



# Helping Kids Use Their Words Wisely God's Way

## When Words Tear Down Instead of Build Up

### Lesson Aim

To help kids understand that gossip and careless talk can hurt others and upset God, but wise, loving words bring peace and healing. Words should not be used as weapons. Our words should be a voice for grace and truth to build up.

### Scripture Focus

- “When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow.” (Numbers 12:10, *ESV*)
- “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up.” (Ephesians 4:29, *ESV*)

### Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: “Have you ever said something about someone that you later wished you hadn’t? How did it make you feel and how do you think it made them feel?”

### Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Miriam and Aaron Speaking Against Moses (Numbers 12:1-15)

Moses was chosen by God to lead His people through the wilderness. But one day, Moses’ sister Miriam and his brother Aaron began to speak against him. They complained about the woman Moses had married and questioned whether God really spoke only through him. Their words were filled with jealousy and soon gossip replaced grace.

But God heard everything they said. He called Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to the Tent of Meeting, and His presence came down in a cloud. God reminded them that Moses was His chosen servant, one He spoke to directly and trusted deeply. When the cloud lifted,



## Church Lesson | Gossip

Miriam's skin had turned white with leprosy. It was a visible sign of how gossip can spread harm—just like a sickness of the heart and community.

Aaron immediately asked for forgiveness, and Moses prayed for his sister's healing. God showed mercy and healed her after seven days outside the camp. When Miriam returned, the people welcomed her back, and their family was restored.

This story shows that words should not be weapons. When we use words to tear others down, we hurt more than feelings—we hurt trust, friendship, and peace. But when we use our voices to encourage, forgive, and protect, we reflect God's heart and bring healing instead of harm.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  - Why did Miriam and Aaron start to talk badly about Moses?
  - What happened when God heard their words?
  - How did Moses respond when his sister was punished, and what does that show about Moses' heart?
- **Explain:**
  - God takes our words seriously because they reflect what's in our hearts.
  - Wise words build trust and unity, but gossip breaks relationships and hurts others.

### Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal example when you were tempted to talk about someone but instead chose to pray or speak privately to them with kindness.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to act out short scenes showing two versions of a situation: one where gossip spreads hurt, and one where someone chooses to build up instead. Encourage them to show that correcting someone in private—without embarrassing them—shows wisdom and love.

### Pray

- "Dear God, help us use our words with love and wisdom. When we're tempted to gossip or speak unkindly, remind us to pause and choose grace instead. Thank You for forgiving us when we fail and helping us build others up with our words. Amen."

### Craft/Activity

- "Words That Build" Wall: Give each child a paper brick. On their brick, have them write or draw kind and truthful words that build others up—like "honest," "helpful," or "gentle." Collect the bricks to create a "Words That Build" wall on the classroom board, reminding kids that every kind word strengthens the community.

### Key Takeaway

- Speak truth that helps, not words that hurt.