

# Words Matter

Mark 15:27-32 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Psalm 22:6-8 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since he delights in Him."

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

Proverbs 17:5 **Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.**

Proverbs 1:22 "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

Ephesians 4:<sup>29</sup> **Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**

Have you ever been mocked or insulted? \_\_\_\_\_ Does it hurt your feelings? \_\_\_\_\_.

Does Jesus (God) know what it's like to be mocked and insulted? \_\_\_\_\_.

In Mark 25:27-32. Who mocked & insulted Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

In your world who would these people correspond to?

\_\_\_\_\_

King David prays to God about being mocked. How have those people made him feel?

Psalm 22:6 \_\_\_\_\_.

What were they mocking David about? \_\_\_\_\_.

Have you ever been ridiculed for being a Christian?

Mean people had hurt King David's feeling terribly. Their words had convinced him he was a worm (of no value, worst person in the world, etc.).

Ecclesiastes gives us two important pieces of wisdom about speaking badly about and to others.

1. Try not to: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Pay attention to: \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 17:5 says when you mock someone you are actually mocking \_\_\_\_\_.

What is "gloating?"

What does the Bible call those who mock someone? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and people who \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of mocking someone what should we make sure our words are doing?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Discuss a recent situation where someone was mocked and what your might have said.

## Leaders Guide

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1 Page Lesson Plan with Pre-Lesson Activity

Allow 20 minutes for lesson and 15 minutes for activity

### The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to 1. make sure kids being mocked constantly know that Jesus understands what they're going thru; 2. Inform kids that they might be the "mockers" and that their "insults" hurt others. What they say matters.

**Pre-Lesson Activity:** This could also be an after lesson windup. Play this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vdi51hPtCA> or find a video you like better that discusses mocking and it's effects.

**Leading the Lesson:** Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

All the verses used in the lesson are printed in the left column.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. To make it easy the correct answers are underlined within the verses.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

(If your group is younger junior high-age, encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high school-age, just use the questions as discussion starters.)

We begin by reading about Jesus being mocked and insulted during His execution to illustrate that Jesus (and thereby God) knows what it's like to be mocked. They can pray to God and know he understands what they are going thru.

Psalm 22 shows David praying. The people mocking him have him convinced he is a worm and despised by everyone. They were mocking David for believing in God.

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 recommends 1. Try not to pay attention to people who say mean things to you. Discuss how poorly that works and suggest they hold themselves up to what the Bible says about them. Follow up with my lesson, "I Am God's Son."

2. People must pay attention to their own words. Have they spoken badly about or to someone else? Are they mockers too?

Proverbs 17:5 says that when people mock others they are mocking God. Ask, "How is God going to feel about that?" Let the kids come up with examples of gloating. Then give them a few examples of your own.

Proverbs calls people who mock "Simple" which means dumb, and "fools who hate knowledge." Give an example of someone who won't listen to reason even if you explain it to them.

Ephesians 4:29 says our words should "build others up." Mocking does just the opposite of that. Discuss situations where someone has been mocked and what could have been said instead to build them up.

### Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous weeks' concerns.