



WISE WAYS

PREPARE 



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

TALK TOGETHER

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A VIDEO OF A FIREFIGHTER PUTTING OUT A FIRE?

When fires get out of hand in the forest, at a house or anywhere they're not supposed to be, a firefighter comes armed with water to spray all over the fire and put it out. As Christians, we can calm hot discussions started by angry words. How? We use wise words like firefighters use water!

In Proverbs, we learn words have power. Words spoken with love and understanding do great things! They can strengthen a friend, comfort a sibling and encourage a parent. But words thrown out with carelessness or hurtful intentions do the opposite. They can weaken a friend, anger a sibling and discourage a parent. Let's see what God's Word says about choosing wise words. **Help me find Proverbs 15:1-2.**



TALK TOGETHER
Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE
Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET
Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE
Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY WRATH, BUT A HARSH WORD STIRS UP ANGER. THE TONGUE OF THE WISE COMMENDS KNOWLEDGE, BUT THE MOUTHS OF FOOLS POUR OUT FOLLY.

PROVERBS 15:1-2

What do you think a soft answer means? Does it mean we can say mean things as long as we do it really quietly? Of course not! That would be silly! A soft answer means using wisdom to talk to someone.

Think about how firefighters fight fires. Do they toss hot coals onto an already out-of-control fire? Nope! They use a hose to spray things like water, which will calm the fire down.

Imagine your mouth as a hose. When fiery words fill the air, ask God to help you choose words of wisdom to douse the flames. This will not always be easy.

Because words have power, they deeply affect us. When your teacher tells you, "Great work!" you want to keep trying your best. But if the school bully tells you, "Your science fair project is awful." you may feel upset. This is a moment you'll need to rely on God's strength and ask Him for wisdom to choose wise words when you respond.

The Bible says fools don't control their words well. Instead of putting out fires, they toss coals on large flames by using harsh words that "stir up anger."

The next time you find yourself in a tough spot where you may be tempted to spew harsh words, pause. Ask your heavenly Father to help you act like a firefighter and choose wise words. Without wisdom, we will make lots of bad choices. **Thankfully God shares His wisdom with His children so we can choose to live like Jesus and choose our words with care.**



GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: PROVERBS

This week's story comes from the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is one of several books that fall under the category of poetry and wisdom. At least part of the book was written by Solomon, the wisest man to ever live. This book shares with its readers wisdom for godly living.

HOW CAN I CHOOSE WISE WORDS WHEN I'M REALLY UPSET?

That's a great question. Choosing wise words when we are angry is really hard. When you are upset, take a moment to calm down before you speak. Then, ask God to give you wisdom and help you choose words that bring calm.

OT-NT CONNECTION

The New Testament book of Colossians shares the importance of using wisdom when speaking to people. Our speech should show others Jesus is our Savior! **Read Colossians 4:5-6.**

- What kind of speech should we be using? (Hint: It begins with a G.)
- Think about a person who is really difficult to be around. How can you use gracious speech around them?

JOURNAL

Draw a picture of fire on one page of your journal, and water on another page. On the fire page write "Foolish Words." On the water page write "Wise Words" Throughout the week, put a checkmark on the water page when you remember to use wise words and on the fire page when you forget and use foolish words. Ask God to help you choose wise words when you speak.

DOES A CALM RESPONSE MEAN I HAVE TO AGREE WITH SOMEONE WHO SAYS BAD THINGS?

No! It takes courage to stand up to people who say things against God and His Word. But you can still use wisdom to guide your response. Ephesians 4:15 instructs Christians to speak the truth in love.

READ



The book of James talks about just how important our words are. It says the tongue (or our words) is small but mighty. **Read James 3:3-5** and write down two things these verses compare a tongue to.

♥ MEMORIZE

**A SOFT
ANSWER
TURNS AWAY
WRATH, BUT A
HARSH WORD
STIRS UP
ANGER.**

(PROVERBS 15:1)

Q: HOW CAN I USE MY WORDS WISELY?

A: CHOOSE THEM CAREFULLY.

SHARE

Tell your child about a time you witnessed soft words calm an upset person. What did you learn from the situation?

FIND

This week's verse is found in the book of Proverbs. Help your child find the book of Proverbs. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

WATCH



Help your child learn their verse by watching this week's Memory Melody video!

PRAY

DEAR LORD, CHOOSING WISE WORDS CAN BE HARD. PLEASE GIVE ME WISDOM TO SHARE SOFT ANSWERS WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND ME. THANK YOU FOR SHARING WISDOM WITH US. AMEN.

WATCH

Look up a kid-friendly video of a firefighter fighting a fire. Watch the video with your child and explain that just like a firefighter calms fires with water, we can calm tense situations with wise words.

