

SPEECH

LESSON TEXT

Proverbs 12:18, 16:24, 18:8, 26:18-19; Psalm 119:11

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will identify good and evil speech according to the Bible.
- The students will identify the consequences of their speech.
- The students will each choose one person to encourage by their speech during the coming week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 1 plastic spoon

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- dictionary
- 1 white poster board
- wide-lined marker
- jar of honey

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: Distinguishing Good from Evil
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Victories
 Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

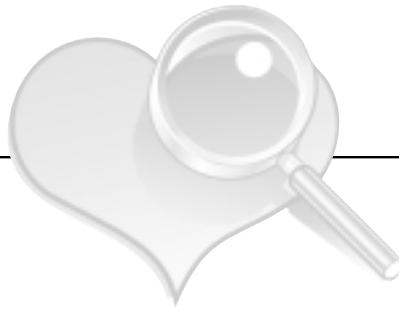
Story: Careless Words Can Hurt
 Scripture Study
 Activity: "Good and Evil Speech" Skit

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Proverbs 16:24
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
 sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
 Proverbs 16:24



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on the following proverbs: 12:18, 16:24, 18:8, 26:18-19, and on Psalms 119:11. Think of one specific time that you were encouraged by someone's words.

TEACHER TIPS

As the teacher, you set the example and the tone for the entire classroom. Would your students say you build them up or would they say that you tear them down? Have you ever found yourself teasing the preteens as if you were one of them? If Jesus were a preteen teacher in this generation, how do you think he would talk to his students? These future adults are looking to you to not only teach them, but also to help heal the wounds they get in school or at home. Be very aware of your influence both as a teacher and as a disciple. As you prepare this lesson, seek the input of those around you as to whether your speech is careless or encouraging.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

DISTINGUISHING GOOD FROM EVIL

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

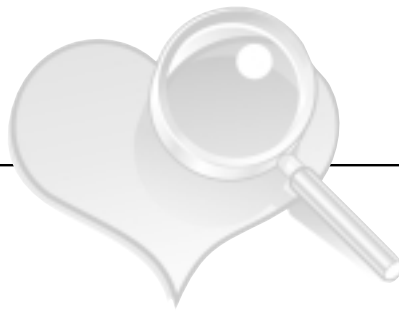
Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students arrive, give each one a copy of Reproducible Page A (Good or Evil Speech scriptures) and a pen or pencil. Be sure each student has a Bible to look up the scriptures.
2. The students should look up each of the scriptures listed, and then decide whether the passage is an example of "good" or "evil" speech. The student should then write "good" or "evil" next to the scripture.

DISTINGUISHING GOOD FROM EVIL	
DIRECTIONS:	
Look up each of the following scriptures in your Bible. If you think the verse is an example of evil or careless speech, write "Evil" in the box beside the scripture. If you think the verse is an example of good or encouraging speech, write "Good" in the box.	
SCRIPTURE	EVIL SPEECH OR GOOD SPEECH?
1. Hebrews 3:13	1. <input type="text" value="good"/>
2. 3 John 12	2. <input type="text" value="good"/>
3. Luke 7:33-34	3. <input type="text" value="evil"/>
4. Luke 22:24	4. <input type="text" value="evil"/>
5. Mark 14:55-56	5. <input type="text" value="evil"/>
6. Genesis 3:1-4	6. <input type="text" value="evil"/>
7. Luke 4:22	7. <input type="text" value="good"/>
8. 1 Peter 3:15-16	8. <input type="text" value="good"/>



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, someone to share Jesus with and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

VICTORIES

Take the time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTION

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share.





GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

STORY

CARELESS WORDS CAN HURT

In this story, the students will see how Julie gets teased for her idea, and because of those careless words, she decides not to offer her ideas again.

