
Taming the Tongue

Bible Craft Ideas from James 3:1-12

The tongue can be a tremendous tool...or a deadly weapon! It might seem simple enough, but our words have powerful impact. It's important to teach young children that our words carry weight, and we want to use them wisely. These crafts remind students to think before speaking and to use kind words that build others up and glorify God. A "tongues in cheek envelope" offers ideas for using speech well. A "two-tongued puppet" warns of the dangers of harmful words. And a fun "open-mouths snackivity" provides a fun edible craft to enjoy!



Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider... (James 3:1-12)

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. -James 3:7-9

Words can be Harmful...words can be helpful!

Use words wisely! Here's how...

Glorify God with speech and praise!

Lift others up with words

Use the tongue as a tool of kindness!

Think before you speak!

More Teaching Ideas:

- Watch the video example of this [children's sermon lesson](#) or related [Bible craft demonstration](#)
- Compare a full [James 3:1-12 Sunday School Lesson](#)
- Compare an alternate [kids Bible lesson on Taming the Tongue](#)
- Download our [Book of James coloring page](#)

Craft one: "Tongue in Cheek Envelope"

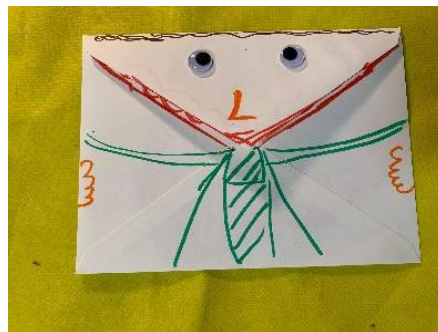
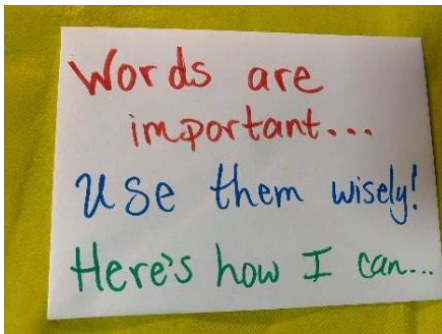
You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Glue, tape, or staples
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, etc.
- Envelopes
- Other decorations (jewels, stickers, etc.)



Procedure:

1. Decorate the envelope, adding a "face" to make the opening flap appear as a mouth.
2. Add verses or captions to the front of the envelope.
3. Cut "tongue" or mouth shapes out of construction paper or cardstock.
4. On the "tongues", write ways to use words kindly and positively.
5. Tuck the wise word methods into the envelope, and use it to remember how to use words well!



Craft Two: “Two-Tongued Puppet”

You will need:

- Paper plates
- Stickers/decorations
- Markers/crayons
- Cardstock/paper
- Glue/tape
- Scissors
- Popsicle sticks
- Captions/verses



Procedure:

1. Decorate one side of the plate to look like a “sad face”, with tongue sticking out.
2. On the opposite side of the plate, add a smiling mouth and happy face.
3. Add verses and captions to consider the potential two-sided nature of our words!
4. Glue or tape a popsicle stick to the plate to hold it up as a puppet.
5. Alternate option: use a paper bag as the base for your puppet.



Craft Three: “Smiling Apple Snackivity”

You will need:

- Apples, sliced
- Miniature marshmallows
- Peanut butter (or frosting/cream cheese)
- Tools for spreading and serving



Procedure:

1. Cut an apple into slices.
2. Smear with cream cheese, peanut butter, or frosting.
3. Add mini marshmallows to the sliced apples to look like “teeth.”
4. Admire your “mouths” ...then put them in your mouth and enjoy! 😊





Thank you for downloading these free materials. Our team is grateful for your trust and pray that God will bless your ministry.

This resource was prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#) (pictured right). She serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.



Every week she writes new [Sunday School lessons](#), [Bible crafts](#), and [children's sermons](#). You can find her new videos every week on the [Ministry-To-Children YouTube channel](#).

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

My name is Tony Kummer (pictured below). I started Ministry-To-Children.com in 2007 as a free resource for anyone sharing Jesus with kids. It is my personal honor to share these resources with churches around the world.



[Reader donations](#) and your support at [The Sunday School Store](#) fund these free materials. Please keep us in mind when you are choosing your next children's ministry curriculum.

If you enjoy our material, be sure to [sign-up for my free email newsletter](#) called "Sunday School Works!" Every Tuesday, I send the latest new lessons, crafts, and coloring pages in print-friendly format to make your lesson planning easy.

May God continue to bless your ministry!

Tony Kummer