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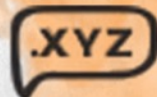
— quick —

Object Lessons

the Power of Words



Children's Ministry



by Shane Cooke

Introduction and Index

This is a QUICK connection to object lessons and Truth Highlights regarding the power of words. There are a number of sections in this guide. These include: Bible Verses regarding the Power of Words, The Object Lesson; Truth Highlights; Stories and Bible Accounts. The Stories, Bible Accounts and the Bible verses have been placed in separate sections each so that you can MIX & MATCH as you need. You choose which Bible verses you want to use and you choose a story as well as the Bible Account that would fit your lesson on the day.

I have also included Website and Youtube links which will also be of help to you.

I trust these "QUICK" series will be of help and a blessing

Pastor Shane Cooke

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26 Letters have Power

POWER WORD TRUTH: The letters of your Alphabet can create LIFE words

You will Need:

A few sets of alphabet letters. They could be plastic or wooden ones
Create some HEART Containers. These could be buckets with a bright heart stuck onto the side of the container.



What to Do:

Create two teams of players.
Have all the alphabets scrambled in one pile

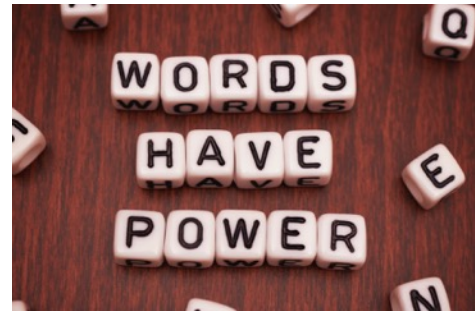
You will then call out a word. The first child in each team runs to the alphabet pile to find the first letter and return it to the team. The next team player runs to find the next letter. This is done until the word is completed. The first team to get the word are the winners. This will be done a number of times creating both positive words and negative words.

What to Say:

Did you notice where we got the letters from to create our words?

Answer: From the same alphabet
What kind of words did we create?

Answer: Both Negative and Positive words



26 letters from the same alphabet yet they can create BOTH Negative words as well as Positive words.

What kind of words do you think should a follower of Jesus have coming out of their mouth?

Answer: Positive words.

Letters create words which in turn give us our language. Language is what we use to communicate with each other.

Language comes from the heart. What is in the heart comes out of our mouths.

If our heart is full with bad things, that is what will be coming out in our actions and the way we speak. Let your heart be a container of God's Love and Goodness. What is in it will come out in our words.

Job 33:3

"My words are from the **uprightness of my heart**, And my lips speak knowledge sincerely.

Luke 6:45 "A good person produces **good things from the treasury of a good heart**, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart

Jesus said it is impossible for a tree to give two types of fruit. It either gives good fruit or bad fruit. What's in your heart?

Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me"

A Crumpled Heart

POWER WORD TRUTH: Words hurt, harm and hinder.

What you need:

A large A3 or A4 size piece of Red Paper. (If you have a large group of children, use a larger size piece of paper)



What you say:

Ask the children what do unkind words do?

Answer: They break down, they hurt, they destroy. Who has ever heard the saying "Sticks and stone may break my bones but WORDS will never hurt me"

Is it true? How many of you have had hurting words said to you?

What did it make you feel like?

Explain that this Red heart represents their heart.

Each time you say a hurting word like: Loser, you are not pretty like...; i don't know why you....; I wish you were.....

Each time you say one of these, crumple the red heart some more. After each time you say something hurting or horrible say

"I'm so sorry i said that, but then go onto to say another hurting thing...

What you need to Do:

Every time we say an unkind word, crumple the paper a bit more.

The idea is to have the entire heart crumpled so that when you open it, all the crumpled folds are still seen.

Once this is done, try to straighten the paper out again.

You may want to pass the paper heart around and let the children try to straighten it out.

It's just not the same, no matter how many times you say sorry.

Can also do this by roping the paper and then tapping it back together

Be sure to
taste your
words before
you spit
them out.

The Bible says

Psalm 141:3

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Polystyrene and Acetone Object Lesson

Negative words eat away and damage others

POWER WORD TRUTH: Words can burn deep into someones heart. There are some big people who had words spoken to them when they were your age. All these years later those words still burn hurt in them.

