



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Keep your cool and use your words for good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to state the importance of listening rather than reacting.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:19-21

MEMORY VERSE:

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Ever notice how much super-villains love to run their mouths? Superheroes don't let their tongues go untamed. They are slow to speak, and they use their words for good.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to keep our mouths shut and our ears open.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

"Do everything else for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO

SKIT

VILLAINS TALK TOO MUCH

ITEMS NEEDED:

Superhero costume for the Diva; a lab coat for Dr. Insidious; rope

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Dr. Insidious - A super-villain

The Supreme Diva - A teenage superhero

Jack - A Henchman

*Jack the henchman enters from stage left with the Supreme Diva, tied up with the rope.
Dr. Insidious enters from stage right.*

DR. I: Well, well, well, if it isn't my young friend, the Supreme Diva. Looks like I got the upper hand this time, didn't I?

DIVA: Hello, Dr. Insidious. Clever of you to actually hire henchmen this time!

DR. I: Yes, I was against spending the money, but after the last time, my wife convinced me they were a good investment. I think you know what happens next.

DIVA: Of course I do! This is the part when you tell me all about how your new Doomsday device will destroy the city.

Dr. Insidious laughs an evil laugh.

DR. I: Do you think I'm a fool, Supreme Diva? Who do I look like? Lex Luthor? One of those James Bond villains? I'm a little smarter than that! I know what happens when the bad guy won't shut his mouth and listen! They give the hero time to work out a plan and save the day. They ramble on and on about their own criminal genius and how the world will tremble at their feet, and blah blah blah.

Dr. Insidious turns to the audience – doing everything he says he's not.

SKIT

DR. I: Well not me, Miss Diva! Dr. Insidious is no run of the mill super-villain. I'm smarter than them. I'm better than them. I know that pride goes before a fall, and I do not intend to fall! I know nothing good can come of my rambling on and on about my evil plan. I am not a talker! I am slow to speak. I am quick to listen, but in this case, I will not listen to your pleas for mercy! When I conquer the world, it will be sudden. It will be terrifying and swift, like a tornado! It will come out of no where!

The Diva breaks free of the ropes. Jack reacts in surprise. They have a stand off behind Dr. Insidious's back.

DR. I: I won't tell you every detail of my plan, because I don't want you to ruin my plan. When I strike, the world will bow to me!

The Diva fakes like she's going to hit Jack. Jack gets on his hands and knees, silently begging for mercy.

DR. I: They will fall down on their faces in fear!

Jack bows down on his face.

DR. I: The world will be my prisoner!

The Diva ties up Jack's arms with the rope.

DR. I: If you're waiting for me to go on a long, rambling tirade about how I plan to conquer the world, forget it. I'm not foolish enough to tell you my plans or give you the opportunity to work out your escape. This is the end for you, Supreme Diva.

The Supreme Diva walks up beside Dr. Insidious, smiling.

DR. I: This is the end for your city, your country, and the world! You have lost, and I....

Dr. Insidious looks over at the Supreme Diva.

DR. I: I have just run my mouth and done everything I said I wouldn't do.

DIVA: Yup!

DR. I: Come on, Jack, we're going to jail again.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Electric tea kettle

Does anyone have one of these at home? This is a tea kettle. It can be used to make boiling water for hot tea, but it's also useful if we want to quickly heat some water for Ramen noodles, instant coffee, or best of all – hot chocolate. You fill up the kettle and plug it into the wall. You don't need to watch the kettle or any digital read out to know when it's done either. Do you know why?

Kettles have their own way of letting you know they are done. They whistle! You can hear the tea kettle whistling all through the house.

When the water becomes hot enough to boil and turn to steam, the kettle starts to blow. Sounds a lot like us, doesn't it? When anger or other emotions get the best of us, we blow our tops, just like steam out of a kettle. We let words fly that we don't mean to. We speak when we don't know all the facts. We let our tongues fly – and often, we end up sorry that we did.

God doesn't want us to be tea kettles. He wants us to be slow to speak and quick to listen. Instead of blowing our tops, we need to pause and pray. Ask God to help you listen, and don't speak out of anger.

Heroes don't run their mouths, or blow their tops. Hold your tongue and learn to listen.

LARGE GROUP GAME

BLOW OUT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Balloons

2 Air pumps

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Connect a balloon to each air pump. The two players will race to see who can blow their balloon up until it either pops or springs loose and flies around the room. First one to lose their balloon wins.

VARIATION:

A simple alternative is to have kids chew bubble gum and see who can blow a bubble first.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We need to resist the urge to "blow up" and say whatever we're thinking without listening to others and considering how our words might make them feel.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Keep your cool and use your words for good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to state the importance of listening rather than reacting.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:19-21

INTRO:

Last week we started this series talking about some of the many characteristics superheroes have in common. Every hero has powers, a cool costume, an original story, and a reason for fighting crime. But the heroes aren't the only ones with a lot in common. The bad guys, known as super-villains, have a number of traits in common as well.

Super-villains are the characters that truly make the heroes great. The worse the super-villain, the greater the hero. Whether it's Batman fighting the Joker, Superman battling Lex Luthor, Spider-Man duking it out with the Green Goblin, the villains are just as important as the heroes. They all have original stories like the heroes. Most of them have crazy names and outrageous costumes, and they are constantly coming up with crazy schemes to take over the city, or the world, or even the universe.

