

“The Game of Life” - LESSON 3

“Words With Friends”

Main Focus:

We must use our words to build others up!



Power Verse:

“...Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” - Ephesians 4:29



Watt's Up:

“I Will Use My Words To Help, Not Hurt!”

LEADER'S INFO

“Watch your mouth!” This phrase has been uttered by many a parent, teacher, or Children's Leader when dealing with children. Too often, children speak WAY before they think! More often than that, the words that are spoken do a lot of damage to others.

Learning to control our “Words With Friends” is one of the hardest lessons a child can learn. We should use our words for helping others instead of hurting them, for telling the truth instead of lies, and for sharing the gospel instead of spreading gossip.

In this lesson, the children will learn the destructive power of unhealthy words and how to LIFT their “Words With Friends” from the gutter to the clouds.



“The Spark” Intro Video

The “Game Boy”



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Regina Rulebook”



Offering Time



Game On!

“The BIG Squeeze”



Bible Story

“Paul Encourages His Enemies” (Acts 27:13-26)



Power Verse Video

“...Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” - Ephesians 4:29



Call To Action

“Words With Friends”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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build others up!



Power Verse:

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and helpful, so that your words will
be an encouragement to those who
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Watt’s Up:

“I Will Use My Words To Help,
Not Hurt!”

ORDER OF SERVICE

1	_____
	by _____
2	_____
	by _____
3	_____
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17	_____
	by _____

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Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: Regina Rulebook (a quirky girl who is obsessed with rules)

(Play “Regina Rulebook’s Video Intro” off the DVD—Regina enters with her nose in the air, sneaks up behind the leader, and slaps her clipboard very hard)

REGINA: Now WHAT do we have here??

Leader: AGH!! (*jumps, startled*) Regina, you have GOT to stop doing that to people!

REGINA: Not according to rule number 415! See for yourself! (*hands leader her clipboard*)

Leader: (*reads*) Rule #415...Regina can scare whoever she wants.

REGINA: RULE BREAKER! (*slaps the clipboard from the leaders hands*)

Leader: What’d I do this time?!

REGINA: See for yourself! Rule #785! (*hands the clipboard back to the leader*)

Leader: (*reads*) Only Regina is allowed to hold Regina’s Rules?

REGINA: AGH!!! RULEBREAKER! (*smacks the clipboard out of the leader’s hands once again*) These are REGINA’S RULES, and rules are meant to be followed!

Leader: Regina, please tell me you’re out here for a better reason other than smacking me repeatedly.

REGINA: Of course I do! (*flips through her papers*) Rule #8.999999! “Always have a good reason for smacking the leader.”

Leader: Why are your rules so specific?

REGINA: That’s Rule #8.999992! “Rules must be specific.”

Leader: (*sighs*) Regina...PLEASE! Why are you out here?

REGINA: I’m here to help you teach these little children, rule breaker! I heard we are talking about using the right words with our friends, and I have come up with a list of GREAT words.

Leader: Oh, that’s great! Could you share them with us?

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CHARACTER SKIT *(continued)*

REGINA: Of course! *(flips through her papers, clears her throat)* Rule #78...If a friend hits you, you must call them a “ninny!”

Leader: A WHAT?!

REGINA: A NINNY! Rule #79 – If a friend hurts your feelings, you must make fun of their mother!

Leader: WHOAH! *(interrupts)* Regina, that’s terrible! We can’t talk to our friends that way! The bible says that our words have power! We have to use that power to build people up, not tear them down!

REGINA: Ummm...I was...I was just about to say that! *(takes a pencil and scribbles something into her rulebook)* Here! Rule #80....speak kindly to one another, and use your words to build each other up, NOT tear each other down!

Leader: That’s more like it. THAT’S a good rule to follow. But, the kids still have a LOT to learn about how to use their words.

REGINA: They can’t.

Leader: I’m afraid to ask...but...why not?

REGINA: *(flips through her papers)* Rule #9,000 - “The children cannot learn how to use their words correctly until the leader onstage closes their eyes and turns to face away from them.”

Leader: What??

REGINA: Just do it! Rulebreaker.

Leader: *(sighs, closes their eyes and turns away from the kids)* Like this?

REGINA: *(whacks the leader in the behind with her clipboard)* Yes, perfect! I’ll see you later, boys and girls. Enjoy your lesson! Remember, these are REGINA’S RULES, and RULES ARE MEANT TO BE FOLLOWED!



GAME ON!

