

## PICTURE REPAIRS *(application activity)*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, markers, “Picture Repairs” Activity Page, tape, scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Read Proverbs 12:18 aloud to the kids.

*“Thoughtless words cut like a sword. But the tongue of wise people brings healing.”*

- Ask kids to tell you how mean words are like a sword. *(They can be very powerful; they hurt; they make us feel bad.)*
- Ask them what kinds of words help people and make them feel better. *(Kind words; I love you; compliments; truthfulness; encouragement)*
- Set out the markers and give each kid a copy of the “Picture Repairs” Activity Page.
- Remind them of today’s Bottom Line:

**If you want to be wise, think before you speak.**

Ask what words they think should be written in the head bubble and in the mouth. Let them explain their answers, if needed, lead kids in understanding why the words “THINK” and “SPEAK” are the best choices.

- Ask kids to write the word “THINK” in the head bubble and “SPEAK” in the mouth and color the picture. Help with spelling as needed.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

- If time allows, give the kids a pair of scissors. Have them cut their pictures in half between the head bubble and the words below it (“before you”).
- Talk about the way mean words cut our feelings and hurt us on the inside. Ask them what they should do if they have said something mean to someone. *(apologize, ask forgiveness)*
- Let them tape their pictures back together.
- When finished, have the kids look at their pictures. Remind them that even when we apologize for saying unkind words, we’ve still hurt someone. Saying we’re sorry is the right thing to do but it doesn’t make the mean words go away. They have already cut/hurt. It’s always better to stop, think, and speak kind words to others.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

Mean words not only hurt people, but they hurt God, too. He created everyone on earth, He loves all of us. He wants us to be kind to each other with our words and our actions. So, this week, when you start to feel mad at someone, stop to think about how you would feel if somebody said to you what you’re about to say to this person. Are you speaking sword words that would hurt someone? Or are you speaking healing words that would make them smile and feel glad?

**If you want to be wise, think before you speak.**

## **SILVER COINS** (*memory verse activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, foil

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Sit together on the floor as you help kids look up the memory verse.
- Say the verse together several times. Remind kids that we find wisdom in God’s Word—the Bible—and that having wisdom is like having a treasure.
- Give each kid a piece of foil. Show them how to lightly wad and then flatten the foil into the shape of a “coin” that’s about two or three-inches wide. Help as needed to shape and flatten the “coins.”
- When finished, ask the kids to place their “coins” on the floor in front of them.
- Recite the verse once again, but when you come to the word “GOLD,” instead of speaking it, have the kids slap their coins. Tell them to “say” the word in their head but not out loud.
- Repeat a few more times eliminating the words, “SILVER,” “KNOWLEDGE,” and “TEACHING.”
- Have the kids put their “coins” in their Bibles to help them remember to choose wise words this week.

### **WHAT YOU SAY:**

You’re doing a great job learning Proverbs 8:10! Even when you didn’t say some of the words out loud, I could tell that you were hearing them in your head. That’s what it’s like to think before you speak. It’s listening to your words before you actually say them. Then, if they sound mean or bad, don’t say them out loud. Remember that God wants you to be wise with your words and will help you at all times.

**If you want to be wise, think before you speak.**

## **WORDS IN MY HEAD** (*memory verse activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** poster (paper)with memory verse text, Bible

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Look up Proverbs 8:10 or Proverbs 12:18 in the Bible and read it with your kids.
- Show kids the text of the Memory Verse on the poster and have them read the verse out loud with you.
- Help them to read in a predictable pace and rhythm.
- Once they're used to the rhythm, have them clap a word, similar to the song B-I-N-G-O.
- Let them get used to that, and then have them clap for a second word, then a third, then a fourth.
- Continue as long as the kids can continue without making a mistake.

### **WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Sometimes in this game, we clapped instead of saying a word. When we clapped instead of saying the word, the word was still in our head, but we didn't say it out loud. In life, sometimes we need to say our words to ourselves in our heads before saying them out loud. That way we can try them out, think about them, and make sure they are wise and kind words to say. This week, practice saying things in your head before saying them out loud to make sure you are saying things that are true, kind, and helpful. Remember,

***If you want to be wise, think before you speak.***

## **CUT DOWN VS. BUILD UP** (*application activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Cut Down or Build Up Cards”, set of blocks

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Remind kids that in the Story, we heard that the words of thoughtless people cut like swords, but the tongue of wise people brings healing.
- Give kids a set of blocks.
- Mix up the cards and have kids draw a card to see what to do. If it is a building remark, they get to add one block to their tower. If it is a cutting remark, they have to knock down half of the blocks in their tower.
- If you have more than one child, make it a game. Give each child a set of blocks and let them take turns drawing cards, building up or cutting down their towers.

### **WHAT YOU SAY:**

In this game, you didn't get to choose what words you drew, did you? They were just random, mixed-up words. And it was very difficult to make any progress in building your towers because your words kept cutting it down. In life, we sometimes act the same way. When we speak without thinking carefully first, we will sometimes thoughtlessly hurt or cut down those around us. And just like in this game, it takes many more kind words to build up someone then it does to cut them down. We need to wisely consider what we say before we say it. That way we can be sure that we aren't tossing out cutting words that will carelessly hurt those around us. When we do hurt someone, or anytime we meet someone who has been hurt, we need to remember to speak words that are true, kind, and helpful. If we think about our words before we say them and make sure that they are true, kind, and helpful, we will be speaking wise words of healing and not careless words that cut people down. Remember,

***If you want to be wise, think before you speak.***

**NO ONE LIKES YOU!**

**DON'T YOU HAVE ANY COOL  
CLOTHES?**

**I'M PRAYING FOR YOU.**

**THAT HOMEWORK WAS  
SO EASY.  
HOW COULD YOU HAVE  
MESSED IT UP?**

**I LIKE YOU.**

**SORRY YOU'RE NOT INVITED.**

**WHY DO YOU ALWAYS  
SMELL SO BAD?**

**I FORGIVE YOU.**

**YOU ARE VERY PRETTY.**

**ARE ALL YOUR TOYS  
THIS LAME?**

**THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.**

**HEY, COME SIT WITH US.**