

K-2 | October 18

Bible Story: Miracles of Jesus • Matthew 8:5-13; Mark 11:12-14, 20-25; Mark 4:35-41

Teaching Focus: Our words have power to build people up or tear them down.

Weekly Verse: “Set an example in what you say and in how you live.” • 1 Timothy 4:12 NIRV

1. Opening & Prayer

“Today we’re going to see three times Jesus used His words in powerful ways. He healed a centurion’s servant, spoke to a fig tree, and calmed a storm. As you watch, listen for what Jesus says and what happens next.”

Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You for Jesus and for showing us that His words are powerful. Please help us listen carefully today and learn how our words can build people up. Help us speak with kindness, love, and truth. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

2. Video Lesson on Jellyfin

3. Discussion

“Let’s talk about what we learned in today’s Bible Story. We saw three times Jesus used His words in powerful ways. He healed a centurion’s servant, spoke to a fig tree, and calmed a storm.”

- “What happened after Jesus spoke in each story, and what does that show us about Jesus?”
(*The servant was healed, the fig tree withered, and the storm became calm. Jesus’ words have authority and power because He is the Son of God.*)
- “Our Weekly Verse from 1 Timothy 4:12 NIRV says, ‘Set an example in what you say and in how you live.’ What are some words we can say that set a good example and build others up?”
(*We can say kind, truthful, helpful, and encouraging words, such as ‘You can do it,’ ‘Good job,’ or ‘I’m here to help.’*)

“Jesus’ words have a kind of power and authority that only He has. Our words are different, but they still affect the people around us. We can choose words that encourage and help others instead of words that hurt them. Remember our **[Teaching Focus] Our words have power to build people up or tear them down.**”

4. Build Others Up Brick Puzzle

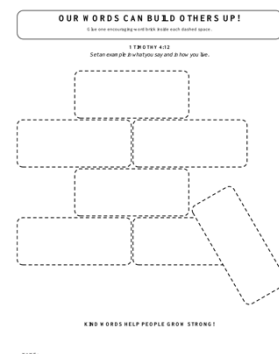
What You Need:

- ☐ “Build Others Up” printable (both pages), one set per child
- ☐ White cardstock
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Child-safe scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print both craft pages on white cardstock, one set per child.



- Make one completed sample so leaders can see how the seven word bricks fit inside the seven dashed spaces.
- Pre-cut several sets of bricks and pre-write encouraging words on each brick for children who need support with scissors or fine-motor tasks.

During the Activity:

- Give each child both craft pages. Have the children write their names on both pages.
- Invite the children to write one encouraging word on each of the seven bricks. Offer ideas such as kind, brave, helpful, loved, creative, strong, and caring. Younger children who have difficulty writing may write one or two words or may use the pre-prepped bricks.
- Let the children color and decorate the word bricks and the brick-building page.
- Have the children cut out the seven bricks along the solid rounded outlines. Keep the first page whole.
- Invite the children to arrange one word brick inside each dashed space. Check the placement before gluing.
- Glue the seven bricks in place and set the finished pages aside briefly if the glue needs time to dry.

After the Activity:

- Invite each child to point to one encouraging word they could say to someone this week.
- Connect the craft to the **[Teaching Focus] Our words have power to build people up or tear them down.**

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

“In today’s Bible Story, Jesus used His words in three powerful ways. He healed a centurion’s servant, spoke to a fig tree, and told a storm to be still. Jesus’ words showed His authority and power. Similarly, our words affect others and can be used to build someone up or tear them down.”

During the Activity:

“Look at your seven bricks. Each brick will hold one word that can build someone up. What are some words that might help a person feel encouraged, welcomed, or loved? (Pause.) You might write kind, brave, helpful, loved, creative, strong, or caring. As you place each brick, imagine that every kind word adds strength to this building.”

After the Activity:

“Hold up your finished brick puzzle. Just as bricks can build a strong wall, kind and truthful words can encourage people and help them grow stronger. Unkind words can hurt and tear people down. This week, remember our **[Teaching Focus] Our words have power to build people up or tear them down.**”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Offer pre-cut bricks with pre-written words to children who find cutting and writing difficult.
- Let a child choose from the printed word ideas or copy a word from a leader-written example.
- A leader may write the words while the child colors, arranges, and glues the bricks.
- Invite early finishers to quietly share an encouraging sentence using one word from their craft.

5. Build Each Other Up Cup-Stacking Race (Optional, if time allows)

What You Need:

- ☐ Plastic party cups, 15 per team, plus a few extras

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Count out 15 cups for each team. Make a completed five-level sample with five cups on the bottom, then four, three, two, and one on top.
- Divide the children into teams of approximately four. Create additional teams for larger groups so every child receives several turns.
- Give each team a nested stack of 15 cups and enough floor or table space to build safely.
- Explain that children will take turns placing one cup at a time. After placing a cup, the child steps back and lets the next teammate take a turn.
- Tell the children that encouraging words are part of the game. They may say, 'You can do it!' 'Keep trying!' 'Great job!' or 'We can build it together!'
- Remind the teams not to blame anyone if a cup falls. Everyone should use kind words and help the team continue.

During the Activity:

- When the leader calls, 'Build each other up!' the first child on each team places one cup and then steps back.
- The next teammate places one cup. Continue rotating through the team in the same order.
- If part of the pyramid falls, the team keeps working from where it is. Teammates should encourage one another as they rebuild.
- The first team to complete a five-level pyramid using all 15 cups wins the round. All other teams continue until their pyramids are complete.
- Have the winning team encourage the other teams with phrases such as, 'Keep going!' and 'You're almost there!'
- When every team has finished, have the children applaud one another. If time allows, take the pyramids apart and play a second round.

After the Activity:

- Invite the teams to look at all the completed pyramids and celebrate what they built together.
- Ask, 'How did encouraging words help your team when building became difficult or the cups fell?'

What You Say:

"You used cups to build a pyramid, and you used encouraging words to build up your teammates. When the tower was difficult or fell down, words like 'Keep trying' and 'You can do it' helped your team continue. Jesus' words have power and authority because He is the Son of God. Our words do not have the same power as Jesus' words, but they can still help or hurt the people around us. We can choose words that are kind, truthful, and encouraging. Remember our **[Teaching Focus] Our words have power to build people up or tear them down.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Let a child build from a seated position or place the cups on a table within comfortable reach.
- A child may hand cups to a teammate, choose the next encouraging phrase, or help count the completed rows.
- Demonstrate where each row belongs and allow a leader or buddy to help steady the bottom row.
- Keep every child involved. Do not eliminate or penalize a child when a cup or part of the pyramid falls.