

SABBATH SCHOOL

Jr. High School Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level J • Unit 1 • Week 2

GOSSIP

OBJECTIVE:

To develop a better understanding of how damaging gossip is.

MATERIALS:

Bible and some aluminum cans (must be empty and undamaged).

ENGAGEMENT:

Ask the students to raise their hands if they have ever heard someone say something about them that wasn't true. Ask them to raise their hand if they ever heard someone make something up about them or if they have ever heard of other people talking behind their backs about them. Explain that others could be talking about your grades, how well you play a sport, your clothes, your appearance or the kind of car your family has.

Tell the class that we will be talking about gossip and how it affects us. Explain to the class what gossip or a gossip is. Gossip is chatter, idle talk involving rumors. A gossip is a person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors, especially about the private affairs of others.

EXPLORATION:

Give an example of when someone was gossiping about him or her. An example: When I was in school, my parents didn't have a lot of money, so I would always wear hand-me-downs or get my clothes at a second-hand store. I heard other kids making fun of the clothes that I was wearing.

Another example: When I first started to wear glasses other kids would talk about how different I looked when I wasn't around. Explain to the students that this really hurt your feelings.

Tell the students that you would like to show them how much it hurt your feelings. Take an aluminum can and twist it, not too much, just enough to dent the can. Now give a can to each of the children and ask them to do the same.

Ask if any of the students would like to share an example of a rumor that was spread about them as they dent the can to demonstrate how it made them feel. After everyone has dented their cans in one way or another, ask them to try to fix the can. Tell them to try to put the can back the way it was. This they cannot do. The students will never be able to put the can back the way it was.

Explain to the students that the things we say can hurt other people just like the things that others say can hurt us. We are damaged a little or a lot just like the cans—depending on how bad it hurt our feelings. Tell the students that the things we say, good or bad, can make a difference in someone's life for a day, a month or years. Let's make good choices with what we say or the kind of conversations that we take part in.

EXPLANATION:

Students will have a good understanding that the things we say can hurt other people. Talking about other people's personal matters is wrong and can change that person forever.

ELABORATION:

Students will then open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 12:20; Romans 1:28-32; and James 4:11.

EVALUATION:

The teacher observes the students by watching the way that they interact with one another.