

Bible Ninja

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to tame our tongues and watch what we say.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will choose a way to use their words for good this week.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 15:1-7, A Gentle Answer

MEMORY VERSE:

"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you will be content and free from trouble." Proverbs 19:23 NIRV

SUMMARY:

A ninja's greatest weapon isn't his sword or even his karate skills. It's his silence! Ninjas are disciplined enough to stay absolutely silent so they don't give themselves away. Fools let their mouths run free, stirring up trouble and drawing attention to themselves. Kids will learn that there is great value in training the tongue.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to control the words we say.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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MEMORY VERSE

*"The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble."
Proverbs 19:23 NIV*

"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you will be content and free from trouble." Proverbs 19:23 NIRV

LARGE GROUP:

Write each word of the verse on a poster board. Bring enough kids on stage so each kid can hold one of the words. Then have the kids unscramble the words and put them in order on stage so it can be read by the audience.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

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SKIT

STEALTH MODE

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Wise Master - A ninja warrior

Eugene - A wannabe ninja

The Master enters.

MASTER: Welcome, students. Today we are going to learn about being silent. Many people think a ninja's greatest weapon is his actual weapons. The sword. The knife. The throwing star. The nunchucks. These are all powerful weapons, but they are useless if a ninja does not have one weapon more. Silence. A ninja's greatest weapon is his ability to sneak up on a foe before the foe knows he is there. He can strike and be gone before anyone knows he is there.

Eugene tiptoes on the stage, silently singing the Mission Impossible theme to himself.

MASTER: A ninja knows that even the slightest sound can trigger an alarm. He must be light as a feather, and silent as a lamb. If he is, he can slip past a thousand men and strike his target.

Eugene creeps closer, still singing to himself.

MASTER: If you wish to become ninjas, you must learn to move with absolute silence. You must learn to control your footsteps, your voice, even the air you breathe, so you do not disturb the silence.

Eugene starts to reach slowly for the Master.

SKIT

MASTER: It takes great discipline to control one's tongue, to keep silent. But such discipline is the way of the ninja. A ninja knows that a wrong sound can mean absolute disaster. You know, like this.

The Master spins, yells, "HI-YAA!" and kicks Eugene, knocking him flat.

MASTER: Eugene-san has learned the value in silence.

EUGENE: *(unable to form words or speak)* Eh!

MASTER: He has learned that he must tame his tongue.

EUGENE: Eh!

MASTER: As cool as it is to have your own theme music, it can mean disaster.

EUGENE: Eh!

The Master helps Eugene to his feet.

MASTER: Eugene-san, are you ready to listen when I tell you to tame your tongue?

EUGENE: Eh!

MASTER: I am so proud of you.

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OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A tube of toothpaste

Bring one of the kids up front. Ask them to squeeze all the toothpaste out of the tube. When they are done, ask them if they can put the toothpaste back into the tube.

Once toothpaste is out of the tube, there's no putting it back. You can't reverse toothpaste once it's out. It's out, and it's gone. There's nothing you can do to bring it back.

That's the way it is with the words we speak. I can't take back a single word I've said this morning, to you all, or to anyone else. What's been spoken has been spoken. Good or bad, I can't take it back.

A wise ninja knows how to control his tongue. A wise Christian does the same. We don't stay silent, but we are careful to make sure the words we speak are good words. We praise God. We love others. And we don't say foolish things that could hurt other people.

Once words are spoken, they can never be taken back. Let's ask God to help us tame our tongues so that our words are used only for good.

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LARGE GROUP GAME

NINJA BREATH

ITEMS NEEDED:

Atomic fireballs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Give each player an Atomic Fireball. The object of this game is not to see who can keep it in their mouth the longest, but who can suck on theirs the longest without saying a word. The person who stays silent the longest wins.

VARIATION:

This can also be a Warhead candy contest, or a sour candy contest, instead of a hot/spicy candy contest.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God wants us to tame our tongues.

