

Today's Bible Story: Under Control (Taming of the Tongue) • *James 3:1-6*

Today's Bottom Line: God gives you the power to have self-control.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: “Woo-HOOOOO! We’ve had such a fun summer here at [your environment’s name]! And you picked a great day to be here, because today we’re combining the best of all our summer games to make one GIANT wave of fun!

“We’ve been making waves all summer. Why? Well, if you’ve been here for any of our summer fun, you already KNOW why.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“What you do today can change the world around you.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“Yes! We can make waves with the help of God’s Spirit. We can live each day by showing things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and even gentleness. We’ve got another great way to make waves that we’ll talk about a little bit later.

“But first, it’s time to have some fun with our grand finale, so let’s jump in! First, we need to get into two teams.

If you’ve been doing a summer-long competition, you can divide into those teams; otherwise, just divide the teams as evenly as possible among ages.

(Reference the stations of the game.) “As you can see, we have several different stations. I have a sign with a number by each one, so your team knows what order to go in. Team A will follow the numbers on the [sign color] signs, and Team B will follow the numbers on the [sign color] signs. Each team will be going in a different order, but I’ll explain what you’ll do at each station.

“At the water cup relay, you’ll each grab a cup and spread out between these two containers. *(Reference the containers.)* The person next to the full container will dip their cup in to fill it, then turn to the next kid and dump the water in their cup. Then you can turn back and refill your cup and keep going. You’ll pass that water all the way down until you’ve filled up the other container to the fill line. As soon as you’ve filled it, head to your next station!

“At the LIFE SAVERS® fishing station, you’ll need to take off your shoes, then line up behind this chair. (*Reference the chair.*) Each person will take turns fishing around with your feet to find a Life Saver, then drop it into the bucket. No hands allowed! As soon as everyone on your team has moved a Life Saver to the bucket, you can move along to the next station.

“At the water balloon relay station, you’ll divide your team up into partners. Each pair of you will grab a water balloon and put it behind your backs. One by one, each pair will move the water balloon over to the bucket filled with water and drop it in the bucket without using your hands. When your balloon is in the bucket, the next pair on your team can go. If you drop the balloon, you can stop and pick it up with your hands, but if it breaks, you have to go back and get another one and start over. When each pair of partners on the team has successfully delivered a water balloon into the bucket, it’s time for the next station.

“We also have the sponge relay. You’ll line up between the two buckets. The player next to the bucket of water will pick up the sponge filled with water and pass it over their heads to the next person, who will pass it to the next person, and so on. You have to keep the sponge above your head. Once the sponge gets to the last person, they’ll squeeze out the water into the container. Then they’ll run the sponge back down to the beginning and take the spot next to the full bucket, and everyone else will move down a place. As soon as your team has filled up the container to the fill line, your time at this station is complete!

(Optional bonus activity for outdoor play only)

“And then we have the grand finale: the beach ball relay with the sprinkler. (*Reference the basket and trash can.*) For this, you have to get a beach ball from this basket to the empty trash can over there. You have to get the beach ball over there by walking with it between your knees—no hands! And as you can see, you WILL get wet.

“Does anyone have any questions about how to play? (*Answer any questions.*) Okay, it’s time to line up behind your team’s first station! On your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: Fun music

Video (Media Package): Theme (after activity is done)

“That. . . was. . . awesome! You all did your best and made some serious waves in the process. That was just so much fun, and we’ll keep having fun as we celebrate with some worship. Everyone, pass the towels around and dry off, then let’s stay on our feet so we can sing to God!”

Pass around beach towels or paper towels to allow kids to dry off. If you’re outside, you can head back in for Worship if you’re doing the rest of Large Group inside.

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we sing, let’s watch this video together.

Video (Media Package): *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

Video (Media Package): *Theme*

“I’m so glad that we don’t have to go through this life alone. In fact, Jesus said we don’t have to worry about anything, because He is ALWAYS with us. Jesus said it this way in Matthew 6:31-33 (NirV): *Don’t worry. Don’t say, ‘What will we eat?’ Or, ‘What will we drink?’ Or, ‘What will we wear?’ . . . But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.*

“When we put our trust in Jesus, we have God’s Spirit to help us. Let’s sing this song to Jesus and tell Him that He is all we need!

