

Learning > You Sound Different

Family Page
lesson passage: James 3

We are continuing to learning about God's expects our lives to change as we learn his instructions for us. Tonight we learned how very powerful our tongues (words) are.

Consider one of these activities with your family this week.

Role Play

Give yourself and your child the opportunity to experience both the right and wrong ways to respond in situations.

- younger groups: use puppets or dolls
- older groups: verbally engage, act if you want!
- prepare several scenarios, both ones where they typically succeed and one or two where they struggle, in a basket or bag for a child to draw from
- bedtime, supper selection, sibling conflict, someone breaks their pencil at school, parental respect, etc
- explain to the child that they are going to respond to you the **WRONG** way first
 - you are the parent, they are the child
 - you say - Bedtime! Let's get jamas on, etc
 - child yells - NO! (or whatever poor response they give) if it's not a severe wrong answer get them to do it again with gusto!
 - redo - try again the right way this time
 - High-five, fist bump, or do something that affirms their participation
- Consider asking them to play the role of someone in authority over you or stranger so you can practice your responses as well

Tea Bag Lanterns

As you complete the experiment discuss the power of our words. Be sure to make it a conversation, sharing your perspectives on the questions as well, not correcting their answers.

- Are you quicker to take to heart kind things that are said to you or harsh?
- Why do you think it's that way?
- Do you find yourself speaking without thinking very often? If so, is it frequently kind things that come out or is it when you're upset?
- Let's see what happens with this.
- <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Teabag-Hot-Air-Balloon>

The tea bag represents the words that we say. We cannot recapture them. Whether they were great or awful, they cannot be unsaid.

Our words can be beautiful and add light to a dark place or can ignite hurt.

There is always forgiveness through Christ, but there's also the power of the Holy Spirit to help us with our words beforehand if we let it.

Re-do's give children
a chance to practice a
new behavior in a fun and
playful way while building
self-esteem through
success.

DR. KARYN PURVIS

