



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Good Kings – Bad Kings  
Fall Year 4, Lesson 21

# The Most Powerful Word

**Primary Scripture:** Acts 4:12; Acts 10:43; John 14:13-14

**Key Verse:** Acts 4:12, “No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person.”

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids need to understand the power of words, especially words that bring blessings to one's life. The most powerful word in the universe is the name of Jesus. When the one calling on Jesus in faith uses his name, it holds the power of salvation. Likewise, if Jesus' name is used in scorn or ridicule, the powerful word condemns the person using it. Kids need to know that they have access to great heavenly riches through calling upon this powerful name. Kids may also be able to grasp the abstract concept that Jesus himself is God's Word to us. He is God's Word in living form. When we call upon his name, and we use his word, kids and adults have access to an eternal friendship with God.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus left heaven and became God's living Word to us so that, through his death and resurrection, we will have life with God forever.

**Jesus in us:** As we speak the name of Jesus, the Spirit of Jesus himself can fill us so that we can represent the very presence of God.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus can use us to witness to his name, giving the powerful word of salvation to the world around us.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: two sticks and two rocks*

Hold up the sticks and rocks and say:

**Have you ever heard the phrase "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" Let's see if that works. Should I try to hit myself with these sticks and stones?**

Lightly hit your arm with a stick and toss a rock against your leg.

**Oh, that hurts a little bit.**

**How many of you can remember if you were hit by a stick or a stone? Yes, it might have hurt for a little bit. But it doesn't hurt now, does it?**

**How many of you can remember when someone said something mean about you? How long did that hurt? It might even hurt a little bit now when you think about it. I wonder what is more powerful -- words or sticks and stones? Leave unanswered.**

**Today, we will talk about powerful words – even THE most powerful word! Words have great power to hurt people, but they also have great power to help people. Jesus said that you have power when you use words to praise him.**

When Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, people told his disciples, “Stop praising him!”

**“Jesus replied, ‘I can guarantee that if they are quiet, the stones will cry out.’ (Luke 19:40) Well, I don’t want to have any stone out-praise me! Are you ready to worship today? Don’t let the rocks out-praise you! Let’s praise God for what he has done.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: the two sticks from the Attention Grabber*

**Have you ever used words to hurt people? Have you ever had a chance to use a word that would help people? Sometimes we don’t use words the way we should. We need God’s help to do that. As a matter of fact, we need God’s help in using powerful words to help others and to talk to him.**

**Let me tell you about some powerful words that Jesus spoke.**

Hold up the two sticks in the shape of a cross.

**When Jesus lived on the earth, people used words to say mean things about him. They tried to hurt him with words. They even hurt him by nailing him to the cross, though he had done nothing wrong at all. The Bible says they hurled insults at him, just like throwing rocks at him. They made fun of him and mocked him. They hated him with all their might.**

**So what powerful words do you think Jesus said to get back at them? He looked down at them, and he said, “*Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.*” (Luke 23:34)**

**His powerful words were “I forgive you.” That’s how much he loves us. Jesus would take all of our insults and hurtfulness on himself and turn back and say, “I forgive you.” Today, we need to pray to him about anything that we might have done wrong or said that was hurtful to him or others. Let’s do that now.**

**Dear God, sometimes we use words in hurtful ways. Sometimes we make fun of other people. We might even say mean things behind their backs. Sometimes we don't use helpful words to make people feel better. Lord, if we have not used words in the right way or if we have hurt others, we need your forgiveness. Please forgive us because you gave us Jesus who died on the cross for our sin. Take our sin away. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Hear God's powerful word spoken over you, "I forgive you in Jesus' name." That is what God says since you have come to him in faith using Jesus' name.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

Your choice of music

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Place the Bible in the offering plate, or place the Bible underneath the offering plate. As people bring their offering forward, remind them that their money goes to help God's word go out to all parts of the city, country, and even the world to share Jesus with others.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Word Scramble

*Supplies: a whistle, music, letters of the alphabet on index cards or small sheets of paper—one letter per card. Add two more sets of vowels, A, E, I, O, and U and additional cards with commonly used consonants such as D, H, L, N, R, S, and T.*

Pass out a card to each child. If the group is small, you may pass out two cards per child.

Explain that the object of the game is for each child to roam around the room and find three other kids who can make a four-letter word with his/her card. Only one minute is provided to make the four-letter words. Once four kids have completed their word, they can move to the winners' side of the room. If the kids do not complete a word in one minute, they are seated on the other side of the room while those that made a four-letter word are recognized.