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page B (the story) to the students.
2. Read the story to the students.
3. Ask the following questions:
 - *What did Julie feel when the class made hurtful comments about her idea?* (She felt hurt and embarrassed.)
 - *Did the other students want to hurt her on purpose?* (Probably not; they were probably just being careless at her expense.)
 - *What advice would you give Julie?* (I would tell Julie to focus on how God sees her because that is most important. Julie needs to know that her idea was not as bad as people made it seem. There were probably some who liked it, but they were too intimidated to say so.)



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Today we are going to talk about our words or, as the Bible calls it, our speech. We are going to study about the ability we have to affect others through what we say.

For the teacher:

- 1 white poster board
- dictionary
- wide-lined marker
- extra Bibles

PREPARATION

1. Prepare ahead of time a poster board with words "Good" and "Evil" placed as the headings at the top.
2. Ask the students to look back over their preclass activity sheets. As you go through the scriptures on the worksheets, place them under the appropriate heading. Then ask them to define what good speech is and what evil speech is. Reward their answers with words of encouragement.
3. Choose three students to read the following proverbs. As each one is read, discuss the following questions:
 - Proverbs 12:18
What does "reckless" mean? What is a "reckless" driver? What can "reckless" words feel like?
 - Proverbs 18:8
What is a "choice morsel"? (Let the students suggest what their personal choice morsel might be.) *After we eat something like a piece of candy or pizza, what is happening to it long after we have forgotten about it?* (Discuss how it is digested and used to become part of the body.) *What happens to gossip after we hear it?* (Discuss how it becomes part of the way we see someone.)
 - Proverbs 26:18-19
What are "firebrands"? (arrows that are meant to stick and burn) *Sometimes we try to make excuses for what we say by claiming we were "just joking." Does that take away the hurt?*
 - *Which of the above proverbs best describes what Julie's classmates did to her through their speech?*



ACTIVITY

"GOOD AND EVIL SPEECH" SKIT

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the class into groups of three, and have each group create a skit to represent an example of evil speech. Allow each group five to eight minutes to develop their skit.
2. Tell them also to prepare to act out the same situation using good speech.
3. When all the groups are ready, have the groups share their skits with the class.





SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Proverbs 16:24

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 1 plastic spoon

For the teacher:

- jar of honey

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Bring out your jar of honey and give each student a spoon. Allow the students to take a taste (one dip per spoon). Ask them what words they would use to describe the honey. Remind them that this same description should apply to the words they use when they speak to other people.
2. Distribute a copy of Reproducible Page C (Memory Scripture) to each student. Select a student to read the scripture.
3. Have the class practice the proverb by setting it to a rap beat. (You may need to practice this several times before class in order to get a smooth beat to go along with the proverb. Or if you are not comfortable doing this, ask someone else to.)
4. Have the students take turns to see if they can rap or simply recite the verse on their own.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Ask them to consider whom they may have hurt with careless speech during the past several weeks. (They may need to ask a friend, parent or disciple for help. They may have made a careless remark, gossiped or simply said nothing when someone needed encouragement.) Share your convictions or experiences about how a friendship can be quickly healed if good and kind speech is expressed, and careless speech is forgiven.

The challenge for this week is for each student to write a card to a person whom they have never encouraged before, or to someone they have hurt recently with their speech.

Encourage the students to really give their hearts and to take on the challenge before next week.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer, asking God to help us speak encouraging words, not discouraging words. Also ask God to help us lead others to Jesus by speaking to them the way Jesus would.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Write a card to a person whom you have never encouraged before, or to someone you have hurt recently with your speech

SPEECH

LESSON TEXT

Proverbs 12:18, 16:24, 18:8,
26:18-19; Psalms 119:11;
1 Timothy 4:12

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will define good and evil speech according to the Bible.
- The students will identify the consequences of their speech.
- The students will each choose one person to encourage by their speech during the coming week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 2 index cards (3" x 5")

For the teacher:

- butcher paper, about a yard long
- scissors
- large paper bag
- extra Bibles
- tape

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: Words Can Break or Mend a Heart

Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

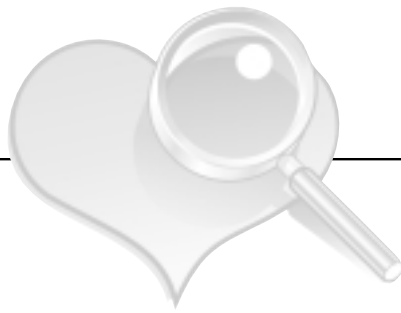
Scripture Study
 Activity: Broken and Mended Heart Demonstration

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Proverbs 16:24
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
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FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on the following Proverbs: 12:18, 16:24, 18:8, 26:18-19 and on Psalms 119:11 and 1 Timothy 4:12. Think of one specific time that you were encouraged by someone's words.

TEACHER TIPS

As the teacher, you set the example and the tone for the entire classroom. Would your students say you build them up or would they say that you tear them down? Have you ever found yourself teasing the preteens as if you were one of them? If Jesus were a preteen teacher in this generation, how do you think he would talk to his students? These future adults are looking to you to not only teach them, but also to help heal the wounds they get in school or at home. Be very aware of your influence both as a teacher and as a disciple. As you prepare this lesson, seek the input of those around you as to whether your speech is careless or encouraging.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

WORDS CAN BREAK OR MEND A HEART

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

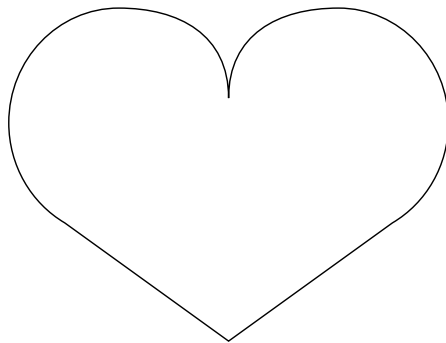
- pen or pencil
- 2 index cards (3" x 5")

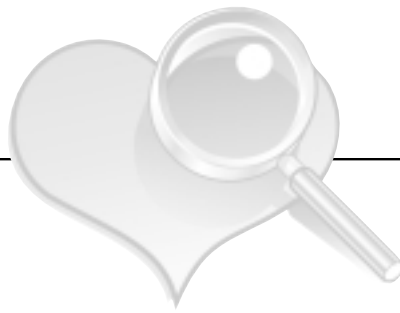
For the teacher:

- butcher paper, about a yard long
- scissors
- large paper bag

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students enter class, choose one to draw a giant heart shape on butcher paper, and then cut it out.
2. Give each of the other students two index cards, and instruct them to write a positive comment on one card and a negative comment on the other.
3. NOTE: These comments should not be about anyone in the class—just generic comments such as the following: negative (You have a big nose. You stink.) and positive (You have beautiful hair. I love the way you smile.).
4. Have them drop these comment cards into a large paper bag for use later in the class.





STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes about how they can be more encouraging in their speech.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Proverbs 16:24.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so as many as possible can share.





SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Ask the students to share what they learned from the last class. Get as many students as possible to participate and to share which aspects of the lessons and the proverbs were significant to them. Praise the students for their recall and for their willingness to share. Have the students to take out their Bibles and turn to 1 Timothy 4:12. Select a volunteer to read the passage. Emphasize that even though they are young, preteens can still set an example in their speech. Ask them the following questions:

- *How can you set an example for your friends or younger brothers and sisters with your speech?*
- *How can you set an example for your older family members with your speech?*
- *How do you feel when something negative is said about you?*
- *Who have you encouraged this past week with your speech?*

Read Psalm 119:11 to the class and tell them that God's words encourage us and are good for the heart.

ACTIVITY

BROKEN AND MENDED HEART DEMONSTRATION

This activity will demonstrate the power of both the hurtful word and the helpful word.