Video (Media Package): *“All I Need” Dance Moves Music Video*

Video (Media Package): *Theme*

“We’ve learned so many amazing ways that we can make waves this summer. So let’s tell the world about it. We’ve got a lot of life to live, and a lot of love to give. Let me hear you sing!

Video: *“Making Waves”*

Video (Media Package): *Theme*

“I love making waves with all of you! You can have a seat for now.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “The book of James in the New Testament (*hold up Bible*) was written by—you guessed it—James. But this James wasn’t just a close friend or follower of Jesus. James was actually Jesus’ YOUNGER BROTHER.

“Can you imagine growing up with Jesus as your big brother? Jesus and James may have wrestled and played ball and imagined inventions together like other brothers. But eventually, James came to believe that Jesus was also God’s Son—the One sent to save the whole world.

“In his letter to a group of Jesus-followers, James wrote about a really cool way that we can make waves in the world around us. With the help of God’s Spirit, we can show . . . self-control.”

A HORSE’S BIT

LEADER: “James made it clear that if you believe in Jesus and rely on the help of God’s Spirit, your life should look like it! Listen to what he wrote.

Open the Bible to James 3:2 (NirV) and read.

“Suppose someone is never wrong in what they say. Then they are perfect. They are able to keep their whole body under control.

“James was saying that one of the toughest things you’ll ever need to control is . . . YOU! The things you do, and especially the things you SAY, can make a big difference in the world around you. Just like Jesus often used stories, James used some amazing word pictures to explain what he meant. Check out the first one.

Set the box down on the table with the horse illustration facing the audience.

Open the Bible to James 3:3 (NirV) and read.

“We put a small piece of metal in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it.

“I don’t know if you’ve ever spent time around a horse before. Horses are strong, powerful animals.

Point to the bit on the illustration.

“But when a bit—a tiny piece of metal—is placed in a horse’s mouth, even a small person can easily tell the horse where to go!”

A SHIP’S RUDDER

LEADER: “Let’s look at the next word picture James gave us.

Rotate the box so the ship is facing the audience.

Open the Bible to James 3:4 (NirV) and read.

“And how about ships? They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go.

“Imagine a huge sailing ship. Some ships built now are so big, they’re like floating cities! But ships don’t come with brakes. They can’t be stopped over a short distance. That makes it super-important for a pilot to be able to steer easily. Here’s what directs the ship—a rudder.

Point to the rudder on the ship illustration.

“Compared to that massive ship, the rudder is tiny. But a small adjustment of the rudder controls the path of the entire ship.

Rotate the box back to the horse illustration.

“Just like a tiny bit controls a big, powerful horse . . .

Rotate the box forward to the ship illustration.

“. . . or a small rudder controls a massive ship . . .

(Point to your tongue.) “. . . our tongues are powerful, too. Compared to the rest of your body, your tongue is pretty small. But it has SO much power!

“As James put it . . .

Open the Bible to James 3:5 (NirV) and read.

“In the same way, the tongue is a small part of a person’s body. But it talks big.

“You see, the words that we speak, write, or type can change the whole direction of our lives. That’s why it’s so important that we can CONTROL them!”

JUST LIKE FIRE

LEADER: “James wasn’t done with the word pictures yet, though. Let’s read.

Rotate the box so the fire is facing the audience.

Open the Bible to James 3:5-6 (NirV) and read.

“Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire. The tongue is also a fire.

“Fire can be a great thing. Imagine a cozy bonfire for toasting marshmallows. If you’re outside on a freezing night, a blazing fire can even be life-saving!

“But those same flames can destroy life, too. A tiny spark can flare into a huge wildfire within minutes. That raging wildfire can destroy EVERYTHING in its path.

“James believed that we should take our words as seriously as wildfire. Every word that comes out of your mouth has the power to give life and encouragement—or to hurt and destroy.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “It’s a huge responsibility to stay in control of your words and actions. And there’s no way you can control what you say and do all on your own. But if you put your faith in Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit to guide you. Remember that no matter what challenges you’re facing, you can ALWAYS ask God for help.

Rotate the box to show the praying hands to the audience.

“With the help of God’s Spirit, you’ll be able to choose your words wisely. And what you say will begin to change your world . . . for good.

“You’ll be able to choose words that are . . .

