



SPEAKING WITH WISDOM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *What is your favorite silly word?*
- Interactive Game: Save the Balloons
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Words in My Mouth Prayer Experience
- Blessing Your Kids

SPEAKING WITH WISDOM LESSON 5

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21, 23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)
[IE 1-3](#) [IIA 3, 6, 10](#)
[IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:
God's Wisdom Helps Us
Live at Peace with Others

SCRIPTURE:
[James 3](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
A follower of Jesus named James writes a letter to other believers, teaching them about the power of our words and the importance of speaking with wisdom.

WORD OF WONDER:
[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Imagine checking on a grapevine and discovering figs growing instead of grapes—it just wouldn't make sense! A grapevine is meant to produce grapes, just as we, as **Christians**, are meant to reflect the **fruit of the Spirit** in our words and actions.

But sometimes, instead of speaking with **kindness and gentleness**, we find ourselves saying things that hurt others. When we do, it's as out of place as a grapevine producing figs. [James 3:3–18](#) reminds us that **our words matter**—praising God while speaking harshly to others is not wisdom, but foolishness. True **wisdom from God** helps us live in peace with others, not push them away.

As Sunday School teachers, our words shape the hearts and minds of the children we teach. **What we say and how we say it influences their understanding of God's love.** When we ask, the Holy Spirit helps us **speak with wisdom**—both in our daily lives and in our teaching.

This week, may you **love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and tongue**, guiding the children in your care to do the same. Your words have the power to **nurture their faith** and inspire them to speak with love, just as Jesus does.

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

James was the brother of Jesus, and Jesus appeared to James after the resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#)). He eventually became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. Tradition says he was martyred, probably in the early 60s AD.



WHAT?

Words are powerful. The tongue is a restless evil that can damage our relationships and corrupt our hearts. Only the wisdom of God working in our lives can tame the tongue, helping us live at peace with others.



WHERE?

James addressed his letter to the “12 tribes scattered among the nations” ([James 1:1](#)). These were likely Jewish Christians living abroad, far from Jerusalem. James’ audience may have also included Gentiles, since Gentile believers had become part of God’s people.



WHEN?

There is some debate about the precise date of the letter, ranging from AD 40–60. Many scholars prefer an earlier date, before the first Jerusalem Council in AD 50.



CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

As followers of Jesus, we can turn from the way of the world and embrace the way of Jesus. When we seek God’s wisdom, we embrace a new kind of life in a new kind of community. We live as part of God’s kingdom.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "What is your favorite silly word? (Here are some ideas: *bubble, itty-bitty, pajamas, skedaddle.*) Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger - a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. Encourage them to share their answers. It doesn't matter if their silly word is "real" or not. Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

At your start time...

Greet everyone, possibly using a silly voice. Share your favorite silly word and call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is your favorite silly word?** Encourage them to use their silly voices too!

Words can be silly or mean. Some words can tear people down and make them feel bad, while others can build people up and encourage them. They can make us angry or sad. Words have a lot of power! Today we will explore more about using our words wisely. But, first, it's time to be curious.

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



INTERACTIVE GAME: SAVE THE BALLOONS

SUPPLIES: balloons (1 per kid, ideally in a variety of colors), timer, trash bags (optional), [Save the Balloons Slide](#), [Wisdom Wonder Truth Slide](#), [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Allergy Caution: *Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!*

Ahead of time, inflate one balloon for each kid. (If that many balloons are not practical for your group, you could do this activity with one balloon per every 2–3 kids.) Consider storing the balloons in trash bags before and after the activity.

Display the [Save the Balloons Slide](#). **To start this game, I need the help of some leaders.** Invite 3–5 leaders to the front of your area. Give each leader a balloon. Say to the leaders: **You have two jobs. The first is to keep your own balloon up in the air. The second is to knock the other balloons to the ground. If your balloon hits the ground, you're out. The last person with a balloon in the air wins. And remember, you have to keep your balloon in the air; you can't just hold it to keep it from getting knocked down.** Say to the kids: **Are you ready to cheer for your leaders?** Say to the leaders: **OK, let's start on the count of three: one, two, three!** Encourage the kids to cheer for the leaders. If there isn't a clear winner after a minute or two, stop the action and declare a winner or winners.