What you need:

Polystyrene heart (You can find these in the art stores or cake stores)

A bottle of Acetone

A Tin Foil Tray

What to do:

Place the heart into the Tin Foil tray so that the Acetone can be poured onto it. When acetone hits polystyrene, it disintegrates it or distorts it.

What to say:

Sometimes we don't know how powerful our words are. This is true for positive words and negative words.



The Bible tells us in:

Proverbs 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of understanding. Good words are like healing ointment.

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones

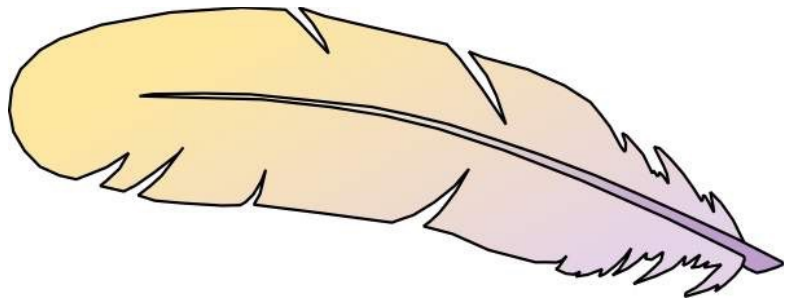
What do negative words do? As you begin to speak about the negative words, pour or allow a few drops of acetone to go onto the heart. Allow the children to see what happens. Holes will begin to appear in the polystyrene or an eating away. The damage will be noticeable.

Feathers and Fan

POWER WORD TRUTH: Once words are spoken, they are very difficult to get them all back

What you need:

A whole lot of feathers
A fan or leaf blower



What to do

Have someone throw all the feathers into the air and then use the fan or leaf blower to blow them everywhere. Have the children try and gather them. See who can get the most feathers.

What to say

That was a lot of fun BUT it does have message about words. Sometimes when we don't choose our words wisely or we just say whatever comes into our heads, it is possible for those words to get out of control. Have you ever wished you could take back something you said. It is like those feathers floating all over the place, you are trying to grab them but they just seem to be out of reach. You may not have meant them but once they were out, you had no control over them. Other people took them and passed them on and now they are out of control. It is that leaf blower wind, it was no longer possible to grab them all. It may have hurt someone or damaged another persons reputation

Proverbs 17:27

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

James 1:26

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless

Optional

Game: Feather Relay Race

You will need:

a Fan for each team or a leaf blower
A Bag of Feathers for each team

Create two relay teams. Have equal number of team members at both the finish and start line. This way a team member only runs one way and then passes the fan / blower to the next team member.

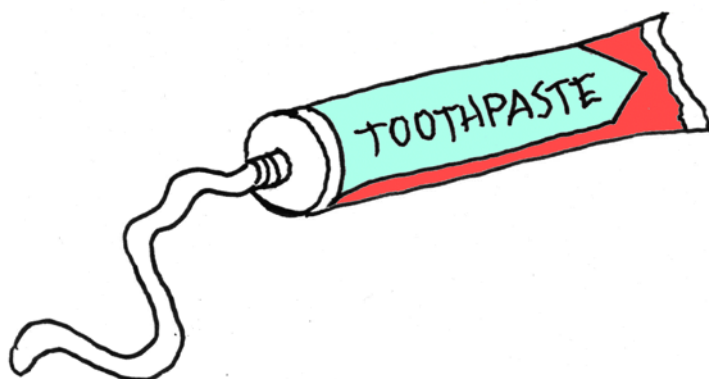
Using the fan or leaf blower, the first team member blows the feathers across the room towards a designated line. The more feathers there are, the more difficult it is to keep control of the feathers. Once the team member has got their feathers across the line the next ember takes over and blows the same feathers back to the other line. Continue until all members have had a turn.

There will probably be chaos and not many feathers gathered which actually highlights the truth even more/

Toothpaste Object Lesson: The Power of Words

POWER WORD TRUTH: Guys and Girls, we saw how easy it is to get the toothpaste OUT of the tube BUT it was IMPOSSIBLE to get it ALL back into the tube.

That is like our WORDS. How many know it is very easy to let them out BUT impossible to TAKE THEM BACK



What you will need:

For leader version: One Tube of Toothpaste, Plate, Incentive

For Children Game competition: You will need Two Tubes of Toothpaste, 2 plates, 2 spoons and an incentive

Incentive: This could be a monetary amount or it could be something that your children would want to win i.e.: large chocolate. (There is a very good chance that you will still have the chocolate by the end of the lesson!)

