

Leader's Guide for
To Live as Jesus Did
The Kickball Game

1. Has anything like *The Kickball Game* ever happened to you? With whom do you identify in the story? Why?
2. Bad language cost these boys and girls a place to play. What rules would you make to help guide others in participating in this game in a more peaceful way?
3. For what reason do you think people use bad language? Have students rate the following statements from 1 to 5. 5 means you strongly agree
_____ "Bad language means you want to hurt the person who hears it."
_____ "I feel real big when I use those cursing words."
_____ "Cursing doesn't make you feel good inside."
_____ "They just use bad language to show off."
_____ "People try to get your attention by cursing."
_____ "Don't be silly. It doesn't matter. You can use the name of God in anger or in ridicule of others."

Ask students to name their reasons for their agreement or disagreement with these statements.

4. The Second Commandment talks about not taking God's name in vain. "In vain" means with disrespect. We should speak God's name with respect. How do you help others show respect for God's name?
5. Can you think of a person with "class"? Why are classy people careful about their language?
6. Heroes are important in forming our view of life. Who has been a good example for you? Who leads and helps you? Who have you helped?
7. How do you feel and how do you handle the situation when people use the name of Jesus in anger?
8. We want to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN and use our consciences in making good choices. List the helps we have for doing this.
9. If you had been present at *The Kickball Game*, how would you have reacted? Felt? What would you have done? How would you describe the feelings?
10. Engage the students in a GOOD WORDS CELEBRATION.

Write petitions for use with the Prayers of Petition. Have each student cut out a paper leaf and write a good word on it. Form a circle with the students. Place a bare tree branch in the center of

the circle. In turn, have each student place their “Good Word Leaf” on the tree.

READING ONE: Ephesians 4:31-32

READING TWO: Colossians 3:8

QUIET REFLECTION: Silently think of ways to live the message of these two readings.

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Leader: You have given us, Lord, a beautiful gift of speech. We give you this tree of Good Words, a sign of thanksgiving for your gift. Just as you helped us learn to speak when we were younger, help us now to choose words that do not hurt or ridicule others. Our response will be: “Help us always use words that do not hurt.”

In turn, each student speaks their petition....RESPONSE

Leader: May we never use your name carelessly but always in awe and respect. May we choose to use some of these good words....(Each student speaks the word he/she has placed on the tree). Together we pray: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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