

# Lesson Plan

April 19th, 2026

**This Month's Truth:** I Am Set Apart

**Bible Story:** Controlling my words (James 3)

**Theme Verse:** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)

**Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive:** Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

**Share:** We will teach kids today that our words carry power. We can tear others down or build them up. (Read James 3:13.) God cares about and helps us with our words so we can show His love to others.

**Pray:** Lead the group in prayer, thanking God that He leads and guides you. Ask God to work through the words you use.

## Pre Service

**Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.**

## Service

**What To Do:**

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.** The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

**Teacher Opener:** Hey, everyone! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Turn to the person next to you and ask, "Are you ready for fun?" (Are you ready for fun?) Now tell that same person, "I am so ready!" (I am

so ready!) We are so happy that you have joined us today. We are going to learn that we are made to be set apart. Being set apart means that you stand out in a good and special way. We show that we are set apart by how we live, so everyone, say, “Live it out!” (Live it out!)

### **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Corner Game**

**What You Say:** We’re going to play a game called “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John”. Does anyone know where we know these names from? (The Bible, The Gospels). This game is going to be like a game called Four Corners. Does everyone know this game?

For this game I need a volunteer to be It. It will stand in the middle between all the Gospel names. They will close their eyes and count to 10. Then everyone else will quietly go to one of the Gospel names. The person that is It will say, “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I pick. . .” and then choose one of the Gospel names. Any kids standing near the sign of the name picked will move to stand in the middle with It. The game will continue until only one kid is left at a Gospel name. That kid then becomes It for the next round.

**Leader Tip:** Play however many rounds as time allows.

**What You Say:** Great job everyone! That game was so fun and what a great way for us to memorize the books of the Gospel.

Today, we get to talk about how we can stand out in a really good way. Ask, “Why?” (Why?) I am so glad you asked! God made each of us to know, love, and follow Him. When we do, we live our lives differently as we show the world that we love God. We are designed by God to be set apart, which means we are different when we follow Him. Everyone, say, “I am set apart!” (I am set apart!)

**Transition Script to go into the Intro Video:** It is spring, which means this is a good time for some outdoor adventures. So now we get to watch a video from Hiker Rob, who loves outdoor adventures! Get our video started by saying, “Hey-o!” in 3-2-1! (Hey-o!)

## Play Intro Video

**What You Say:** I think we can all agree that trying to take a selfie with a moose is not a good idea. Say, “Not a good idea, Hiker Rob!” (Not a good idea, Hiker Rob!) But Hiker Rob did share something that we can all know and agree with. We can know that God cares about our words. What we say matters to God and makes a big difference when we are living set apart for Him. Let me hear you say, “God cares about my words!” (God cares about my words!)

## Worship

**What You Say:** Let's stand up and worship together!

**What To Do:**

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

**What To Do:**

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

**Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video:** (Open the Bible to James 3) We are going to hear a story from the Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself. Our story is found in the New Testament. Everyone, say, "New Testament!" (New Testament) The Bible is split up into two parts, the Old and the New Testament. The book of James, which is where we will be hanging out, is found in the New Testament. James encouraged people to live out their faith. Let's dig into the Bible together. Repeat after me, "Live it out!" (Live it out!)

## Play Bible Story Video

**Questions to consider asking after the video:**

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
  - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

**Making The Connection Script:** James wrote these Bible verses a long time ago, but it is something we all need to hear today! James wrote that we all struggle in different ways, and one of those ways is with our words. Like a rudder can control a big ship or a bit in a horse's mouth can control the big horse, our words may seem small, but they control a lot. We can live

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in a way that we honor God in everything we do and say. Let me hear you say, “God cares about my words!” (God cares about my words!)

James encouraged Christians to live a life of peace, which helps others live lives of peace as well. We can do that with our words!

### Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 2) Why do we struggle with our words? Why do we even need to help each other live lives of peace? James knew that our world was—and still is—broken. We all experience hard things that hurt us, including words that we say or that others say to us. Our world is not working like it should. It is broken because of sin, which is when we follow what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. Sin separates us from God. No matter how good we try to be or how much we might try and control our words by ourselves, we cannot fix this sin problem. Sin deserves to be punished.

(Circle 1) James knew that brokenness was not how God designed us to live. When James wrote that we can bless and praise God and live out God’s wisdom (James 3:9-10), James was writing about how things should be. God made the world and the very first people, who were named Adam and Eve. He said His creation was good! But Adam and Eve went against God’s design and chose their own way. Ever since then, people have struggled with sin.

(Circle 3) The good news is that God did not leave us in our brokenness. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a perfect life where He never sinned. That includes the words He spoke! Jesus took the punishment we deserve for sin by dying on a cross. He defeated sin and death by rising again on the third day! Jesus showed He is the true King of everything and promised to help those who believe in Him live for Him. He offers an incredible life now and a life forever with God for those who turn from sin to follow Him.

You may be thinking to yourself, Do my words really matter? I am just a kid who says silly things at times! They aren’t that big of a deal, right? The truth is that you matter and your words matter. Say, “God cares about my words!” (God cares about my words!)