This can either be done as an object lesson by the leader or as a game competition with children involvement.

Children Competition version: Invite two children to come to the front. You will have a table set up with 2 plates, 2 spoons and 2 tubes of toothpaste. (Have the table covered so that the children do not know what they are about to do.)

What you say: As you pull back the cover, you will say “We are going to have a competition today. It is a very easy one. When I say GO, each of you are going to see how fast you can squeeze out all the toothpaste from the toothpaste tube onto the plate in front of you.

Let this happen, have the children cheering for their team member. (This is the easy part)
It will not take them long to squeeze all the toothpaste out.

You say “That was very easy wasn’t it! I have a large chocolate or () that I am going to give to the first one who can put all that toothpaste BACK INTO THE TUBE using the spoon.

You can give them about a minute or so. They may get some of the toothpaste back BUT IT is IMPOSSIBLE to get it all back into the tube.

Thank the children for their participation.

**NEVER TRUST
YOUR TONGUE
WHEN YOUR
HEART IS
BITTER.**

The Bible tells us that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Prov. 18:21).

The Message version says “Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose”

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Prov. 12:18).

Our words have POWER.

Questions

What kind of words bring Death?

Death Words

Lying:(Proverbs 6:16-19).

In this list of seven things the Lord hates, two of them deal with lying!

Proverbs 12:22 tells us that “lying lips are an abomination to the Lord.” God hates lying!

Why does God hate lying? First of all, because He IS truth (John 14:6). And secondly, because Satan is a liar and the father of all lies (John 8:44).

When we lie, we are not showing God’s nature but that of the enemy.

Strife:

The last item on that list of things the Lord hates is someone who sows discord (Proverbs 6:19).

“The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.” (Proverbs 17:14).

It is telling us -Don’t stir the waters. Don’t ADD to the problem.

Gossip:

“A gossip tells secrets, so don’t hang around with someone who talks too much.” (Proverbs 20:19).

A gossip is a person who habitually spreads rumours or even truthful facts.

If someone will gossip TO you, they will gossip ABOUT you.

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.” (Proverbs 16:28).

Talebearing - Breaking Confidences:

“A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.” (Proverbs 11:13).

Contentious Speech:

“It is better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a contentious wife in a lovely home.” (Proverbs 21:9).

“As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.” (Proverbs 26:21).

A contentious person is someone who is argumentative, combative or quarrelsome.

What kind of words Bring Life?

Life Words

“Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.” (James 3:3-4).
Not only can words destroy lives, they can also direct your life and destiny!

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

Another Translation says “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”
When you call someone names, you are shaping them negatively.
This week let’s look to see how we can use our words to Bless, build and encourage others.

What's Inside?

POWER WORD TRUTH: Be careful with your words.
They change lives.

You will Need:

Two identical looking apples

Pre Lesson Preparation: You will need to repeatedly drop one of the apples before the lesson, so that it bruises on the inside.

What to Do:

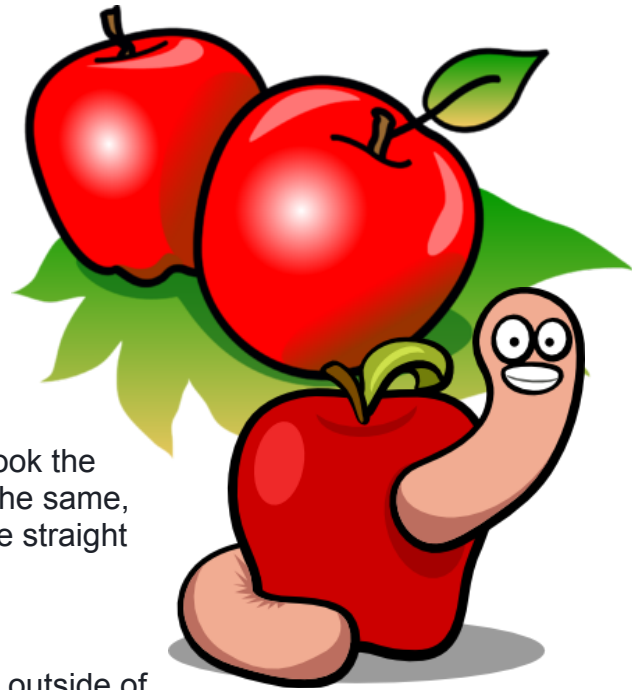
Place the two apples next to each other so that they look the same. As you are talking about the two apples being the same, begin to cut both of them open. The children will notice straight away that one is bruised while the other is not.