Teaching Tip (For Older Kids): *Consider inviting some older kids to begin the game, instead of using leaders.*

Say to the leaders: **What was it like trying to keep your balloon up while trying to knock down everyone else's balloon?** Allow them to answer. Ask the kids: **Do you think it would have been easier if they'd all been working together to keep the balloons up in the air? Why or why not?** Allow the kids time to answer.

Let's try it! Have kids stand and form a large circle. If your group is large, assign kids to circles of about 10–15 kids. Invite leaders to hand out balloons, one to each kid. Ask kids to hold on to their balloons for now.

When I say, "Go!" you can toss your balloons in the air. Then work together to keep them up there! Let's see if we can keep all those balloons in the air for a whole minute. If a balloon touches the ground, it has to stay there. Set a timer for one minute, and consider playing an upbeat song, such as "Counting on God," from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#). **Let's start on the count of three: one, two, three, Go!**

Make It Inclusive: *If you have kids with mobility issues, invite all the kids to sit in a circle and try to keep the balloons in the air from a seated position.*

Time's up! Hold on to the balloons, please! Did you keep them all in the air? If kids kept them all in the air, ask them how they did it. If some landed on the ground, ask them what they think they could have done differently. If time allows, play another round. Then collect the balloons.

Gather kids together and display the [Wonder Truth Slide](#). **Our words are kind of like these balloons. We can use our words to build people up or knock people down. To fight with each other or to live in peace with each other. When you all worked together to keep the balloons in the air, everyone was getting along! There was peace! Maybe not peace and quiet, but definitely peace. Today's Wonder Truth is: GOD'S WISDOM HELPS US LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS.**

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You teach me Your wisdom, (Kids repeat.)

And Your wisdom helps me live at peace with others. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for teaching us Your wisdom. Help us listen well today. May Your Holy Spirit help us learn what it means to be wise, so we can live at peace with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

GOD'S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Wisdom Title Slide**

Display the **Wisdom Title Slide**. Tell the kids that today's reading comes from a letter written by one of Jesus' followers, a man named James. Invite them to turn to [James 3](#), reminding them that the letters by Jesus' followers are toward the back of the Bible.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Read [James 3:3-18](#) aloud while kids follow along. Consider inviting one leader or older kid to read verses 3-12 and another to read verses 13-18.

Watch It!

Watch the [Speaking with Wisdom God's Big Story!](#)

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Experience It!

SUPPLIES: Avery® 5395™ 2 1/3" x 3 3/8" adhesive name badges (1 per kid plus several more), mini water bottles (1 per kid plus several more), scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), snack-size bag of chips, plain box, permanent marker (prep only), table, assorted potted plants, Bible, chair, watering can, other snacks (optional), **God's Pure Wisdom Labels Sheet** (1 per 8 kids), **Flaming Hot Lava Chips Sheet**, **Images Slides**, **Speaking with Wisdom Experience It! Script** (1 extra copy)

Allergy Caution: *This activity includes possible food allergens!*

Ahead of time, print the **God's Pure Wisdom Labels Sheet** onto Avery® 5395™ 2 1/3" x 3 3/8" adhesive name badges (eight per page). Use these name badges to label sealed mini water bottles—as many as needed for each kid to receive one, plus several more. If you don't have printable name badges, print the resource on regular paper, cut apart each label, and use double-sided tape to adhere each to a mini water bottle. Also print the **Flaming Hot Lava Chips Sheet**, cut on the dotted lines, and use tape to attach it to a snack-size bag of chips.

Get a plain box and label it "Unwise Snacks" in large lettering on one side. As an option, you could draw long, menacing flames around the words. Place the bag of Flaming Hot Lava Chips in the box.

Set the scene: Place a table slightly off-center of your teaching area. Set an assortment of potted plants and a Bible on the table. Set a chair at center of your teaching area near the table. Place the box of "Unwise Snacks" in an inconspicuous spot in your room that's a good distance from the table, and turn it so kids can't read its label yet. Place the bag of "Flaming Hot Lava Chips" (along with other snacks, if you want) into the box. Keep the watering can with you, and make sure it's empty.

Recruit the help of an adult volunteer. The volunteer will manage the sealed mini water bottle supply and bring it to you when requested. She will toss one to you at one point, and later respond to you with one line. Make sure she has means to transport the water, and provide her with an extra printed copy of the **Experience It! Script** so she can know her line and cues.

