



## Battle Squids

### Book of Proverbs: Using Words Wisely

**BIG IDEA:** God wants us to use our words for peace.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Proverbs 21:23; Judges 8:1-3; 12:1-4

**KEY VERSE:** “A gentle answer turns anger away. But mean words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1 (NIRV)

### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### BATTLE SQUIDS CONNECT QUESTIONS

**Say:** Today we’re going to continue our “Battle Squids” series. That means we get to have another incredible competition to help us learn all about the Book of Proverbs. In today’s story, we’ll be learning how our words can have the power to bring peace or start a war.

**Question:** What’s the nicest thing anyone has ever said to you? How did you react?

**Question:** If there was a word that you could magically erase from existence, what word would you erase?

#### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### STORY QUESTIONS

#### For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. Why do you think the men of Ephraim stopped being angry at Gideon?

#### For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. If you were in that situation, do you think you would have responded more like Gideon or Jephthah? Why?

### TOWER OF KINDNESS (Application Activity)

**Set up:** Place 15 blocks into a paper bag, but make one of the blocks a different color from the others.

**Directions:** Tell the kids that the object of this game is to build the tallest tower possible. One at a time, have the kids reach into the bag without looking. For every block they choose, they get to carefully add it to the tower. Tell them to stack the blocks gently and carefully so the tower can stand strong and tall. If someone chooses the odd colored block, though, they have to use it to knock the tower down. Play a few rounds to see how tall they can make the tower before having to knock it down.

**Question for Older Kids:** Can you think of how that game is like using kind words or mean words?

**Say:** In that game, stacking the blocks was kind of like building someone up with kind words. It takes a lot of kind words to build someone up strong and tall. And you have to use them very gently and carefully. But the odd colored block is kind of like using a mean word. It only takes one to knock a person down.

**Question:** Has there ever been a time when someone used kind words to really build you up? What was that like?

**Question:** What are some times when it's hard for you to use kind words?

**Question:** Jesus was able to use kind words, even with the people who nailed Him to the cross. How can that help you use your words for peace?

### TOSS-A-VERSE (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. Practice saying it together a few times. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it. Today's Bible verse says:

**“A gentle answer turns anger away. But mean words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1**

Tell the kids they're going to toss an imaginary object to each other. The kid who catches the object has to say the next word in the verse. Let the kids take turns deciding what the imaginary object will be. It



# June 11-12

Small Group Lesson | School Age



could be something really small, like a feather; really big, like a refrigerator; or really hot, like a fireball. They'll have to adjust how they throw the object based on what's being thrown. Continue throwing the object until the whole verse has been recited. When finished, have the entire group say the whole verse together. Next, choose a different imaginary object and begin another round. Continue playing rounds until the kids have confidently memorized the verse. When finished, ask the following question:

**Question:** Is there someone in your life you have a hard time giving “gentle answers” to? Who is it? Why is it hard with that person?

## **PRAYER HUDDLE** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Encourage kids in your group to share prayer requests or praises with one another. During the lesson today, we learned about giving “gentle answers” to others. Ask the kids if they need prayer specifically to help them use “gentle words” with others this week. When kids are finished sharing, have them get on one knee and huddle in a circle with their arms around one another. Open the group in prayer. Allow the kids in the group to take turns praying aloud for themselves or for each other. When finished, close the group with a final prayer.