WRITE

Think of someone in your child's life who could use encouragement.

Help your child use wise words to write an encouraging note to that person, and pray for them. Don't forget to drop it in the mail!

THINK

Sadly, because of sin's presence in this world, people say hurtful things to each other.

Have a discussion with your child about wise responses. Think of a difficult situation they might encounter, and talk about how they can respond to it with wise words.

SING

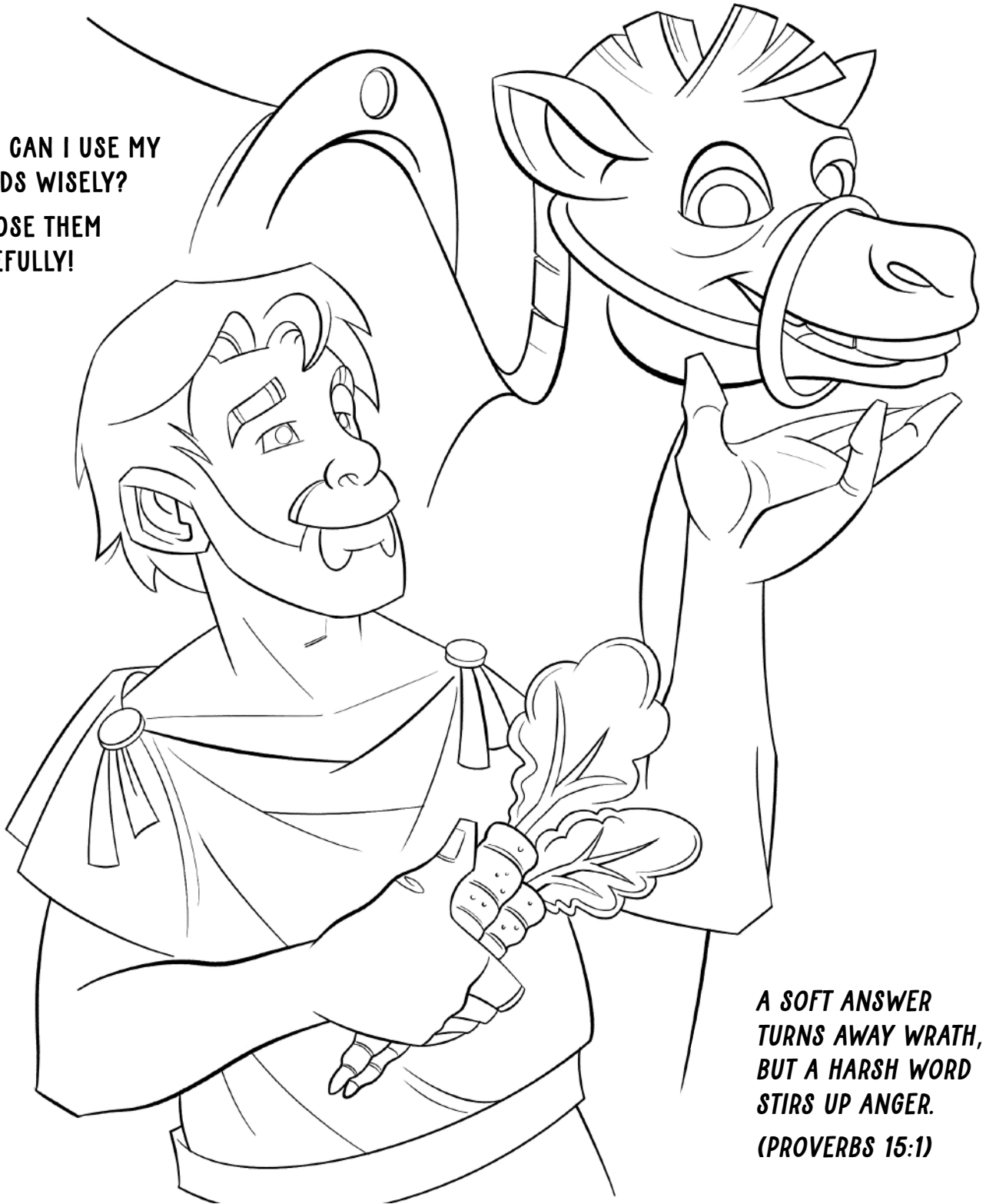


Listen to this playlist to think about what it means to live life in pursuit of godly wisdom.

**SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!**



**HOW CAN I USE MY
WORDS WISELY?
CHOOSE THEM
CAREFULLY!**



***A SOFT ANSWER
TURNS AWAY WRATH,
BUT A HARSH WORD
STIRS UP ANGER.
(PROVERBS 15:1)***

NAME: _____