What to Say:

We cannot always see the impact of our words on the outside of a person but there can be terrible impacts on the inside.

Matthew 12:36

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,



What's Inside? # 2

POWER WORD TRUTH: It doesn't matter how much you call yourself a Christian, wear all the right labels, what is INSIDE comes out. You must have a heart change for the right words to come out of your mouth

You will Need:

Two Tins: One with Dog food and one with Fruit. Make sure the tins have the same opening lid on them and both tins are the same size.

A Large Tin Foil Container: You are going to "bake" a large pie.

Instant pastry or you can make a batch to bring with you.

Chefs outfit and hat



What to Do: Carefully remove both labels off the tins. Now SWITCH the labels making the dog food tin look like the fruit tin and visa versa.

You are now ready for the lesson.

As you show the children both tins, ask them which one would they choose to eat? The majority will choose the Fruit tin.

What to say:

I am your chef for today. I am going to make you the best pie you ever tasted. It is going to be a wonderful fruit pie.

As you are talking, you are mixing the pastry or laying the pastry layers.

Tell me boys and girls: Which tin should I use for the INSIDE of the pie? What I make you are going to eat.

Most will shout: The Fruit Tin

Ask for a volunteer child to come to help you. Let them know you only want the best ingredients in the pie SO they will have to test the fruit FIRST.

Allow a child to come to the table to pick up the tin. Open the tin - it will be the dog food because of the switched labels.

What happened? Someone must have switched the labels. Both tins looked the same - same lids, same size but the labels were not TRUE to what was INSIDE them.

Luke 6:45 "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks"

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Hammer and nails # 1

POWER WORD TRUTH: People forgive but they don't forget. The hurts in their heart sometimes stay for their whole life.

What you Need

Hammer

Nails

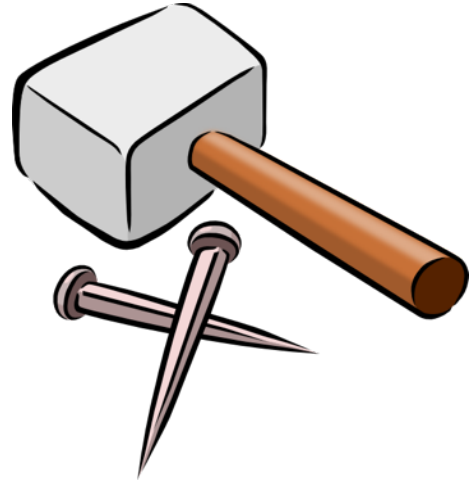
Piece of wood or board

What to Do

You may want to have a child or a few children come and help you with this message.

Show the children the Blank piece of wood.

Allow each child to hammer in a nail into the wood and then say "I'm Sorry" as they pull the nail out again.



What to Say

Words can be very destructive. They have the ability to leave hurts and wounds **EVEN** when we say we are sorry. Look at this piece of wood. It was so beautiful when we began. No marks just a wonderful piece of wood just like God made it. Look at the marks the nails have left. They will never go away.

Proverbs 16:24

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Hammer and nails # 2

POWER WORD TRUTH: Fill your mouth with LIFE words.
Your words can change someone else world

What you Need:

Hammer

Nails

Cheap wooden chair

What to Do

Use the hammer and nails to build a cheap wooden chair. If you have a pre made chair, you can ADD in one or two nails while you are talking.

Once the chair is completed, DESTROY the chair with the SAME hammer that was used to create / build it.

What to Say

You can use the same hammer to do something good like building a beautiful wooden chair. The SAME hammer can be used to destroy.

This is exactly like our words. They have power to build and to destroy.

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.



Where do your Words come from?

POWER WORD TRUTH: Allow your Heart to be filled with God's Word and Love and that is what will come out in your words.