But just as every hero has a weakness, so do the villains, and most villains have one particular flaw in common: they talk too much! Have you noticed this? Near the end of the story, the villain will capture the good guys and tell them every detail of their plan! It's a foolish move because they're telling the hero exactly what they need to know to stop their evil scheme, but the villains are so full of themselves, they can't help but run their mouths!

Truth be told, we all have problems controlling our words as well. We don't all go around spouting off about evil schemes and plots to rule the world, but we let our tongues fly about a number of things. We get angry, we lose our cool, we call people names, or we say words we shouldn't. We let our mouths run without thinking, and often times, we end up saying things we can never take back that we will always regret, things that make us feel like super-villains!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The book of James has a lot to say about our words and our tongues. James understood how dangerous a weapon words could be, and he has a solution for us.

READ JAMES 1:19-21

MAIN POINT:

I can't think of many super-villains who are slow to speak, can you? Most super-villains love to run their mouths. The Joker, the Riddler, Penguin, Lex Luthor, Loki, not to mention every James Bond villain ever. They don't think before they speak, and they end up saying much that they regret when the hero defeats them and thwarts their evil plans.

As Christians, we can stop the evil done by our tongues if we become slow to speak. If we are willing to hold our tongues, to listen a little longer, and to understand the other person, we can stop ourselves from saying things we regret. God wants us to be peacemakers, and we can't make peace if we're cutting people down. We need to be slow to speak so we can use our words for good.

DRIVE IT HOME:

How many of you spend a lot of time thinking about the names you're going to call someone? When you use a mean name on someone, is it because you got up that morning and thought, "I'm going to call that person a name today." Or is it because something happened in the moment that made you angry? It's okay. We've all made that mistake. We all have slips of the tongue just about every day. We let our anger get the best of us. We start to speak before we know the whole story, or we just lash out because we are frustrated.

If we want to be super, we will learn to hold our tongues and control our anger. We will keep silent and listen. We will get all the facts, and even if someone has done us wrong, we will refuse to lash out and hurt them in return. As Jesus taught us, we need to repay evil with good so that others will see Jesus in us.

It's not easy to control our tongues. Pride and anger can make us say terrible things to others. If we want to be super we will be slow to speak, and use our words for good. A little patience and a little silence can be all the difference between being a villain and a hero.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Teach us to keep our mouths shut and our ears open.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

1 Corinthians 10:31b

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Word Ball. Pass a ball around the circle, and each time someone throws the ball, they have to say a word. Try making it a theme game. Instead of just any word, say the name of an animal, or a superhero, or any comic character.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read James 1:19-21

What should we be quick to do?

What should we be slow to do?

What does James say we need to get rid of?

Why is it important to listen and not just yell back at someone?

How can we remember to be slow to speak so we use our words for good?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to use our words for good.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

1 Corinthians 10:31b

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Word Ball. Pass a ball around the circle, and each time someone throws the ball, they have to say a word. Try making it a theme game. Instead of just any word, say the name of an animal, or a superhero, or any comic character.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read James 1:19-21

Why should we be slow to get angry?

What happens when we speak without thinking?

Why is it important to listen and not just yell back at someone?

How can we remember to be slow to speak so we use our words for good?

How should we respond to the people who do mean things to hurt us?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to use our words for good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

Everyone should be quick to _____.

LISTEN

We should be _____ to speak and get angry.

SLOW

Human _____ does not produce the life God wants.

ANGER

Get rid of everything that is _____.

SINFUL

When someone does say something to _____ us, we should respond with love and not anger.

HURT

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SLOW TO SPEAK



IN THE CAR:

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

Ever notice how much super-villains love to run their mouths? Superheroes don't let their tongues go untamed. They are slow to speak, and they use their words for good. James 1:19-21



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Practice being good listeners this week. Take some time to be quiet and listen to your kids as well as encouraging them to listen to others.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why is it important to be listeners rather than talkers?
- Why do we need to be slow to get angry?
- How can we learn to hold our tongues so we can use our words for good?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

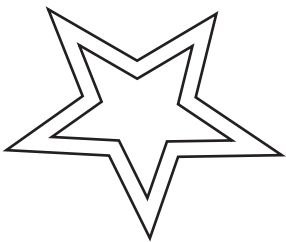
"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

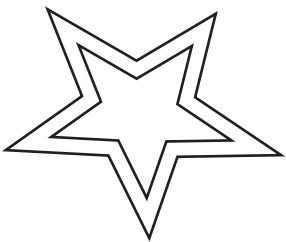
What you need to know:

Ask God to help you to be slow to speak so you can model good listening and show your kids how to use their words for good.



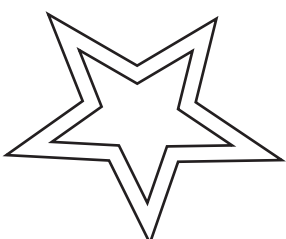
"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)



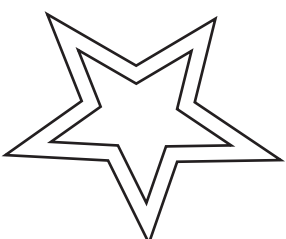
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"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)




"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids color a STOP sign as a reminder they need to stay silent before they say something out of anger.



STOP

BEFORE YOU SPEAK