Jesus came to make the way for you to have a relationship with God forever. God sees you as valuable and significant. When you believe in Jesus, it changes everything! You become a new person—one who follows God and lives set apart for Him.

God works through Your words to help others and tell the world about Him. You can use your words to tell people about the best news ever—the hope of Jesus!

You are not meant to blend in but to stand out. God sets you apart to shine brightly in a dark world. One way you do that is through your words. Say, “I am set apart!” (I am set apart!) If you want to know more about starting a relationship with God, you can talk with me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to have that conversation with you.

### Theme Verse Review:

**Theme Verse Motions:** For I have come down from heaven, (Start with your arms up to the sky and palms facing inward. Bring your hands to your waist with palms up.)  
not to do my own will, (Lower your left hand and bring your right hand to your chest, hand over your heart.)  
but the will of him who sent me. (Bring your right hand up to the sky with your palm facing inward.)  
John 6:38 (Hold both hands out like a book.)

**What You Say:** When I say, “God cares about my words,” give me an air high five and say it back, “God cares about my words!” (God cares about my words!) Let’s stand and learn our Theme verse, which helps us remember that God made us to be set apart—including the words we choose to use!

### Play Theme Verse Video

**What You Say:** Great job! Our Theme verse shows how Jesus followed God’s instructions. Jesus lived set apart when He followed and obeyed God, including the words He used. We can follow His example and live set apart too! Say, “I am set apart!” (I am set apart!)

### Large Group Closing:

**What You Say:** Our words matter! Our words show what is in our hearts and help us encourage others. Repeat after me, “God cares about my words!” (God cares about my words!) We can ask God to help us honor Him with the words we choose to use. When we trust and follow Jesus, we get to live it out. So let’s live it out with our words! Say, “Live it out!” (Live it out!) Let’s pray and talk with God in 3-2-1.

**Closing Prayer:** God, thank You for setting us apart to live for You. We are so thankful that You sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Help us to use words that honor You and point others to You! We want to follow You and live it out! Amen.

**Transition to Small Group Time:** Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

## Small Group Time:

### Option #1: Connection Questions

**What To Do:** Let's talk about how we can follow Jesus and live it out!

1. I am going to give you a word, and then you tell me something that rhymes with that word. Ready? (Share simple words one at a time, such as sat, had, pin, and cap. Allow kids to respond.) Isn't it cool that we can use our words in such a fun way?
2. Why do you think we remember words people said to us, even after time has passed? (Words have power. We can remember negative words and positive words that people say to us.) Speech bubbles show that someone in a drawing is speaking. Speech bubbles can also remind us that words can stick with us forever, and our words matter.
3. The Bible tells us that our words make a difference. Let's open our Bibles to **James 3:13** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.) James wrote to Christians, encouraging them to use their words wisely. He said that our conduct, which means the things we say and do and how we live our lives, should show gentleness that comes from wisdom. How can wise and gentle words help others and help us? (Wise and gentle words build others up. These words can point others to God. These words encourage us and remind us of what is true and good.)
4. Our words carry power to either lift people up or tear them down. How can God help us use our words wisely? (When we believe in Him, Jesus helps transform our lives. God changes our hearts to follow Him with our words and actions.)
5. The Bible tells us that God cares about our words. We live out our faith by pointing people to Jesus through what we do and say. God can work through our words to show

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His love and share His truth with others. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

### **Option #2:** Mouth and Kind Words Envelope

**What To Do:** Today we learned from James 3 about controlling our words. We are going to make a craft to remember to use kind words with others. I am going to give you all an envelope and some paper.

First I want you to decorate the envelope to look like a mouth on the inside. Then you will take your paper and cut out different “tongue” shapes. On each tongue, you will write kind things you could say to others. (examples: “You’re a good friend,” “I’m sorry,” “Jesus loves you,” “You’re a kind person”). Now you will put the tongues inside the envelope mouth and put your name on the front of the envelope.

**Leader Tip:** If you have a lot of younger kids then they can just cut strips of paper instead of tongue shapes.

**Loud And Clear:** From our tongue, we can build up (meaning encourage) or tear people down. Our words carry power and can make a difference. We may struggle to use our words wisely, but God can work through us. James wanted people to know that we do not just have to control our words on our own. We can ask God for help. We live out our faith when we control our words and honor God. Repeat after me, “Live it out!” (Live it out!)

### **Option #3:** Activity Page

**What To Do:** This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

**Leader Tip:** Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them our words carry power and can make a difference, showing that we follow God and want to help others follow Him too.

**Loud And Clear:** Whether we are telling a story to a friend or talking to our family members, our words carry power. Words matter to God. How and what we say makes a difference. We may struggle to use our words, but God can work through us. We live out our faith by sharing God’s truth with the world.

## Close out in prayer:

**What To Do:**

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

**What You Say:** God, You are so kind to us. Thank You for inviting us to follow You and use our words to tell the world about You! Help us turn to You and ask for help so we can use words that honor You. We love you! Amen.

## Dismissal:

**Leader Tip:** Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.