Make It Inclusive: *Keep especially energetic kids involved by inviting them to be your helpers at different points in the storytelling. For example, ask one kid to bring you the box and several others to help hand out "God's Pure Wisdom" water bottles at the appropriate times in the story.*

Once kids are gathered, enter with a watering can as though you've been busy watering and are looking for more thirsty plants. Spot the potted plants on the table. In a nurturing tone, say to the plants: **Are you thirsty?** Try to pour water from the can—but it's empty. **Oh, no! Well** (look at the kids like you're happy to see them), **I'm here to tell you about James, so the plants can wait.** In a nurturing tone, say to the plants: **You can wait.**

Sit in the chair and address the kids. **James was a follower of Jesus who led the church in Jerusalem. He had seen the risen Christ and believed that Jesus was the Messiah—the everlasting King promised by God. James also believed that true wisdom comes from heaven. It comes from the Holy Spirit, God's powerful presence and helper in our lives. When we seek God's wisdom, it helps us live a new way, at peace with one other.**

James wrote a letter to believers who were scattered around in different places. Gesture to the plants. **Kind of like all the scattered plants I've been watering.** Open the Bible to [James 3](#). **James wrote about the wisdom of God and how it's so much better than the wisdom of the world. Worldly**

ELEMENTARY

wisdom makes people look out only for themselves. It makes people jealous of each other, always trying to get ahead by tearing others down. When people rely on worldly wisdom, they end up hurting each other. One of the ways they hurt each other is with the words they speak with their tongues. Words are powerful! They can wound or encourage. They can hurt or heal.

Even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it has a big impact on our hearts and relationships. Display **Images Slide 1** (horse's bit). Point to the screen. **James compares the tongue to a bit, the small piece of metal put in a horse's mouth, which is connected to the reins and used to control the animal.** Display **Images Slide 2** (ship's rudder). Point to the screen. **He also compared it to the rudder of a ship. The rudder is a small, flat sheet of metal used to steer the ship wherever the captain wants to go. It is tiny compared to the rest of the ship!**

Display **Images Slide 3** (handlebars). **The words we say steer us too, like the handlebars of a bicycle.** Pretend you are on a bicycle, zooming around. **They can lead us to places we shouldn't go.** Zoom your "bike" over to the box. Turn the box around so the kids can read: **Box of Unwise Snacks. Mmm, a box of Unwise Snacks. With all the watering I've done today, I deserve an Unwise Snack.** Dig around inside and pull out the chip bag. Read the front of the bag: **Flaming Hot Lava Chips.** Pretend to read the back: **Proceed with caution. Sounds yummy.** Zoom your "bike" back toward the kids and sit in the chair.

Open the bag of chips. **Our words can steer us to places we shouldn't go, and we can use our words to brag or hurt people's feelings.** Display **Images Slide 4** (a match) and point to the screen. **The tongue is like a spark (pause to eat a chip) that sets a whole forest (pause and jump up, eyes wide) on fire!** Jump up and down, fanning your tongue. **How can something so small cause so much damage?** Look around for help. Find the Bible. **James wrote, "[The tongue] makes the whole body impure" (James 3:6).** Wipe at your brow as though sweating. Continue reading: **"It sets a person's whole way of life on fire!" (James 3:6, emphasis added).** Look around for water. Grab the watering can and shake it—still empty. **What can we do to stop it?**

We can't tame or control the tongue on our own. Attempt to fan your tongue with your hands. **The tongue is wilder than the wildest animal.** Growl with pain. **"It is an evil thing that never rests" (James 3:8).** Run in circles. **"It is full of deadly poison" (James 3:8).** Drop into the chair. **We don't need deadly poison in our relationships.** Clutch at your throat. **We need peace!** Look around desperately for someone to give you aid. **Who will give us peace?** An adult volunteer tosses you a water bottle.

Read the label on the water bottle: **"God's Pure Wisdom."** Drink it, sigh with relief, and pause. **Everyone needs God's wisdom—just like everyone needs water. Without the wisdom that comes from heaven and the Holy Spirit, our tongues say evil things as often as good things.** Hold up the watering can. **Let's pretend this watering can is full. What if I told you that sometimes it pours out pure water, and sometimes it pours out deadly poison? Would you want to drink from it?** Pause for kids to respond. **Would you even want to water your plants with it?** Pause for kids to respond.

