

Week 5 Scripture

Psalm 12 A Psalm of David (NIV)

Help, Lord! No one does what is right anymore. Those who are faithful have disappeared from the human race. Everyone tells lies to their neighbors. With their lips they praise others, but they don't really mean it.

May the Lord close all lips that don't mean what they say. May he stop every tongue that brags. They say, "What we speak with our tongues will win the battle. What we say with our lips will keep us safe. No one will have victory over us." The Lord says, "The poor are being robbed. Those who are in need groan. So I will stand up to help them. I will keep them safe from those who tell lies about them."

The words of the Lord are perfect. They are like silver made pure in a clay furnace. They are like gold made pure seven times over. Lord, you will keep needy people safe. You will always keep sinners from hurting us. Proud and sinful people walk around openly when the evil they do is praised by the human race.

Luke 6:45 (CEV)

He said, "Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts. Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your heart."

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 (NLT)

Keep these words of mine in your heart and in your soul. Tie them as something special to see upon your hand and on your forehead between your eyes. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.



Week 5: Interactive Prayer Activity

Read Psalm 12. The Bible does not tell us what was going on in David's life when he wrote this psalm, but he is certainly very upset with what people around him are saying. David is crying out to God for help because he feels like "no one does what is right anymore," "everyone lies," and no one "says what they mean." Can you think of a time when you have felt this way? David seems to be thinking about the power of words. He says "the words of the Lord are perfect." Jesus also talked about how powerful words are. **Read Luke 6:45.** According to Jesus, what comes out of our mouths shows what is in our hearts.

Do: Cut your paper towel into 2 inch strips. On one strip, draw the outline of a heart in black and an open mouth in red. As you color in the black heart, think about the ugly things that we say. On the second strip, draw the outline of a heart in red and an open mouth in red. As you color in the heart with red, think about God's perfect Word.

Next, fill a glass with water nearly to the top. Hold your strip with the black heart so the bottom edge touches the water. Keep the strip there for 2 minutes. What happens to the black heart? Did all the lies and ugliness come out of the mouth? Lift the paper towel strip out of the water. How does your water look now? The ugliness in the black heart not only came out of the mouth, it changes the color of the water just like our words affect everyone around us. Empty the glass and fill with clean water. Now repeat the process with the strip with the red heart. We need to have God's word in our hearts so good things will come out of our mouths!

Read Deuteronomy 11:18-19 How might you get more of God's word into your heart? Next time you notice ugly words coming out of your mouth, try praying, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." (Psalm 51:10)

Supplies:
Paper Towel
Scissors
2 Different Colors
Washable markers,
Cup of Water