What you Need:

4 Buckets

4 Bright Food colours (Red, Yellow, Green & Red)

Large Sponge

What to Do

Place a different food colouring in each of the buckets or see through containers.

As you share the message, dip the sponge into each of the different colour buckets and allow the sponge to soak in the liquid.

Then squeeze it out into another empty container



What to Say

Who remembers the movie "INSIDE OUT"? Who can tell me the different emotions colours and what they represented?

Blue for Sad words, Red for Angry Words and Green for Disgust and Yellow for Joy
I've got 4 containers here with different colour water in them. The four colours from the movie "Inside Out"

What comes out of our mouth comes from our heart. Language is a heart condition. Our words speak our heart.

When we are angry in our heart, we let anger come out of our mouths. As you speak about each of the different colours, dip the sponge into that colour and allow it to soak up the water, then squeeze it out into another empty container.

God wants us to have a heart filled with Him. If God has filled our hearts -what do you think comes out?

Answer: God and His things, His ways, His Words

Fill your heart with God's Word and God's Praise and that is what will come out. Yellow (Joy) will be what you are speaking.

Bible Verses

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 51:15

O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

Psalm 63:3

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You

Don't mix bad words with your bad mood. You'll have many opportunities to change a mood, but you'll never get the opportunity to replace the words you spoke.

bestlovequotesandsayings.tumblr.com

Words are like Sticky Tape

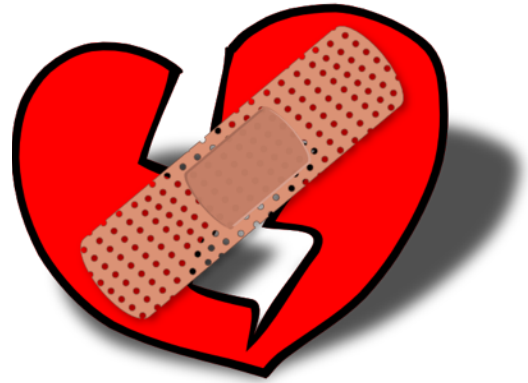
POWER WORD TRUTH: We put him back together but some people are NEVER the same because of words that were spoken.

You will need:

Large piece of butcher paper. A2- A1 size

Draw a kid on the paper,

Put a straight line instead of a smile or frown.



Hold the kid up and ask other kids to share negative words kids say to each other. (Loser, ugly...etc.)

Give the kid a name and make him real. Every school has an Alex. He sits alone in the lunchroom, not really good grades, not a good family life, so kids love to tease him.

As the kid shares, have them come up and tear a piece off the paper kid. Do this until the kid is all ripped.

Once he is ripped, explain that our words can heal too. Negative words tear, but positive words build up.

Strong clear tape and have kids share something positive to Alex. As they do have them come up and tape a piece back together.

Really cheer and have the kids excited about helping Alex.

By the end the whole group will cheer, he is put back by our words. We didn't just pray for him, we took action and used our words to heal.

As you hold him up explain that yes, we put him back, but sometimes people are just never the same because of words that were spoken.

Optional:

Have a second piece of paper with kid exactly like the Alex.

Only Jesus can make us a new person. Exchange the old Alex and bring out the new person.

Story Application

The Story of Mrs Thompson

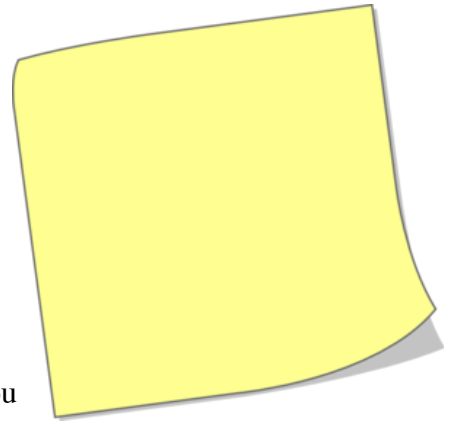
The Labels are Wrong

POWER WORD TRUTH: When God looks at us, He sees "wonderful, chosen, bought" He doesn't see the labels that others give us.

You will need:

Post-It Notes

Sharpie permanent marker /texta



Ask the children to list names that kids often call other kids. You will hear things like, "fat, stupid, dumb, hopeless worthless," etc.

As they are shouting them out, write them down on individual Post-It Notes.