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LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to tame our tongues and watch what we say.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will choose a way to use their words for good this week.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 15:1-7, A Gentle Answer

INTRO:

When kids play ninja, they make a lot of ninja sounds. Kids who play ninja do a lot of “Hi-YA!” and “Karate chop!” and “Wha-CHA!” Some people make sounds with their mouths to simulate the sound of a hard karate CHOP or a karate kick. We create our own soundtracks to go with the play.

Real life ninjas, however, are a different story. You’ll never hear a real life ninja sneak up on an enemy and yell, “HI-YA!!” Do you know why?

Because yelling “HI-YA!” would let the ninja’s target know the ninja is there! Ninjas are stealthy. They move slowly, and silently. They are careful not to make any noise - not even a footstep - lest they get caught.

Ninjas are disciplined. They know it is better to stay silent than to do something foolish and get caught. We could learn a lot from ninjas in this regard because all of us have a tendency to let our words fly.

How many of you have said something you regret in the last week? How many have said at least two things you regret? Three? Has anyone said something today they regret saying?

We all tend to say things without thinking. We call people names. We yell at our parents or siblings in anger. We let our emotions get the best of us, and then the harsh words start to fly. We need to be like ninjas when it comes to our tongues. We need to discipline ourselves to stay silent. We need to use our words wisely.

READ PROVERBS 15:1-7

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

King Solomon has a lot to say about our tongues and the words they make. He tells us that harsh words only make problems worse. He tells us that foolish words will make us look, well, foolish. A cruel tongue can hurt someone with harsh words. And a foolish tongue will mock the wisdom of others, including our parents.

Foolish people let their words fly without thinking. They speak out in anger. They lash out when they are challenged. They make fools of themselves when they speak out of ignorance, and they bring harm to others when they speak out of anger.

A gentle tongue soothes anger. Wise tongues spread wisdom to others. And soothing tongues bring peace to those who need it. God wants us to be wise about how we use our tongues so that only good comes from our words. When we learn to discipline our words, we can use our tongues to be peacemakers and spread love to others.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Taming the tongue is easier said than done. The Bible talks a lot about what an untamed and wild thing our tongue can be. In the book of James, the writer describes the tongue as a fire. Just a tiny spark of a flame can consume an entire forest of trees in a mighty fire. James also talks about the tongue as a wild animal. All kinds of animals have been tamed by man, but the one thing we haven't tamed is our own tongue.

That's not to say we can't tame our tongues. It's only to say that it's very difficult. Taming the tongue requires discipline. It requires us to stop, to listen, and to think before we speak. When someone calls us a name, we don't yell a name back. We stop, we think, we ask God to give us the words we use in return. We seek to give back good when others give us bad. And if we can't think of something good to say, we stay silent.

Taming our tongue can save us a lot of embarrassment. It can keep us from looking foolish because we spoke without thinking. It can also save us from having to apologize later for the harsh words we spent on someone else. Taming the tongue means having to say, "I'm sorry," less frequently because we aren't hurting other people with our words like we used to do.

Taming our tongues can also do a lot of good. Instead of using words to tear other people down, we can use words to share wisdom, peace, and love. That's the way God intends for us to use our words. That, more than anything, is why we need to tame our tongues.

It isn't easy to hold back when someone hurts you. It isn't easy to stop and think about what we say. But the more we do, the more we will be peacemakers instead of troublemakers. Fools let their mouths run free, stirring up trouble and drawing attention to themselves. Let's ask God to help us tame our tongues.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let's choose our words wisely, and use them for good!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to control the words we say.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Is it hard or easy to be super quiet?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 19:23

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Let the kids challenge each other to staring contests, where the object is not to laugh. Who can stay silent and keep from laughing the longest?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Proverbs 15:1-7

How do foolish people use their tongues?

What are some wise ways we can use our tongues?

How can words hurt other people?

What can we do to make sure we stop and think about our words?

How are you going to remind yourself to stop and think before you answer with an unkind word this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to use our tongues for good and not harm.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Is it hard or easy to be super quiet?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 19:23

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Let the kids challenge each other to staring contests, where the object is not to laugh. Who can stay silent and keep from laughing the longest?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Proverbs 15:1-7

How do foolish people hurt others with their tongue?