Video: Bible Story

Video (Media Package): Theme

Offering

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us the ability to make choices in our lives. It’s so great when we can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stay in control of our words so that we say things to others that are kind, encouraging, and helpful. But sometimes we struggle with making the wise choice. We need Your power to have self-control! Please help each of us in this room stay in control of the words we say and the way we treat the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “James gave us a lot to think about—and a lot of cool word pictures to help us understand just how powerful our words are. It’s so important for us to have self-control when it comes to the things we say and do. Our tongue might seem small, but it can make a huge impact on us and on other people!

“That’s why we can really make waves by staying in control. I know that’s not always easy, but we can do it with the help of God’s Spirit.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “God gives you the power to have self-control.”

LEADER: “You can probably think of some times when it’s tough to stay in control of your words. Like, maybe your friend makes you mad, and a really mean insult pops into your head. If you let those words slip out of your mouth, you might just ruin the day for both you and your friend . . . or even hurt your

whole friendship.

“Instead, maybe you could take a deep breath and not say anything—at least, not right away. Walk away and take some time to talk to God.

Reference the box with the praying hands illustration and the cards in front.

“Ask God to help you respond in a way that will be kind, encouraging, and helpful.

“If we can learn to stop and think before we speak, we’ll be a lot wiser with our words. We can speak in a way that will build people up and not cause harm. We can use our words AND actions to change the world around us for the better.

“We’ve had such a fun summer learning to make waves together and finding out how God’s Spirit can help us change the world around us. And the fun isn’t over yet. Everybody up on your feet. Let’s head to Small Group!

Video (Media Package): Theme

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Adult helpers to oversee each station
- Summer accessories for the Leader: sun hat or visor, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt, etc.
- Several tarps or one giant tarp (if playing inside)
- Ten sheets of paper in two different colors
- Water cup relay props: (most can be re-used from previous weeks):
 - Water cups (one per kid)
 - Container full of water
 - Empty container with a marked fill line
- LIFE SAVERS® fishing props:
 - Life Savers candy (one piece per kid)
 - Kiddie pool or large plastic bin filled with water
 - Chair
 - Empty bucket
- Water balloon relay props:
 - Water balloons (one for every two kids plus a few extra) in a basket or container
 - Large container with water in it (to drop the water balloons in)
- Sponge relay props:
 - Large (new/clean) sponge
 - Container full of water
 - Empty container with a marked fill line
- Optional bonus beach ball relay (outside, bonus game) props:
 - Sprinkler
 - Beach balls (one per kid)
 - Basket
 - Empty (clean) trash can
- Bluetooth speaker
- Beach towels or paper towels
- Table, box, and cards from the Bible story

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Make four to five "Team A" (or other assigned name) signs on one color of paper and "Team B" signs on the other color. Alternatively, you can assign the order verbally in real time and make sure the kids know what order to do the stations. You will want to make sure you assign them so that the two teams are unlikely to end up at the same station at the same time.
- Ideally, this week would be a great one to have outside. However, if that is not an option for you, you can scale down the games as needed. (Props are divided by station in the list so you can easily pare down.) Set up each station as described in the script, and label each station with a sign.
- Ideally, you want to have one volunteer at each station. However, if you are short on volunteers, the water cup and Life Savers® relays could be monitored by one person, and the water balloon and sponge relays could be monitored by another.
- Communicate to parents ahead of time that you'll be playing water games outside, so they know to send kids to church in clothes they can get wet in.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "All I Need" from *Every Beat*
- "Making Waves" from *Make Waves EP*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "All I Need" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

What You Do:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader
- Bible
- Table
- Medium-sized box
- “Box Art” images printed from the LG Assets PDF—resized to match the sides of your box, if needed
- “Word Art” printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF, cut out, and folded into tent cards

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- “Box Art” (printable)
- “Word Art” (printable)

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange’s permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Print the “Word Art” pages on cardstock then cut out the cards and fold them in half horizontally to make tent cards. Place the cards inside the box.
- Print the “Box Art” images, resizing them if needed to match the sides of your box. Tape or glue the pages to the four sides of the box, following the order of the script so you can easily rotate the box: horse, ship, fire, and praying hands. Place the box on the table but out of the way for the Opener.

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available for additional purchase at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum. Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- *252 Story* brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.
- *Also included:* Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or *252 Story*.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

GET REEL: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments.

Four videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:

Discovery—Listen to God's words (HEAR)

Dear God—Dialogue with God (PRAY)

One Thing—Articulate your faith (TALK)

Live Loud—Worship with your life (LIVE)

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday