

Say Ahhhhhh

The topic Words can hurt or help

The object Popsicle sticks. For extra fun, videotape (or shoot with a Polaroid) the tongue-examination part of the lesson.

The lesson Pass out the popsicle sticks and pair up students. Tell them to examine their partner's tongue. Next, give them five minutes to write a poem about the tongue they inspected. Award the best writer with a popsicle.

Scripture tells us the tongue does for us what a rudder does for a ship: although it's small and out of view most of the time, it nevertheless steers our lives and others' lives.

The Word James 3:3-5; Psalm 19:14

Discussion starters

1. When is your tongue like a rudder that steers you off course?



2. How can you use your tongue to steer you in a good direction?
3. Why is speech such an important part of the disciple's lifestyle?

Life changers

1. How has your conversation led you off course sometime during the past two weeks?
2. **Think of three good ways you can speak this week—affirm a teacher, encourage a friend,** thank a parent, share your faith with your friends, etc.

Bonus

Close by inviting students to pray one or more of these Bible verses:

- Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. —*Psalm 34:12-13 and 1 Peter 3:10*
- The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them. —*Proverbs 12:6*
- He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend. —*Proverbs 22:11*
- Woe to me!...I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty. —*Isaiah 6:5*
- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. —*1 Timothy 4:12*