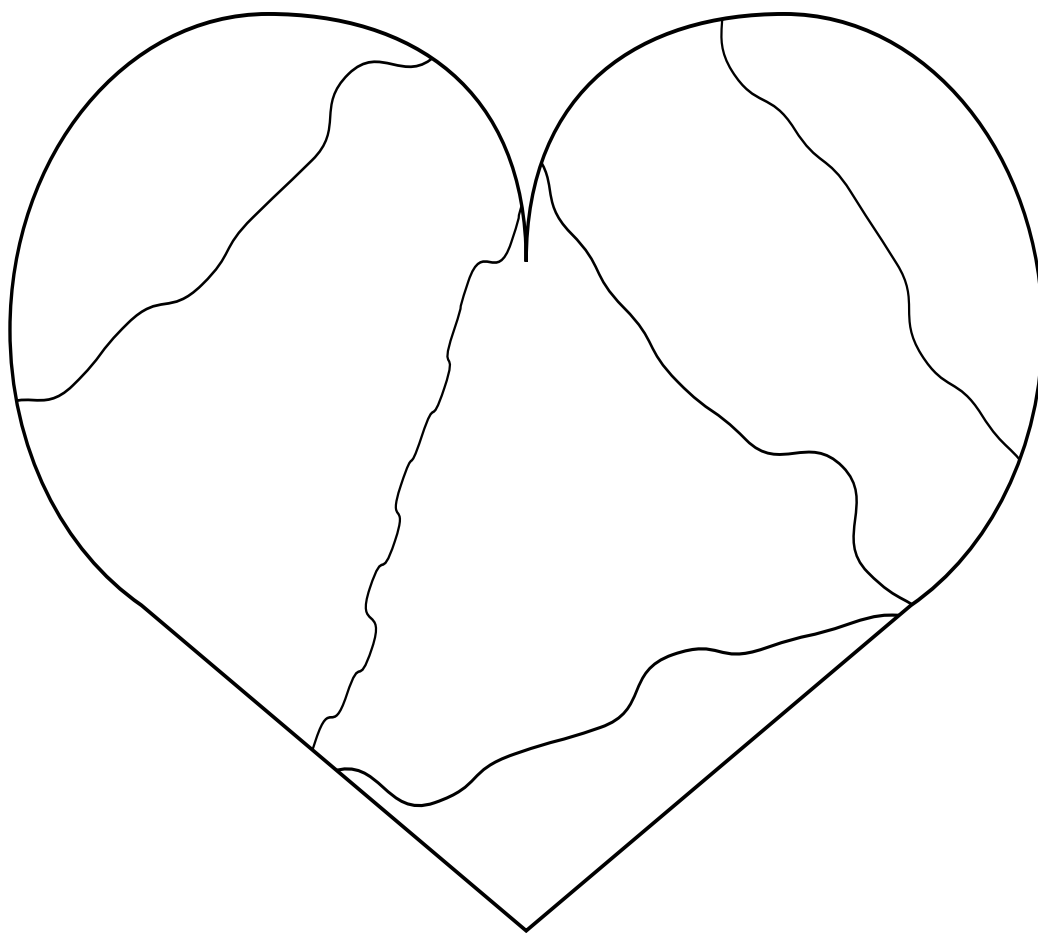
MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- tape

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose two students to stand at the front of class. Have one hold up the paper heart (preclass activity) in front of him or her. Have the other student stand beside the heart, holding the tape.
2. Have the other students take a card out of the bag, one at a time, and read it. If the person holding the tape thinks it is a negative comment, he or she will tear a piece of the heart off. Any time a positive comment is read a piece can be taped back onto the heart.
3. Be sure every student gets to read at least one card.
4. After all the cards are read, ask the following questions:
 - *How can this paper heart be related to our real hearts?*
 - *How would we look if every negative comment that was made toward us showed up on our faces or on our bodies?*
 - *How do negative words make us feel?*
 - *How do you feel when you have said something negative or careless to someone?*
 - *What are some things that we could say often that would help put people's hearts back together?*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
Proverbs 16:24

Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson. Practice the verse together with the class, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.