When you've finished, stick them all over yourself as you talk about how we give each other names/ labels. Talk about how when others look at us, these things are what they see.

Truth: When God looks at us, He sees "wonderful, chosen, bought" He doesn't see the labels that others give us. He has a purpose and plan for each of our lives that is greater than anyone else could ever imagine.

Though we are given labels by other people, God has a purpose & plan for our lives. He doesn't see what others see when they look at us.

1 Peter 2: 9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Labels, Language and Limitations

POWER WORD TRUTH: When we allow others to place labels, limitations and language on us, we live in a small world. God has BIGGER and BETTER things for your life.

You will need:

TeaBag with string, label and a staple

Lighter or matches

Something to place the teabag on that won't burn.

You could ADD 2 other labels and write on them:

Language and Limitations.

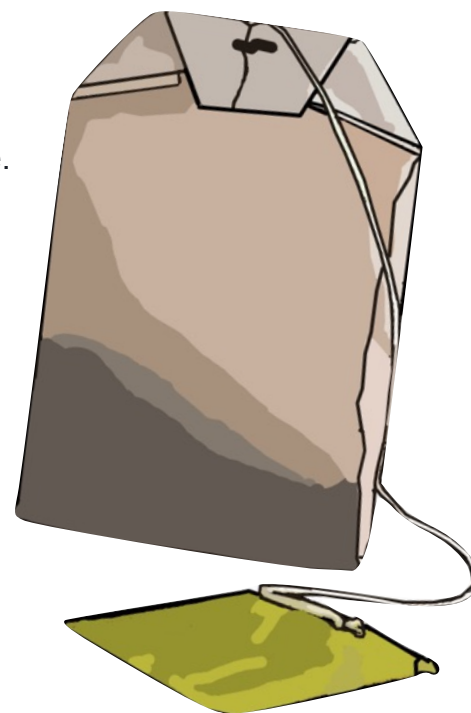
What stops you from living God's Purposes in your life?

It is like the dark stuff in this tea bag. It is locked in. YES, it can be sin as we have seen when we used this object lesson before. (If you have) BUT TODAY I want to think about some other things:

Labels

Limitations

Language



ALL of these three come to us through WORDS. They are very powerful words that hold us back, they create the space we live in. Anytime someone asks you can you do or be

The first words that come out "I Can't" I'm not good enough.."

Do you see the Black stuff in this tea bag? That's what is in your heart, it is like a weight that grows inside of you,

Today God says WHOSE WORDS will you believe?

The LABELS that people have placed on you

The LANGUAGE that is negative, breaking down words,

The LIMITATIONS that you have allowed others to create your world.

TODAY if you will allow God to be TRUE to HIS WORD in your life, He will remove every label, language and limitation in and over your life.

(Begin to pull the labels and strings off)

As we open our hearts to God (Take the staple out) God wants to clean out all the hurt, pain, anger in your heart (Pour out the black tea)

What is the Purpose of Space Rocket Ship on a launching pad? It is created to break out of the atmosphere and reach to worlds beyond. It was designed to explore new worlds.

Philippians 2:12-13 "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose**"

Remove the tea, stand the Teabag upright

Light it and watch it take off like a rocket.

Speak and keep the idea of "Born on Purpose for a purpose."

You we're created for more than what people see.

Bible verses about Words and the Tongue

This is not a comprehensive list.

Old Testament

Job 15:6

Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; And your own lips testify against you.

Job 33:3

"My words are from the uprightness of my heart, And my lips speak knowledge sincerely.

Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalms 51:15

O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

Psalms 63:3

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.

Psalms 119:171

Let my lips utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.

Psalms 141:3

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Proverbs 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of understanding

Proverbs 12:18 "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Proverbs 12:19

Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.

Proverbs 13:3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"

Proverbs 15:4

A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 16:24

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Proverbs 17:27

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 21:23

Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Isaiah 6:5

Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 57:19

Creating the praise of the lips Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near," Says the LORD, "and I will heal him."

New Testament

Matthew 12:34

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:36

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

Matthew 12:37

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 15:11

It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

Colossians 3:8

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

James 1:19-20

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:26

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.



These Youtube clips are various object lessons that teach about the power of words.

Object lesson using Dominoes to help kids see the impact of sharing their faith with others.