A whistle blows to begin each round. For groups with only one card per player, round two is played with the players who completed four-letter words. They mix themselves up and make new words. They must use a different word than the one they used in round one. For smaller groups with two cards per player, they can use one card in round one and the other card in round two. They may not use the same card in both rounds.

Play music during rounds to increase the excitement during the search. Be sure to use count-downs before the time is up to increase the anxious feeling of gathering the words before the time is up.

Gather kids together to review the learning point.

**It was a scramble trying to put those letters together so they would make a word with meaning. Think about this: God had a very important message he wanted to communicate to the world. To do that, he had to put words together that would make sense to us. He gave us the Bible. It was filled with words.**

He didn't just use a word to tell us about how we can be friends with him. He sent THE Word, one of Jesus' names. He made his own Son to be the Word in living form. Jesus could speak to us, and since he was in human form, he was easy to listen to and understand. That's why God put together the Word, and the Word is Jesus.

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

### **The Most Powerful Word**

*Supplies needed: a board or easel, 32 blank sheets of paper, a large black marker, a piece of candy for every child – (the girls receiving one type of candy, and the boys another)*

Read Acts 4:12.

***“No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person.”***

**What is the name that has the power of salvation? It's one word.  
(Jesus.)**

Read Acts 10:43.

***“In addition, all the prophets testify that people who believe in the one named Jesus receive forgiveness for their sins through him.”***

**What is that name that has the power of forgiveness? (Jesus.)**

Read John 14:13-14.

***“I will do anything you ask the Father in my name so that the Father will be given glory because of the Son. If you ask me to do something, I will do it.”***

**What is the name of the one who allows us to ask anything through that name, and the Father hears us? (Jesus.)**

**In the Bible, instead of using Jesus' actual name, other words are used to describe some powerful things that he does. Let's talk about those powerful words.**

**We will have a contest in which you will guess names that are used to describe Jesus. We will keep score of the contest between the boys and the girls. Afterwards, we have candy prizes for the winners.**

Adjust this to your own system, and give one kind of candy to the boys and one kind of candy to the girls so that they both get something whether they win or lose.

Post a blank sheet of paper for each letter of the word to be guessed on a board or easel. For example, if a word has three letters, post three blank sheets of paper side by side. The children will try to guess the letters in the word. Use a marker to write the letter on the page when it is guessed correctly. The object of the game is to correctly guess the word.

Ask three boys to form a single file line in the front, and ask three girls to form a line beside the boys. The boys' and girls' teams will alternate turns. The first person in line guesses what letter he thinks is in the word. If he guesses correctly, he can try to guess what the word is or try to guess another letter. The person's turn ends when a letter or word is guessed incorrectly. After the person in the front of the line guesses incorrectly, he or she tags another person from the audience to stand at the back of his/her team's line and then returns to his/her seat.

Each word is listed below and an explanation for the kids follows. Post the blank sheets of paper and then play the round. Tell kids they are guessing another name for Jesus used in the Bible. You may even write down a letter or two for each word as a hint.

Keep track of how many wins the boys' and girls' teams have. After explaining the word to the kids, remove the word, and post blank sheets of paper for the next word. The words and explanations are listed below.

WAY:

**In John 14:6, Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me." Jesus was talking to his disciples, and he said that he is the way to heaven.**

MESSIAH:

**In Mark 10:46-52, a title for the messiah was "Son of David." There was a blind man name Bartimaeus who shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bartimaeus called upon him in faith, and Jesus healed him. Messiah means "the promised one."**

IMMANUEL:

**In Isaiah 7:14, it says that the Lord himself would give a sign, "A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel." Immanuel means "God is with us."**

CHRIST:

**In Matthew 16:16, Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (NIV)**

VINE:

In John 15:5, Jesus said, *“I am the vine. You are the branches.”* He was saying, “You are my friends because you are attached to me.”

WORD:

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the living Word. John 1:1 says, *“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* Then in John 1:14, it says, *“The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.”* That is how God describes who Jesus is to us. He is the Word made in human form.



## **Witness and Tell:**

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Ask kids to think about and share a time when they called on God's name or on the name of Jesus and he heard their prayers and answered in a neat way.

## **Prayer:**

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- two sticks
- two rocks

## *Power of the Cross:*

- two sticks from the *Attention Grabber*

## *Learning Game:*

- whistle
- music
- With a large marker, print the letters of the alphabet on blank index cards or small sheets of paper. Write one letter per card. Add two more sets of vowels: A, E, I, O, and U. Create additional cards with commonly used consonants such as D, H, L, N, R, S, and T.

## *Bible Presentation:*

- a board or easel
- 32 blank sheets of paper
- a large black marker
- a piece of candy for every child – the girls will get one type of candy, and the boys will get another type of candy