

Have you ever had someone talk behind your back? It doesn't matter if the words they are saying are “true”, when someone gossips about you it is never helpful. It always hurts. It's saying things that we wouldn't say if that person were standing right there with us.

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Call To Action (Continued)

Gossip can hurt people's feelings and damage their reputation. It can also break trust and cause friendships to end. That is why our PowerVerse says, "...Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." – *Ephesians 4:29*

Remember - Words have power. You can choose to use your words to help others and make them feel good, or you can use your words to hurt. Gossip doesn't help - it hurts! So, if you want to avoid gossip and complaining...



Don't Hang Around Gossipers and Complainers (slide)

You tend to become like those you hang around. The 250 people who hung around Korah - guess what? They all became just like Korah. They all became complainers. If you choose to hang around people who are doing wrong, you tend to start doing wrong yourself.

(hold up the sponge) Let's let this sponge represent YOU. This glass of Kool-Aid is going to represent your friends. (place the sponge inside the glass of Kool-Aid, allowing it to soak up the Kool-Aid) If you hang around people who are gossipers and complainers, guess what you are going to hear all the time? That's right, gossiping and complaining. When you are around others, you tend to "soak up" what they are. Then, guess what happens? (take the sponge that now has Kool-Aid in it and put it over the glass bowl) All of the complaining we have been listening to, (squeeze the Kool-Aid into the bowl) ends up coming out of our mouths, too. When you hang around gossipers and complainers, you become a gossip and complainer. Whatever you "soak up" is what comes out of your life as well.

Instead of gossiping and complaining - choose to leave all of that behind, ask God to forgive you, and never look back. You must always "T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak." Ask yourself if what you are about to say is "True" and "Helpful." Use your words to help others, not hurt them.

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray that God will help all of us to recognize when we are tempted to gossip or complain. Pray that we will never go to others and complain, but instead go to God to ask for His help. Pray for the kids to choose to hang around those who will help them use their words for helping, not hurting.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Use My Words To Help, Not Hurt!”

2. What was the name of the guy who was leading the complaining against Moses?

Answer: Korah

3. What did Moses tell Korah and his friends to do?

Answer: Meet Him In The Morning

4. What happened to Korah and his friends?

Answer: The Earth Swallowed Them

5. After Korah and his friends died, did everyone else learn their lesson and stop complaining?

Answer: No

6. According to our lesson, “Talk To _____, Don’t Complain To Others.”

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson, “Gossip Doesn’t Help, It _____!”

Answer: Hurts

8. According to our lesson, “Don’t _____ _____ Gossipers and Complainers.”

Answer: Hang Around

9. True or False: Christians should always avoid gossip.

Answer: True

10. Where was today’s Power Verse found?

Answer: Ephesians 4:29