

## GOD'S WISDOM FOR OUR WORDS

### BIG IDEA

*When we open our mouths, we let people see inside us – into our hearts and minds. What we say can help others or hurt them.*

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Buy** a small tube of toothpaste

**Prepare** small cards with a different word written on each – normal; angry; bored; laughing hilariously; sad; nervous; shouting; TV reporter style

**Collect** a saucer for each person, two pieces of paper (about the size of a plate), some water, a metal bowl

**Find** a newspaper or magazine with advertisements in it

**Find** the 'Thought Spectacles' again

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**



### INTRO

Who can remember some of the 'jewels' we found last week?

Think of the 'jewel' you asked God to help you practice. Tell us what happened.

Today we are going to find some more important 'jewels' – but this time they are about the words we speak!

**TAKE OUT THE TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE AND HAND THE SAUCERS AROUND TO EVERYONE**

*Choose the second eldest child to squirt some toothpaste onto their saucer. Then let everyone have a turn squirting toothpaste on to their saucer.*

*Once they have all used the toothpaste ask the eldest child to please put his or her toothpaste back in the tube. Then let each person try to put their toothpaste back.*

*As everyone realises it is impossible to get their toothpaste back in the tube, talk about how this is what happens with the words we say.*

Lord, make my words as  
sweet as honey, for tomorrow  
I may have to eat them!

*Once the words have been spoken, we cannot 'unsay' them. We can say sorry, but we can never make the words not be said.*

### QUESTIONS

Have you ever said anything that you wished you hadn't said?

Do you find you tend to say mean things with some people more than others? Why?

What can you do when others are not saying nice things?

### READ

*BEFORE YOU READ, TAKE THE 'THINKING GLASSES' OUT OF THE BOX AGAIN.*

The Book of Proverbs has some challenging things to say about the way we speak...

*READ OUT THE FOLLOWING PROVERBS. FOR EACH PROVERB, A DIFFERENT CHILD HAS A TURN AT PUTTING ON THE 'THINKING GLASSES' AND SHARING WHAT THEY THINK THE PROVERB MEANS.*

☞ Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. **Proverbs 12:18**

A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

**Proverbs 17:27**

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. **Proverbs 25:11**

Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!

**Proverbs 15:23 NLB**

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth. And a word spoken in due season, how good it is! ☞

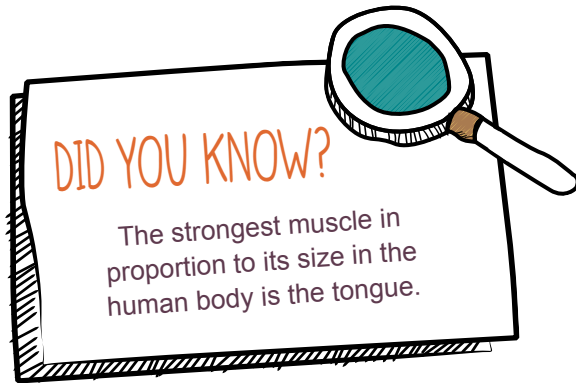
**Proverbs 15:23**

Words spoken may be invisible, but they can leave lasting marks – whether good or bad. Thoughtless comments can wound a spirit, crush a dream or ruin a reputation, but encouraging words can build people up and make them strong.

## PLAY

Agree on a sentence everyone can remember – e.g. – “if they don’t bring the food soon, I think I’m going to starve!”

Now each person has a turn at picking out a card (angry, bored, laughing, etc.) and saying the sentence in the voice and manner described on the card.



## EXPLORE

Proverbs says, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

*Proverbs 16:24 NIV*

### QUESTIONS

How does it feel to control the way you say something?

Which do you think was the most difficult way to say the sentence?

## TAKE OUT THE NEWSPAPER AND ASK THE CHILDREN TO FIND SOME ADVERTISEMENTS

### QUESTIONS

What are these pictures advertising?

What we say is like an advertisement of what we are like on the inside.

What do you think others see inside us when they hear us talking?

How do you want others to see you?

What do you need to work on?

## GO OUTSIDE. AN ADULT BURNS A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER IN A METAL BIN OR BOWL.

*Let everyone see that the flame is very hard to control.*

*Take a second piece of paper and dip half of it in water. Watch as it burns the dry half, but can't burn the wet part.*

*Explain that this shows how, when we let God control our tongue, the Holy Spirit can limit the damage our tongue can do by controlling its direction.*

*Watch the way the water guards the paper.*

## PRAY

God, we ask the the Holy Spirit to guard what we say during this week and always. Amen.

## LIVE

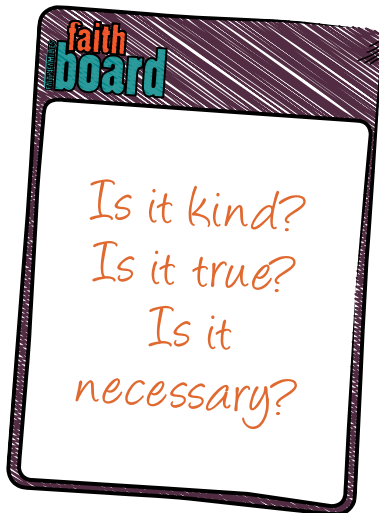
This week work on a family budget together. Decide what treats you can afford and what you can spend if you save in another area.

Buy a packet of treats and place them on a shelf.

Remember the proverb, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." *Proverbs 16:24 NIV*

When you notice a child saying something that is 'sweet like honey' in word or tone, reward them with a treat.

## FAITH BOARD



## OTHER IDEAS

**1** James 3 describes the tongue as being like the rudder of a ship, which determines its direction. Take the family kayaking or watch people launching small yachts, and see what a difference a rudder makes.

**2** Work together building something (e.g. a sandcastle) and as you build, talk together about the things that help to build up the people around us.

**3** Collect a small pile of things – some clean and some dirty, and let the children choose which would be OK to put in their mouths and which wouldn't. Talk about how just as dirty things shouldn't go into our mouths, neither should dirty words come out!

### BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Packet of wrapped lollies