What are some wise ways we can use our tongues?

Why is it so hard to tame our tongues?

What can we do to make sure we stop and think about our words?

How are you going to remind yourself to stop and think before you answer with an unkind word this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to use our tongues for good and not harm.

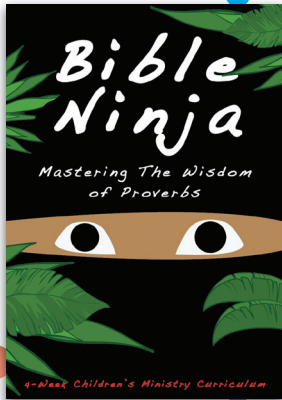
*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A gentle answer turns away _____.
A. kindness
B. wrath*
C. wisdom
2. The mouth of the fool gushes _____.
A. wisdom
B. compliments
C. folly*
3. A soothing tongue is a _____.
A. tree of life*
B. spirit crusher
C. trouble maker
4. A _____ doesn't listen to his parents' discipline.
A. wise child
B. fool*
C. peace maker
5. The lips of the wise spread _____.
A. knowledge*
B. gossip
C. lies



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Ninja Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: STEALTHY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

A ninja's greatest weapon isn't his sword or even his karate skills. It's his silence!

Ninjas are disciplined enough to stay absolutely silent so they don't give themselves away. Fools let their mouths run free, stirring up trouble and drawing attention to themselves. Kids will learn that there is great value in training the tongue. Proverbs 15:1-7



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Encourage your kids to pause and think before they speak this week. How does stopping to think about your words every time change the way you speak?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How do foolish words hurt other people?
- How can we use our tongues in a positive way?
- What is one thing we can do to tame our tongues?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

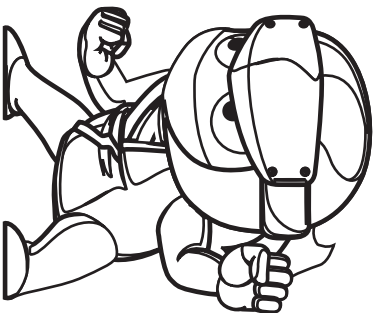
"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you will be content and free from trouble." Proverbs 19:23 NIRV



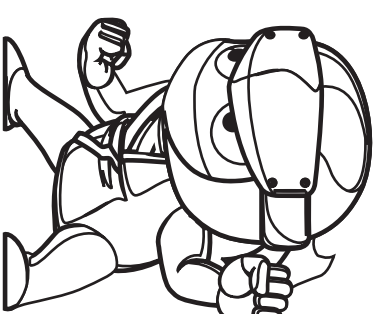
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

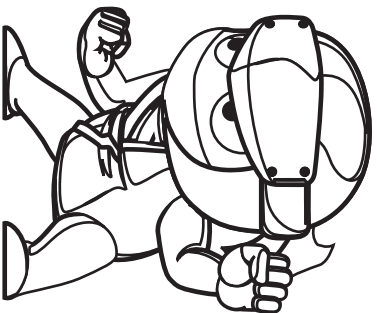
How tame is your tongue? How often do your kids hear you answer in anger and rashness? Ask God to help you curb your own tongue, even as you encourage your kids to tame theirs.



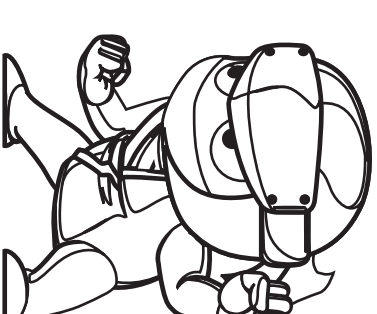
"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you
will be content and free from trouble."
-Proverbs 19:23 NIRV



"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you
will be content and free from trouble."
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"Having respect for the Lord leads to life. Then you
will be content and free from trouble."
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will be content and free from trouble."
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Using fabric or paper and crayons and have the kids make ninja face masks to take home - as a reminder that we are learning to tame our tongues and choose words wisely.