INSTRUCTIONS

Have those who know the memory verse stand and "rap" it to the class. Have the rest of the class join in until all are comfortable saying the proverb.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you remind them of the challenge for the week. (The students were asked to write a card to someone they had never encouraged, or to someone that they might have hurt recently with their speech.)

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer asking God to help them speak to others as Jesus would.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Write a card to a person whom you have never encouraged before, or to someone you have hurt recently with your speech.

DISTINGUISHING GOOD FROM EVIL

DIRECTIONS:

Look up each of the following scriptures in your Bible. If you think the verse is an example of evil or careless speech, write "Evil" in the box beside the scripture. If you think the verse is an example of good or encouraging speech, write "Good" in the box.

SCRIPTURE	EVIL SPEECH OR GOOD SPEECH?
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3. Luke 7:33-34	3. <input type="text"/>
4. Luke 22:24	4. <input type="text"/>
5. Mark 14:55-56	5. <input type="text"/>
6. Genesis 3:1-4	6. <input type="text"/>
7. Luke 4:22	7. <input type="text"/>
8. 1 Peter 3:15-16	8. <input type="text"/>

CARELESS WORDS CAN HURT

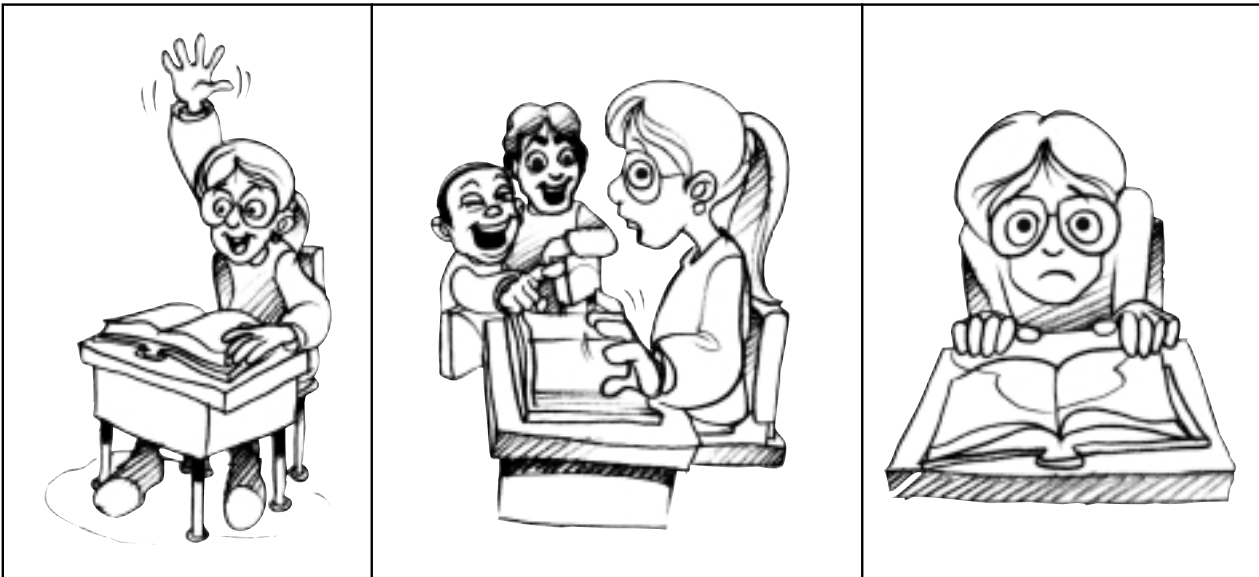
In a middle school classroom, the teacher asked the students for suggestions for a class field trip to a business within the community. Julie raised her hand and said, "I think going to the power plant would be interesting. We could see how they make electricity."

Immediately, many others began to make comments such as, "That's totally boring!" "Who cares?" and "What a dumb idea!"

