

Date: 9-16-18

Theme: How should we use our words?

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Materials and Preparation:

- a. Visit the website about constructing paper airplanes (see below). Practice making a plane so you can teach the students to make theirs.
- b. Have plenty of letter-sized paper on hand so the students can construct their airplanes.
- c. Each student will also need a pen or pencil.
- d. The students will be writing some questions on the paper before they construct their airplanes. Sample questions are provided on page 3 below; bring a copy of the sample questions to class and tape it up on the wall (close to where the students will construct their planes).
- e. Prior to class, print the following words or phrases on 3” by 5” cards, using a magic marker--one word (or phrase) per card: *lying, saying thank you, quarreling, telling the truth, swearing, complimenting, name-calling, tattling, interrupting, speaking politely, gossiping, praying, saying encouraging words, using ungrateful words.* (As you print the words or phrases on the cards, make the letters as large as you can.)
- f. Bring a poster board to class. (You can also use one of the large sheets of paper on the easel in the resource room.) Using a magic marker, draw a line down the center of the poster board. In large letters, write “Loving” at the top of one side of the poster board; write “Not Loving” at the top of the other side. (See page 4 for an illustration.)
- g. You will need scotch tape to attach the 3” by 5” cards to the poster board.
- h. The New Revised Standard Version of today’s Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 5 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

Vocabulary Words: quarreling, complimenting, gossiping

Objective: To help students understand the importance of speaking in a loving way.

Opening: Read the Lord’s Prayer together (suggestion: have students take turns reading a line or two from the prayer)

Getting-Acquainted Activity:

Since this is the first Sunday-School meeting of the 2018-19 year, use a game to help the students get acquainted. Here is one possibility:

Airplane Game:

1. Provide each student with a sheet of paper and a pen (or pencil). Have each student write his or her name on the paper and two questions about himself or herself (questions they are willing to answer), such as: Where do you go to school? What’s your favorite food? What’s your favorite thing to do in the summer? What is the longest trip you’ve ever taken? [As a visual aid for the students, post these questions on the wall—a small poster is provided on page 3 below.]
2. Next, show the students how to make an airplane out of the paper. For ideas, see: <https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/how-to-make-the-worlds-best-paper-airplanes/>
3. Set a timer for two minutes. On the command, “Go!” students fly their planes. While the timer is going, everyone picks up the planes as they land and throws them across the room.

4. When the time is up, ask everyone to pick up a plane that is not their own.
5. Students take turns reading the name of the person on the plane they have in hand. Locate that person and (while everyone else is listening) ask him or her the two questions listed on the airplane. (Members of the group may want to ask some follow up questions.)
6. You may wish to complete this activity by having each student repeat his or her name and answer one further question, such as, “If you were an animal, what would you be and why?” Or “Who is your favorite superhero and why?”

Reading:

Questions: Has anyone ever ridden a horse? (Or seen someone ride a horse?) How does a rider control a horse?

The Bible lesson for today compares the bit (used to control a horse) with *something*—with what? **Read James 3: 1-12** (*Whirl Story Bible*).

The bit in a horse’s mouth makes a BIG difference in what the horse does. Our tongues—how we speak—make a big difference in how we live. Let’s think about this.

Activity: Sorting the Words

Use the 3” by 5” cards on which you have written these words or phrases: lying, saying thank you, quarreling, telling the truth, swearing, complimenting, name-calling, tattling, interrupting, speaking politely, gossiping, praying, saying encouraging words, using ungrateful words

Ask the students: **What do these words mean?** (Hold up the cards, one by one, and encourage the students to explain what each word or phrase means—don’t let just one or two students do all the talking. Examples will be helpful, except in the case of “swearing”—you can just say that swearing is using bad words.)

Some ways of speaking are good, kind, and loving. Some are not. Which of the above ways of speaking are good, kind, and loving? Which are not?

Use the poster board. (A line is drawn down the middle of the poster board; the word “LOVING” appears at the top of one side and “NOT LOVING” appears at the top of the other side. See page 4 for an illustration.) As the students discuss the words or phrases, have them take turns taping the cards to the appropriate side of the poster board.

Closing: Ask the students to name one way they could use their words in a loving and kind way in the coming week. Offer a short prayer asking for God’s help in using our words lovingly with family, friends, and anyone we meet.

Offering: Let the students use the poster board to explain the lesson to the congregation. Ask one student to make a general statement, such as, “We learned how important it is to use our words in a loving way.” A second student says, “Here is a list of loving ways to use words” (he or she then reads the list of loving ways of speaking). A third student says, “And here is a list of unloving ways to use words” (he or she then reads the list of unloving ways of speaking). *Suggestion: have the students rehearse the offering before they present it to the congregation.*

Questions

(These are just examples. Remember to ask questions you are willing to answer.)

Where do you go to school?

What's your favorite food?

What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?

What is the longest trip you've ever taken?

Loving

Not Loving



Teachers: The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays much closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

James 3: 1-12 (NRSV). Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.