Our mouths are like the watering can. Put down the can and pick up your Bible. **James wrote, "With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we curse people. ... Praise and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it shouldn't be this way" (James 3:9a, 10).** But it will be this way if we don't seek God's wisdom.

Ask the adult volunteer: **Is there any more of "God's Pure Wisdom?"** The adult volunteer replies, "An endless supply." Ask the kids: **Are you thirsty?** Since kids are always thirsty, have the adult volunteer already bringing the water bottles onstage. As you hand out the water, say: **When you receive "God's Pure Wisdom," turn to someone near you and use the words of your mouth to encourage, heal, and bring peace.** Model this for the kids by passing a water bottle to a kid nearby and telling her something encouraging. For anyone who doesn't know what to say, invite them to say, "Peace to you" to those near them.

Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids): *Younger kids are concrete thinkers. Some may struggle to understand that the water in the bottles is not actually God's wisdom but simply represents God's wisdom. If you have younger kids in your group, state this connection plainly.*

Open and pour a few "God's Pure Wisdom" water bottles into the empty watering can. **God's wisdom is true wisdom. It's pure. God's wisdom loves peace. It doesn't ruin our relationships like worldly wisdom** (point to the match image on the screen), **which loves an untamed tongue. God's wisdom changes us. It helps us obey God. It steers us in the right direction.**

Pick up your Bible. **According to James, God's wisdom (read) "is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not" (James 3:17).** God's wisdom can tame the most restless **evil, even our tongues.** Hold up the now full watering can. **When we seek God's wisdom** (pour water from the can into the plants), **we plant peace like a seed and live in a new way. God's wisdom helps us live at peace with others.**

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD'S WISDOM HELPS US LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

As followers of Jesus, we can turn from the way of the world and live the way of Jesus. When we seek God's wisdom, we live a new kind of life as part of God's kingdom and family.

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- A follower of Jesus named James wrote about God's wisdom in the book of James. What are some of the things James compared our tongues to? (a horse's bit, a rudder of a ship, a spark that can set a forest on fire. If needed, reread [James 3:3-6](#).)
- Who gives us true wisdom? (God)
- Share about a time when you were not wise with your words.
- What do you think it means to live at peace with other people? How can our words help us live at peace with others?
- What is one way you can be wise with your words this week?

God knows it's hard for us to be wise with our words. He understands how much words can hurt. When we love and obey God, we become wiser with our words, and we can live at peace with others. Let's pray and ask God for help to use our words wisely.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids struggle to answer open-ended questions. As needed, reword questions to ask in yes/no format or offer two answers for kids to choose from. For example, "Who gives us true wisdom? God or the world?"

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Invite kids to share a place or situation where they can use God's wisdom to bring peace (examples: school, home, sports team or activity). Remind them that how they use their words matters. Encourage them to put their hands near (not in!) their mouths as they pray. Assure kids that God gives us wisdom when we ask for it. Encourage the kids to repeat this prayer: "God, help me be wise in how I use my words, especially in _____ (name of place or situation they mentioned)."

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- **Who was James?** (*James was a follower of Jesus who led the church in Jerusalem.*)
- **How is a ship's rudder or a horse's bit like our tongues?** (*They are small things that can have a big impact, just like our tongues are a small part of our bodies, but our words can have a big impact on our lives and on others.*)
- **According to James, what two things should not come out of the same mouth?** (*praising and cursing*)
- **Share a time when you were not wise with your words to someone else. How did your words break the peace?**
- **How can your words bring peace or problems to your relationships with other people? What is one way you can be wise with your words this week?**

James reminds us that our words have the power to bring peace or to tear people down. Our words are powerful, and we need God's wisdom to know what to say, especially when it comes to living at peace with others. Let's ask God to help us use His wisdom with our words.

Make It Inclusive: *Some kids struggle to answer open-ended questions. As needed, reword questions to ask in yes/no format or offer two answers for kids to choose from. For example, "What two things should not come out of the same mouth? Oxygen and carbon dioxide or praising and cursing?"*

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Remind kids that even though it can be hard for us to use our words wisely, God will help us! Encourage them to use their words wisely now by praying for each other. Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and encourage them to pray for each request mentioned. Tell them that God's wisdom will help them live at peace, no matter what happens.