Theme: Evangelism

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CFX5f_t6AE

Toothpaste & Words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfo8ulrsHSU>

Tea Bags & Hot Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwB7i7xcmZg>

Sponges or Rocks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeHBNrW5xsw>

Stories and Illustrations

Once upon a time, a donkey found a lion's skin. He tried it on, strutted around, and frightened many animals. Soon a fox came along, and the donkey tried to scare him, too. But the fox, hearing the donkey's voice, said, "If you want to terrify me, you'll have to disguise your bray."

Aesop's moral: Clothes may disguise a fool, but his words will give him away.



"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." -**Mother Teresa**

The Great Fire of Chicago

One dark night, when people were in bed, Mrs. O' Leary lit a lantern in her shed,
The cow kicked it over and it began the fire.

On Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, the Chicago Fire started in the barn of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. Before the fire died out two days later, it had cut through Chicago three and one-third square miles in size. Property valued at \$192,000,000 was destroyed, 100,000 people were left homeless, and 300 people lost their lives. All because of one small spark. Words are like fire: Fire can either be a good or a bad thing. It can be used to warm your home and create an inviting environment, or the same fire can be used to burn down a home.



Teddy Stoddard

(author unknown)

There is a story many years ago of an elementary teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present which was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life.



Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer-the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Games

What you need:

Enough polystyrene cups to make a multi-level pyramid.

The higher the better.

Several tennis size balls that you can write on.

Write a hurtful word on each of the balls.

What to Do

You can create two teams of children with their own pyramid of cups as their target.

The game works as a throwing game. The goal of the game is to see who can knock over the most cups in a given time.



Spiritual Truth Highlight: Our negative hurtful words damage and destroy peoples lives.

Encouragement Game

Sit in a circle and give everyone a piece of paper and pen. Each person should write their name at the top of the piece of paper, then pass it to the person on their left. Each person then writes one or two (or more) positive characteristics about the person who's name is at the top of the paper.

After 30-60 seconds, everyone passes the pieces of paper around to their left again. This continues until everyone has written on everyone else's paper.

For more details go to: http://www.jubed.com/youth_ministry/view/Encouragement-Game

International Paper Sizes

Size	Height x Width (mm)	Height x Width (in)
4A0	2378 x 1682 mm	93.6 x 66.2 in
2A0	1682 x 1189 mm	66.2 x 46.8 in
A0	1189 x 841 mm	46.8 x 33.1 in
A1	841 x 594 mm	33.1 x 23.4 in
A2	594 x 420 mm	23.4 x 16.5 in
A3	420 x 297 mm	16.5 x 11.7 in
A4	297 x 210 mm	11.7 x 8.3 in
A5	210 x 148 mm	8.3 x 5.8 in
A6	148 x 105 mm	5.8 x 4.1 in
A7	105 x 74 mm	4.1 x. 2.9 in
A8	74 x 52 mm	2.9 x 2.0 in
A9	52 x 37 mm	2.0 x 1.5 in
A10	37 x 26 mm	1.5 x 1.0 in

Sermon Seeds about Words

Words Cost

[Proverbs 13.3]

Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

Words are a continual choice with an inevitable consequence.

[Proverbs 6.2]

My son, if you have trapped yourself by your words and are caught by what you said.

Words create and destroy

[Amos 3.7]

Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.

Words lead to a destination.

[Matthew 12.36-37, The Message]

“Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of Reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.”

Your thoughts become words which become actions which become habits which create your character and character sets your destiny.

Words hurt and heal.

Proverbs 15.4 “Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”

Proverbs 12.18 “The words of the reckless pierce like swords.”

Proverbs 26.18-19 “Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, “I was only joking!”

Words stick

James 3.1-10

1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.

10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

Application Questions

"Boys and girls,

"How does it feel when you find out someone at school is talking bad about you?"

"How does it feel when you hear someone say a bad words really loud?"

"How does it feel when your feeling discouraged and someone comes up to you and says,

"You can do it!"

Have you ever experienced "life"(someone building you up) through a conversation or someone's words

How have you seen words create and destroy?

What words can you begin to declare over your life and your family?

What words have been spoken over you that may have "stuck"

(Good or bad.)

Take a moment and begin to speak Words that God has said about you over yourself.

Declare it and Decree it.

What word or promise has God spoken over you?

Why would Satan want to influence how you speak?

What examples can you think of from the Bible that demonstrate the importance of words?