The purpose of this lesson is to help the children understand the terms of “slander” and “gossip”. God tells us in Proverbs 10:19 that “When words are many (like slander and gossip), sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” The children will see how the Israelites used “slander” and “gossip” to entice them to worship “the Golden Calf”, an idol instead of God. (Exodus 32) God squishes this two-headed mouthy monster with the practice of “holding your tongue” and not let those words out.

The teacher will read Proverbs 10:19, memorize, pray and ask for guidance in understanding the terms of “gossip” and “slander”. The teacher will also read and be familiar with the story of “the Israelites and the Golden Calf” in Exodus 32. They will look at their own personal lives and determine if they have ever used “gossip” or “slander” and possibly use it as an example for the children.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THIS LESSON

- Two Headed Mouthy Monster Puppet
- Make copies of the “Church/Home Activity Page” (see page 7)
- Box of jewelry
- Head scarves like the Israelites wore
- (4)Index Cards with “1 Day”, “5 Days”, “10 Days”, “20 Days” written on the card
- Cut out the picture of the “Golden Calf” (see page 5)
- Cut out the picture of the “Ten Commandments” (see page 6)
- Copy and use for poster and/or puppet (see page 8)

ATTENDANCE

- “MONSTER CARD” with name, age, grade, address, parents and phone number
- Highlighters and pens

Each child will color a “tooth” on their “Mouthy Monster Card” for each Sunday attended. Make sure the information is complete.
INTRODUCTION

The teacher will ask the children to sit in a circle and get ready to meet a “mouthy monster” with two heads. The teacher will ask the children about how a “two headed” monster could be scary and ask them why. Would that monster have two mouths? What damage could two mouths do? Have a brief discussion, bringing up the points of “more teeth to bite you with”, “more sounds and words to scare you with” and “would look different enough to scare you”. What kind of damage could words have? Words could make us want to “cry” or “get angry and lose it” or “want to run away” or “want to die”. God knew that “our words” could cause a lot of damage and warns us of these “mouthy monsters” in the Bible. The teacher will then show the “Two Headed MOUTHY MONSTER Puppet” to the children and explain that each head has a special name….one is “gossip” and the other is “slander”. (see page 8)

BIBLE LESSON (Proverbs 10:19 and Genesis 32)

The teacher will use the “Two Headed MOUTHY MONSTER” Puppet to give the meaning of “slander” and “gossip”. (See page 8) Using a different voice, the teacher will tell the story of each head. If the teacher is not comfortable doing “puppets”, then have a child do the puppet and read the script.

My name is “Slander” and I tell lies and damaging stories about others. I like to take a little bit of information I know about someone and exaggerate and add to the story to make another child look like a “very bad person”. For example, there is this one boy on the playground that I don’t like….he is a “strange dude” with glasses and a short haircut and very small. His name is “Jimmy”. He was running and ran into another smaller boy. I wanted to get Jimmy into trouble, so I ran to the teacher and said, “Jimmy ran into the smaller boy on purpose…he is such a mean person and such a bully.” Boy, did Jimmy get into trouble…he had to go to the “Principal’s office”. Ha, Ha…….It was fun! (do an evil laugh)

My name is “Gossip” and I like taking personal information and telling others. For example, my best friend, Cindy told me that “she wore cover up make-up on her face because she has this silly birthmark by her mouth”. She told me not to tell anyone. Well, I have so many friends, Chucky, Marcy, Teddy and Susy. I just had to tell them, but they will keep it a secret, right? Well, they didn’t and on the playground, some girls went over to Cindy and told her she was not pretty, because she had a birthmark by her mouth and everyone knew it! It was great to see everyone laugh at her. I am better than Cindy because I have no birthmark. Cool, huh? It was a lot of fun to tell everyone, so tell me anything and I will keep it a secret, I promise! Ha, Ha! (do an evil laugh)

The teacher will discuss with the children “how Jimmy felt” and “how Cindy felt”. Ask the children “what is slander?” and “what is gossip”. God tells us in the Bible about how the Israelites used “gossip” and “slander” to build a “Golden Calf” to worship instead of God.
The teacher will tell the children that they are going to do some play acting and choose a child for the parts of Moses, Aaron and the Israelites (4). The props are “jewelry” and a picture of a “Golden Calf” and head scarves to represent the Israelites. The rest of the class will open their Bibles to Exodus 32 and wait for their part as “worshippers of the Golden Calf”. They will have various “jewelry” pieces to give to Aaron when asked for silver or gold. Use Cards with numbers 1 Day, 5 Days, 10 Days, 20 Days written on it. The teacher will describe the situation and say “ACTION” and the class will perform.

SITUATION: (For preschoolers, the teacher can have them act out as the story is being told.)

Moses goes up on the Mountain to receive the Ten Commandments from God. (Moses waves goodbye to the people and disappears). The class waves back and the 4 Israelites remain standing. They wander around, check their watches, and show a card with the number of days Moses has been missing on it….because so many days pass and Moses does not return from the mountain. The four Israelites start talking…..they use gossip and slander about “why Moses has not returned. For example, “Moses must have been attacked by a bear on the mountain. He is not alive, so we must do something.” Each Israelite comes up with a reason why Moses has not returned. Then the Israelites start trying to figure out “what if Moses never returns”…..there must not be a God. What are they going to do? The class talks among each other to see if they can come up with reasons why Moses has not returned. They go to Aaron and demand that they “pray” to a god, so they will have help. Aaron asks the people for their jewelry and he makes a “Golden Calf” image for the people to worship. (use a picture) Aaron puts the “Golden Calf” on a table and everyone begins to “bow and worship it”. Then Moses appears with the Ten Commandments in his hands, sees the people worshipping an idol and throws the tablets down. He is angry and heartbroken that his people worshipped an idol instead of asking the one and only “God” to help them.

CONCLUSION

The teacher will ask everyone to sit in a circle and have a discussion on the play acting. What kinds of “gossip” and “slander” did we hear from the Israelites? Make sure that the children understand the terms “gossip” and “slander”. God says in PROVERBS 10:19 “WHEN WORDS ARE MANY (LIKE GOSSIP AND SLANDER), SIN IS NOT ABSENT, BUT HE WHO HOLDS HIS TONGUE IS WISE”. So how does God squish this TWO HEADED MOUTHY MONSTER AND AVOID “SIN”? The Israelites needed to hold their “tongue” which means what? We hold “our tongues” by not making up stories and telling others. What could the people have done? They could have kept themselves busy by cleaning the camp or planning a “celebration” for the return of Moses. They could have prayed to their true “God” and then used positive talk like “Moses will come when our God is done”.

-3-
The teacher will ask the children to repeat the prayer after parts are said. Dear Lord, help us to not use "gossip" or "slander" to get ourselves and others into trouble. Help us to memorize Proverbs 10:19 "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." Amen.

This is an activity page which can be used during the "sermon time" in church to engage the children in a quiet, learning activity. This can also be used as a "take home activity" for the children or a quiet activity to do in class if time. After prayer, make sure each child has this.
PROP FOR SKIT – Cut out and put on cardboard with a flap to help it stand as “The Golden Calf” Idol that the Israelites worshipped.
PROP FOR SKIT – Cut out the tablets for Moses to carry back to the Israelites.
The Golden Calf

Color this story picture!
TWO HEADED MOUTHY MONSTER

PROVERBS 10:19

“WHEN WORDS ARE MANY (LIKE SLANDER AND GOSSIP), SIN IS NOT ABSENT, BUT HE WHO HOLDS HIS TONGUE IS WISE.”