

WEEK 4
LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Wise people's words
show God's love.

BIBLE

James 3:13–4:3; Ephesians 4:29–5:2;
Matthew 12:34

ABOUT THIS WEEK

The right words from a coach can inspire us to finish the game strong and overcome any obstacle in our way. This week, we'll hear from James as he helped inspire his church to think differently about the words they say to each other. James wanted to make sure everyone knew the power of their words and how **wise people's words show God's love.**

WHAT?

Our words are powerful whether texted on a screen or spoken out loud. They can help us have fun, inspire, tear us down, or cause hurt. What would it look like to use our words to support others rather than harm them? How can godly wisdom help us discern how to communicate with the people around us in ways that are honoring and healthy in the long run?

SO WHAT?

In James 3 and 4, we see that wisdom comes from God presence in heaven. We need God's help to reshape our hearts first so our words will be transformed. When we ask God to bring healing to our hearts, God helps us eliminate selfishness that damages others and replaces it with kindness and humility. When we let God's wisdom and mercy shape our hearts, our words will follow. Because of God's grace in us, our words will become loving, considerate, gentle, fair, and sincere. God wants us to use our words to uplift and encourage people rather than injuring others with cutting words.

In Ephesians 4 and 5, the apostle Paul reminds the church to speak in ways that will benefit others by building people up according to their needs. This means we need to take the time to be curious, ask questions, and understand what's going on beneath the surface of their lives. When we realize what other people are walking through, we can speak in ways that build them up because **wise people's words show God's love.**

NOW WHAT?

Here are a few ideas of how you can love others right where they are this week.

- **LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES:** This week, stay curious, ask questions, and show genuine interest in someone's story. People feel loved when they feel heard and understood.
- **LIFT OTHERS UP:** Once you've learned more about someone's story, you can encourage and uplift them. Sometimes, this involves words – like writing a friend a card or sending them a text message letting them know you're praying for them ... but other times, this may look like doing something nice for them, like buying their coffee, babysitting their siblings, or even hugging them. Look for an opportunity to lift someone up this week.
- **LEARN NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE:** Pay attention to how you communicate with others this week. Ask them if there are ways you could grow and be better at showing them you love and care for them, and then put that into practice.

This week, look for opportunities to begin to live out the idea that **wise people's words show God's love.**