

HOMELINK

February 13, 2022

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

- Matthew 11:19 (NLT)

ONE BIG THING: Jesus's followers control their words.

REVIEW: Today we read James 3:5-10. We started by talking about household items that could either be used as dangerous weapons for harm, or as useful tools for good (examples: a knife that can cut food but if used as a toy could cause a deep cut, or a lighter that could be used to light a candle but if used wrongly could also cause a forest fire.) The point is that these are objects that can be used for good, but they can also be dangerous weapons that can cause damage. James shows us in this passage that the tongue (meaning our words) is similar– we can use them well and wisely, or we can use them in negative and even harmful ways.

We shared about ways that words are used negatively (saying something mean, speaking disrespectfully to your parents or teachers, saying something that is untrue or unkind to a friend). Then we brainstormed ways that we can use our words in a way that is pleasing to God (examples: teaching others, telling others about Jesus, giving compliments, singing to God, encouraging others, praying, saying kind things, etc.).

It might seem obvious that we want to use our words for good, but sometimes we get angry or speak before we think. We talked about how we need God's help to change our hearts– and as a result of a heart that loves God, our words would also change for the good. One thing we can always do with our words is pray. We can always ask God for help to say things that are kind and that would be pleasing to him. But also, if we have used our mouth to speak or say words we shouldn't have, we can also use our words to ask for forgiveness– both from God and from the person we have hurt.

SONGS:

"Peace Like a River" by St. John's Children's Choir

"My God is So Big" by Cedarmont Kids

PRAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY:

"God, thank you for the gift of speech. Thank you that we are able to use words to talk to others and talk to you. Help us to learn to use them well and wisely, and to think before we speak. Thank you that when we speak or say words we shouldn't, that we can also use our words to ask for forgiveness from both you and the people we have hurt. In Jesus's name, Amen."

