



April 19, 2026 I Am Set Apart Elementary Leader Guide



the place for kids to take their first steps with Jesus. 

WIN

James 3 shows us that God cares about our words and that our tongues have the power to praise or hurt, so we can ask Him to help us use our words to show His love and speak truth.

BIBLE- Controlling My Words - James 3

TOOLS

Scan QR



ASK Leader



Leader Devos



Like It Counts

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. *** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.*

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, “Can You Draw It?” printable (1 per group), Blank paper (2 per child), Pencils (1 per child), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group) Construction paper (1 per child), Clear tape (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several), Dry erase board and marker (1 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group; optional)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let’s sit and listen to our story today.”

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

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 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!

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

(Circle two) We struggle with our words because we live in a broken world where sin affects how we think, feel, and speak. Sin separates us from God, and no matter how hard we try to control our words on our own, we cannot fix this problem without His help.

(Circle one) God created the world and people to live in goodness and reflect His wisdom, but Adam and Eve chose their own way instead of God's design. Since then, sin has affected everyone, causing people to struggle to live and speak the way God intended.

(Circle three) God did not leave us in our brokenness but sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a perfect life, died to take our punishment, and rose again on the third day, defeating sin and death.

(Circle four) 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.

Talk to a leader if you want to know more about following Jesus!

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!*) Let's pray and talk with God in 3-2-1.

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.

Build Up Balloon Battle

Kids will keep balloons in the air while other kids try and knock the balloons down.

Big Goal: Know that when we follow Jesus, we are called to be set apart by the words we say.

Leader Prep: Print and display the “Allergy Alert” printable, drawing attention to a potential latex allergy.

Supplies: Balloons (6 per group), Permanent marker (1 per group), Pool noodles (2 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group)

What To Do: We are going to have a balloon battle today. This is not just any ordinary battle, but one where we have to keep balloons in the air, trying not to let them touch the ground. Written on these balloons are words and phrases that honor God. When we share words like these, they encourage and build others up. But there is a twist! Say, “Ooo, a twist!” (*Ooo, a twist!*) Some of you will use pool noodles to try and knock these balloons down to the ground while everyone else tries to keep them up. I will assign teammates to different roles during the game. You will have 60 seconds to work together as a team to complete this challenge!

Keep It Going: Add additional balloons or pool noodles to make it more challenging.

Leader Tip: Define a boundary, showing where the balloons can and cannot go.

Loud And Clear: It got a little crazy in here with these balloons. It can be hard to control our words at times and feel crazy like this game. You were working hard to keep the phrases that honor God up in the air. But like some teammates tried to knock those down, we can struggle when people use words that hurt us or when we use words that hurt others. This game is a good reminder that we can use words which build others up or knock them down. When we struggle with our words, God can help us. Following Jesus changes everything! Through Jesus, our lives, our thoughts, actions, and our words are different. We are set apart, and that shows through the words we say. God can help us to use our words to point others to Him. Repeat after me, “I am set apart!” (*I am set apart!*)

(While kids are completing this activity, it would be a good time to talk through the discussion questions so they know why remembering Jesus is the only way is important.)

Let’s chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

Discussion Questions:

- 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?
- 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.
- 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.)*
- 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.)*
- 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 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.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

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.

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.

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.