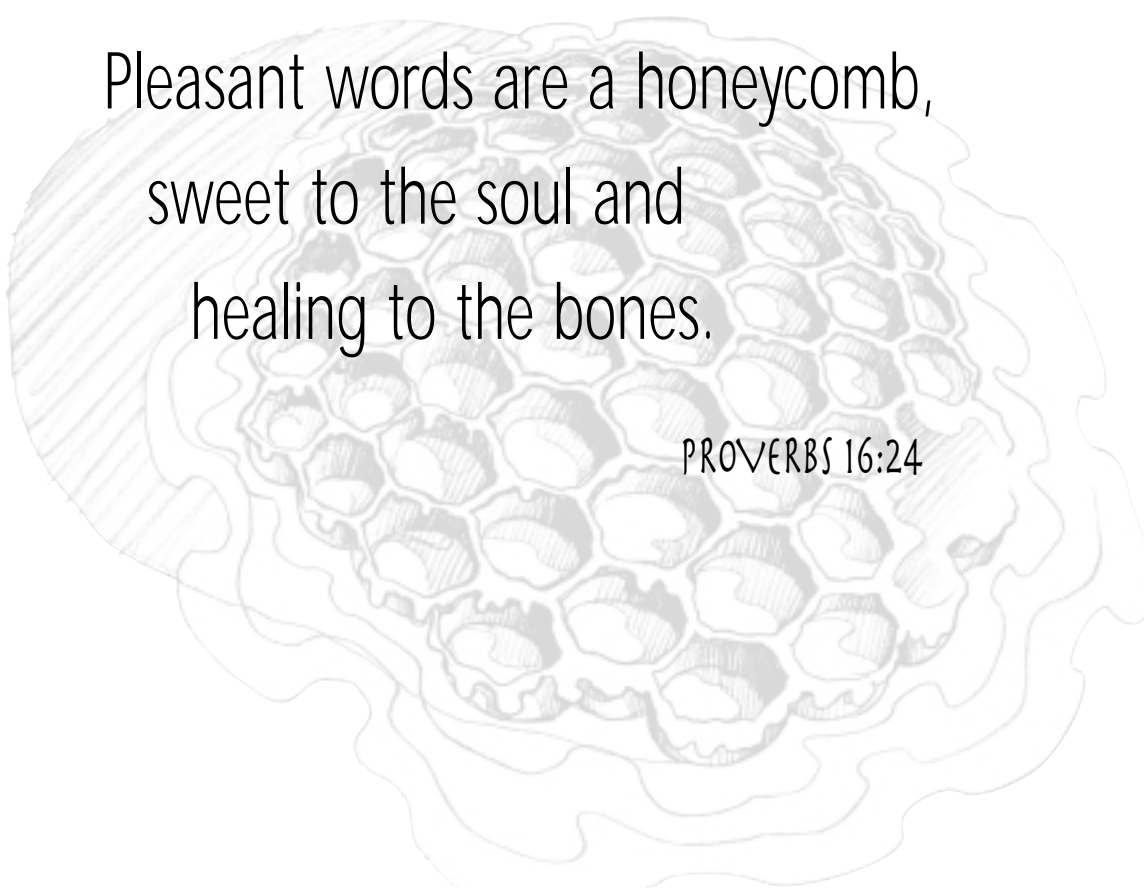
The teacher proceeded to call on Bob for another suggestion. He recommended visiting the soda bottling plant. The other students responded with, "That sounds great!" "Maybe they will give us free soda?" "That sounds much better than a boring electric plant!"

The discussion continued and the decision was made to go to the bottling plant. As the year went on, Julie never offered any more suggestions.

It is sad how often we speak careless words to each other at school or at home. Sometimes, we do not even realize how much damage we have done with our words. Jesus was very careful and thoughtful in his speech. He knew that his words carried the power to build up or tear down. So do ours! How seriously do you consider the impact your words have on those around you? If you need some help with this, think about how the words of others have impacted you...either in a negative or a positive way.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE



Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and
healing to the bones.

PROVERBS 16:24

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Write a card to a person whom you have never encouraged before, or to someone you have hurt recently with your speech.