



Week 5 Preschool 8:30/11:00

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Get Along with Others

SCRIPTURE: [James 3](#)

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

When I check on my grapevine in autumn, the last thing I expect to see is a bunch of figs growing on the vine. It's a grapevine, not a figvine, and although some trees have weird names, the grapevine is very accurately titled.

But what happens when people who are supposed to display the fruit of the Spirit (things like gentleness and kindness) suddenly start hurting each other with the words they speak? We've all done it, and when we do, it's just as wacky as a grapevine producing figs. We're titled Christians, which means "little Christs," but we aren't producing the kind of fruit Jesus produces when we let our words wound others.

Read [James 3:3–18](#). In this passage, James teaches that when we praise God with our words then turn around and hurt people with our words, it's not wisdom. In fact, it's foolishness! God's wisdom helps us live at peace with others, not push them away.

This might be one of the hardest teachings in the Bible because it's ridiculously tough to tame our tongues. But when we ask, the Holy Spirit will help us speak with wisdom. The Spirit helps us use wise words in our daily lives and when we're leading kids through Scripture.

May you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and tongue this week and inspire others to do the same.

—**Christie Thomas**

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Play Stations

Play Station: Speaking with Wisdom Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their own face.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: paper, scissors (prep only), pitcher, water, food coloring, clear cups (3), marker (prep only), tape

WORD OF WONDER

**Love God with all your heart and soul and
mind.**

—from [Matthew 22:37](#)

Cut three small squares from a sheet of paper. Before kids arrive, fill a pitcher with water and add a few drops of food coloring to the water. You will need enough water in the pitcher to completely fill all three cups. Write the words HEART, SOUL, and MIND each on one of the small squares of paper and tape them each to a clear cup (or simply use a marker to label the outsides of each cup). Set all supplies on a table.

Gather kids around the table you set up previously. **How much do you think God wants us to love Him?** Allow the kids to respond. **Should we love God this much** (use your fingers to demonstrate a small amount) **or this much** (use your hands to demonstrate a large amount)? **Our Word of Wonder says, “Love God with all your heart and soul and mind.”** Point to each cup. **The words on these cups say HEART, SOUL, and MIND.** Begin pouring water into the heart cup and stop about halfway. **Is this enough love for God? What does our Word of Wonder say? “Love God with all your heart.”** Finish filling the cup the rest of the way. **That’s better. Say it with me, “Love God with all your heart.”** Fill the *soul* cup halfway. **Is this enough love for God? Nope! Finish filling up the soul cup. Say it with me, “Love God with all your heart (point at heart cup) and all your soul (point at soul cup).”** Fill the mind cup halfway up. **Is this enough love for God? Nope! Our Word of Wonder says to love God with all your mind.** Fill the cup the rest of the way. **Say it with me, “Love God with all your heart (point at heart cup) and soul (point at soul cup) and mind (point at mind cup).” God wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. That’s from [Matthew 22:37](#).**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **LOVE GOD**—*Point up.*
- **WITH ALL YOUR HEART**—*Place right hand over your heart.*
- **AND SOUL**—*Cross your hands over your chest.*
- **AND MIND.**—*Point to your forehead.*
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FROM MATTHEW 22:37—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

What does our mind do? (*imagine, think, remember things*) **How can we love God with our mind?** (*think about Him, use our imagination while we pray or hear stories from the Bible, remember stories or verses from the Bible*)

How does getting along with others show that we love God? (*If kids need help, offer suggestions such as showing kindness and love to others shows them how kind and loving God is; God loves all people so we can too*)

Circle Time: Roll of the Tongue

SUPPLIES: paper party blowers (1 per kid and 2 for yourself; at least 7), writing utensil,

Gather a paper party blower for each child. If party blowers are not available, you could use long strips of paper and wrap them around a pencil to roll them up. Draw stars or make a small mark inside the rolled-up portion of seven of the party blowers. If you have more than seven kids, some of the blowers will be blank because there are only seven questions below. If you have fewer than seven kids, some kids can get more than one party blower.

Leader Tip: Kids love party blowers! Write names on each child's party blower and let the kids take the blowers home as a reminder to say kind words!

Gather kids in a circle and place the party blowers in the center of the circle. Instruct the kids not to touch them until you've told them to do so. Use a blank party blower and demonstrate how it unrolls when you blow into it. **These remind me of tongues, the way they roll out and roll back up! Can you make your tongue come out of your mouth?** Pause to allow the kids to respond. **That's so silly! Our tongues remind us that we can use our mouths to speak kind words. We're going to use these party blowers to review God's big story today. When I call your name, you choose a party blower (or paper roll) from the center of the circle and unroll it by blowing into it. Some of them will have special marks inside. If yours has a mark inside, I'll ask you a question.** Let kids take turns picking a party blower or paper roll from the center of the circle and unrolling it. If it has a special mark inside, ask them one of the questions below. Make sure the kids don't trade party blowers once they have already put their mouths on them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who wrote the letter that we heard about today?** (*James*)
- **Our words can be used to help people or to do what?** (*hurt people*)
- **What does James say our tongues are like?** (*a bit in a horse's mouth and a rudder on a ship*)
- **What is wisdom?** (*understanding and knowledge from God*)
- **Who can we ask for wisdom?** (*God*)
- **When is a time that you might need to ask God for wisdom to help you get along with someone else?** (*If kids need help, offer suggestions such as during a fight with a friend, when their parents ask them to obey, when someone says something that hurts their feelings*)
- **What are some kind words we could say to each other?**

We can ask God for wisdom to help us say kind words so that we can get along with each other. Let's pray and ask God to help us have wisdom as we talk to others. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for giving them wisdom to use kind words to get along with each other.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for helping us say wise words to get along with others.

Let's talk to God. Dear God, help us control the words we say. Give us wisdom to say good words that will help other people. Help us get along with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God give you His wisdom so that you may get along with others. May you use your words to be kind to your friends and family, both this week and always.

Closing Game: Balloon Race

SUPPLIES: balloon (2), scissors (prep only), straws (1 per 2 kids), tables (2)

Inflate two balloons and cut straws in half so you have half a straw for each kid. Split the group into two teams. Have each team stand at the short end of one of the tables.

James reminds us that our tongues are like a little rudder that steers a big ship or a small bit that can control a big horse. Our tongues may be small, but the words that come from them have the power to help or hurt people in big ways. We're going to play a game using these little straws and these big balloons. We're going to blow just a little bit of air through our straws to try to move our balloons down the table. Once you get your balloon to the other end of the table, pick it up and bring it to the next person in line. The first team to have everyone get their balloon across the table wins.