God gave us the Eighth Commandment to also help us to use our words wisely. Let's say it together: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. What does this mean? Let kids share their answers. **You're right, it means we should never tell lies about our neighbor, or gossip about our neighbor, or say bad things about our neighbor. Wait....who is our neighbor?** Let kids share their answers. **Our neighbor is anyone that we meet. It could be a family member, a friend, our actual neighbor, or a stranger. In other words, God wants us to use our words wisely, to lift up and to make others feel good - with EVERYONE!**

I have one more question, do you think this applies to when we are texting or using social media? Let kids share their answers. **You're right...even though we may not be using our "tongues", God wants us to use godly wisdom with our words even when typing rather than speaking. You all have shown such godly wisdom today!**

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: WORDS IN MY MOUTH PRAYER EXPERIENCE

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, **Words in My Mouth Sheet** (1 per kid), **Responding in Worship Slide**, [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, make copies of the **Words in My Mouth Sheet**, one per kid.

Gather kids together and display the **Responding in Worship Slide**. Give kids the **Words in My Mouth Sheet** and coloring utensils.

God's wisdom helps us live at peace with others. We can ask Him to give us the right words to say. Think of a person in your family or a friend who you sometimes don't get along with. Spend a little time praying to God, asking Him to help you know some wise words you can say to that person.

Then write those words inside the mouth on your Words in My Mouth Sheet. Or draw a picture of you and that person at peace with each other.

Quietly play "Build My Life" or another song from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) while kids pray, write, and draw. After they have had time to do this, gently call for their attention. Then help kids form groups of 2-3 kids.

One way we can use our words wisely to help others is by praying for them! Let's spend time praying for each other now. If you would like to share what you wrote or drew on your sheet, you can show it to your partner or group. If you would rather keep what you wrote between you and God, that's OK too! Once you're finished sharing, I invite you to pray for each other. If you're not sure what to say, that's OK! You can pray simply, "God, please help (say name) speak wise words."

Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids): *Instead of inviting them to pray on their own with other kids, form small groups led by a leader and pray together.*

Disclaimer: *We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.*

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May God give you His wisdom, so you may live at peace with others. May you use your words to bless your friends and family, this week and always.

SPEAKING WITH WISDOM LESSON 5

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21, 23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)
[IE 1-3](#) [IIA 3, 6, 10](#)
[IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:
God's Wisdom Helps Us Live at Peace with Others

SCRIPTURE:
[James 3](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
A follower of Jesus named James writes a letter to other believers, teaching them about the power of our words and the importance of speaking with wisdom.

WORD OF WONDER:
[Matthew 22:37-38](#)
Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment."



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the printable link.

HOT AIR

SUPPLIES: painter's tape (prep only), tables, drinking straws (1 per kid), table tennis balls (1 per 2 kids), timer

In this game, kids will face off against their partners, each blowing through a straw to move their table tennis ball across a line on a table.

Ahead of time, set up tables. If you plan on having all the kids participate at once, you'll need enough table space for every pair to stand across from their partners with 1-2 feet between them and the people next to them. Use painter's tape to mark a line that divides the tabletop in half the long way. Alternatively, you can use fewer tables, and have the kids take turns playing the game.

Gather kids and help them form teams of two. Explain that they'll stand across the table from their partners with the tape line dividing the space between them. You'll set a timer for 30 seconds, and during that time, kids will blow through a straw toward a table tennis ball. Their goal is to move the ball off the line using only the wind coming through their straws. At the same time, their partners will also be blowing through straws and trying to get their balls to move in the opposite direction. Select a kid or adult volunteer to help you demonstrate how to play.

Make It Inclusive: Kids can play this game standing or sitting! If some kids are unable to stand for long periods of time, set chairs at the tables so all the kids play while seated.

Invite pairs to find their places at tables, and give each kid a drinking straw. If there aren't enough tables for everyone to play at one time, have pairs take turns playing. Hand a table tennis ball to each pair and instruct them to set the ball on the tape line when you say, "Go." Start the 30-second timer and say, **Go!** Be available to chase after table tennis balls that fall off the tables. Once all kids have had a chance to play, gather everyone together.

Today in God's big story, we learned from the book of James how words impact us and others for good or for bad. When we use our words to hurt others, they're like the hot air coming through our straws toward our table tennis balls. James compares our tongues to a fire, for "a small spark can set a big forest on fire" (James 3:5). But God's wisdom helps us use our words to bring peace and to build others up.

SPEAKING WITH WISDOM

LESSON 5

NAC USA
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Lesson
PPT Slides



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Printables