



Leader Notes

Your goal is not to tell students why it's not good to swear. Our goal is help them see that they have a choice. They already know that the world teaches that swearing is fine. Tonight, we will show them that God's word paints a different view of swearing. Our goal is to share God's word with students and help them to see that they have a choice. Will they choose to believe that it's ok to swear or will they choose to follow God's word?

The Big Idea

Our words are powerful, and we are accountable for them.

Focus Scripture

Ephesians 4:29

James 3: 9-10

Ephesians 5:3-4

Matthew 12:36-37

Materials Needed

Conflicted Scripture Card

Large sheet of paper

Marker

Come Together (5 minutes)

(or choose your own activity)

If you were stranded on an island and could send three words that you knew would get you rescued, what would your words be?

Connect It: Our words are important. They can very much influence what we get, accomplish, or perhaps, don't get, in our lives. Tonight, you heard what God's word says about swearing, about the words we choose to use, text, or think. What you do with that information is up to you. We're going to spend our small group time talking about swearing.

*Make sure each student has a Conflicted scripture card

Talk About It! (25-30 minutes)

(get students talking and thinking – you may not have time to discuss every question)

1. What does the world teach us/say about swearing?
2. Where are the places you see cussing used openly? (not just physical places; get students to think about music, movies, video games, social media, etc)
3. Why do you think students swear?
4. Do you think that the movies, music, videos, etc with swearing affect how you view swearing? Why or why not?
5. Were you surprised to learn that God's word has something to say about swearing? What stood out to you the most?
6. Have students look up Ephesians 4:29. So, based on this verse, what do you think about the argument that it's ok to swear with my friends because we aren't being mean to one another?
7. The world tries to tell us that it is fine to swear. If there's nothing wrong with it, why do people, students especially, hide they're swearing?
8. If you, or maybe someone you know, have trouble with swearing, what can you do to help you make better choices?

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Talk About It (continued)

Activity:

Label a large sheet of paper with two columns: pros and cons. Have students suggest points for each column. (will they suggest that one con of swearing is that it isn't the best choice for those following God?)

Next Step (10 minutes)

(help students apply this to their life)

You know what the world says about swearing. You heard tonight (and have a card as a reminder) of what God's word says about swearing.

Maybe right now you're feeling a little conflicted. The world tells us that swearing is ok. We saw tonight that God's word clearly states that it is not ok. The choice is now yours. You get to decide which truth you will follow, which direction you will take. The great thing is if you are a follower of Christ, you can call on Him to help you choose different words. If swearing isn't something you struggle with, you have God's word that you can use to share with a friend who is struggling. You can show them what God's word says so they can decide what they want to do as well.

Make sure your students understand that you're happy to chat with anyone who wants to talk more about this or who might still feel conflicted. Encourage them to keep their card as a reference.

Encourage them to invite friends to join next week for our next Conflicted topic: Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

Pray together.