“The BIG Squeeze”

Items Needed For Game:

Two large tubes of toothpaste; two pairs of plastic gloves

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to compete in this game. Choose one contestant on each team to put on the plastic gloves. The other contestant on each team will be the “squeezer.”

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How To Play:

Tell the kids that when you say “Go!”, they have to try to squeeze all of the toothpaste out of the tube and into the hands of their partner. Once both tubes are empty, tell them, “Very good. That was part one of the competition. Now, for part two. When I say GO, you have to take all the toothpaste and shove it back into the tube. You have sixty seconds...GO!” *(obviously, they are going to have an impossible time with this portion of the game, but keep playing along and cheering for them)*

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After the game, say:

“Wow! It was easy getting the toothpaste out of the tube, huh? But, it was nearly impossible to try to shove the toothpaste back in once it was out. It is the same way with our WORDSWITH FRIENDS. It’s easy to let words fly out of our mouth without even thinking about how much they will hurt others. And once the words are out there, it’s impossible to take them back. The damage has already been done. That’s why it is sooooo important for us to be careful with our WORDSWITH FRIENDS.”
(call the game a tie and reward both teams)



Bible Story

“Paul Encourages Enemies”

Materials Needed:

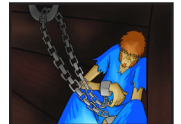
The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

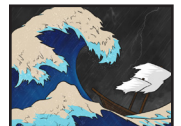
Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 27:13-26; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, we are learning about the importance of our words. We should always use our words to help others, not to tear them down. There is an excellent example of that in the Bible. In Acts 27, we find the Apostle Paul in a very difficult situation. (*show pic*) Paul has been taken prisoner because of his Christian faith. He is on a ship with a lot of other prisoners and the prison guards that are holding him captive.



(*show pic*) Suddenly, a great storm came upon them. The guards started to freak out. The captain ordered all of the cargo to be thrown off the ship. They tried everything to save the ship, but it seemed that the ship was going to sink no matter what.



Suddenly, Paul spoke up. Now, you might think that since all of the people on this boat were his enemies he would be very mean to them. You wouldn't blame him if he said something like, “This serves you right, you meanies! You took me prisoner simply for my faith in Jesus. This will show you what happens to those who pick on Christians!” But, that is not at all the words that Paul used.



(*show pic*) Paul speaks up and says, “Take courage! None of you will lose your lives!” Then, he goes on to tell them that they should believe in God, because in His goodness He was going to save all of their lives.

WOW! That wasn't easy to do, was it? Paul had a chance to use his words in a hurtful way, but he chose to encourage the people he was with. The amazing part is - these were not his friends - they were his enemies. So, not only does Paul show us a good example of how to use our “Words With Friends”, but he also shows us a great example of how to use our “Words With Enemies.”

As Paul shows us, we must always remember the power of our words. We should do as our PowerVerse teaches us, “... Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Paul did this. So should we.



Call To Action

“Words With Friends”

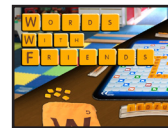
Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a surgical mask; a doctor’s stethoscope; pack of tongue depressors

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Three,” begin with the slide titled “Words With Friends”

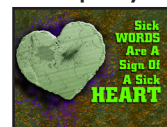
The Message: *(title slide)*



How many of you have ever heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will _____?” *(allow children to finish that statement)* We’ve all heard this, but there could not be a more incorrect statement. The truth is that words CAN hurt. They are very powerful when not used in the right way.

James 3:5 says, “The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.” How many of you know that is true? Have you ever been the victim of the damage the tongue can do with mean words? Maybe someone has lied about you and it really hurt you. Or maybe you had a friend that talked about you behind your back and that destroyed your friendship. Perhaps you have had someone make fun of you and put you down. That certainly causes damage to us, huh?

Sick Words Are A Sign Of A Sick Heart *(slide)*



There is a good reason why we need to be careful when it comes to our “Words With Friends.” *(pull out the surgical mask, stethoscope, and tongue depressors; grab a volunteer to come up and be your “patient”)* When I was young, I used to go to the doctor, and he would tell me to stick out my tongue and say, “Ahhh.” Then, he would look at my tongue and he would know whether or not I was sick.” I was always amazed by this. How can looking at this thing coming out of my mouth tell the doctor whether or not I am sick?

You know, it is the same way with our spiritual lives. A lot can be seen about what’s going on in our heart simply by looking at what is coming out of our mouth. It’s true. The Bible says in **Luke 6:45**, “Whatever is in your heart determines what you say...” That means that if there are lies, bad words, cut-downs, and other mean words coming out of your mouth, then your heart is probably not filled with the things of God. Whatever is in your heart will determine what you say. If your heart is filled with the things of God, good things will come out of your mouth. But, if your heart is filled with sin, bad things will come out of your mouth. It’s sad, but it’s true.

Maybe you are here and you say, “WOW! I never thought about that before. I don’t want to be like that. I want to change my ‘Words With Friends!’ How do I do it?” I’m glad you asked. We are going to use the word

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Call To Action (Continued)

LIFT to learn four ways we can LIFT our “Words With Friends” from being low-level words that hurt others to high-level words that help others.

L - Look For Good In Others, And Say It! (slide)



If you want to LIFT your words, one of the best ways is to look for the good in others—and say it. Everyone loves it when someone says nice things to them. Too many people look for the BAD in others and say it. Everyone hates that. If you want to LIFT your words, then look for the good in others. But, don’t just look for it. Once you find it, say it!

When someone does well in class, tell them. When someone treats you well as a friend, say it. When someone is a good singer, a good athlete, or a strong witness for Jesus—say it. Wherever you go, whoever you are around, LOOK for the good in them and tell them what you see.

I - Instead Of Blowing Up - Hush Up! (slide)



Too often, it is our angry words that do the most damage. Our friend makes us mad, then we “blow up” and say a bunch of mean things to them. That does a lot of damage. Instead of blowing up and losing control when someone makes you angry—keep your mouth closed. Most of the time when we allow angry words to fly out of our mouth, it doesn’t end up LIFTing anyone. It only tears them down. So, when you are angry, close your mouth and count to ten (*or however high you need to until you are not angry anymore*). Don’t let yourself speak to someone when you are angry.

F - Fix The Damage You Have Caused (slide)



If you are here today and you realize that many of your “Words With Friends” in the past have hurt others, it’s time to fix it. You can’t just change and hope everything will be all right. You have to go to the person you have hurt with your words and tell them that you are sorry. Fix the damage you have caused and let them know that you will choose to use your words to LIFT them up from now on.

T - Tell The Truth (slide)



There is nothing worse than using your “Words With Friends” to lie to them. We must LIFT our words by choosing to tell the truth. No matter what—tell the truth. Even if it will mean you get in trouble for something you did—tell the truth. ***Zechariah 8:16*** says, “...speak the truth to each other...” It’s very important that we LIFT our words above the lies.

No matter how hard it is, tell the truth. Even if you might get in trouble, tell the truth. Even if it means you won’t get something you wanted, tell the truth. No matter what, tell the truth. Lies are the opposite of what

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Call To Action

(Continued)

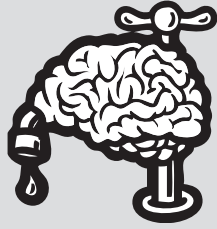
God is all about Jesus said, “I am the way the TRUTH and the life...” God wants his children to tell the truth at all times. One of the best ways to LIFT your words is to choose to speak the truth.

James 3:6 says, “*And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that...can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction.*” Whoa! That’s serious! Kids, I would love to be able to control your tongue and your “Words With Friends” for you, but I can’t. Neither can your parents or your teachers. The only one that can keep you from hurting others with your words is YOU!

With God’s help, you can LIFT your “Words With Friends!” You can choose to use your words to help others and build them up instead of hurting others and tearing them down.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for those children who have had a hard time LIFTing their words. Pray that God will show them how to use their words to help others instead of hurt. Have the children write down some ways they can use their “Words With Friends” the right way this week. *(i.e. compliment someone, tell the truth, tell someone about Jesus)*



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Three,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Use My Words To Help, Not Hurt!”

2. What was the name of the Apostle we learned about in our Bible Story?

Answer: Paul

3. What happened to the ship Paul was on?

Answer: A storm came upon it

4. According to our lesson today, “Sick Words Are A Sign Of A Sick _____.”

Answer: Heart

5. What game did we learn lessons from today?

Answer: Words With Friends

6. According to our lesson today, we should “Look For The _____ In Others, And Say It.”

Answer: Good

7. According to our lesson today, “Instead of Blowing Up - _____ Up!”

Answer: Hush

8. According to our lesson today, “_____ The Damage You Have Caused.”

Answer: Fix

9. According to our lesson today, “Tell The _____.”

Answer: Truth

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Ephesians 4:29