Date: 5/18/19

Title: The Magic Gossip Box

Theme: God wants our words to build others up, not tear them down.

Object: Cardboard box with a hand hole in each end labeled “Magic Gossip Box.” Large and small size of various objects: nail, measuring tape, wrench, screw driver. Have fun with this.

Text: Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Who here is able to talk?

Everyone is able to talk, right?

So this verse from the Bible says don’t let any unwholesome or bad talk come out of your mouths.

That means don’t use dirty words, don’t take God’s name in vain, don’t say OMG, don’t use bad language.

And this verse goes on to say that our words should build others up, not tear them down.

God wants our words to help others not to hurt them.

How many of you kids have heard the word “gossip?”

Does anyone know what gossip is?

Gossip is when you talk about other people and tell things that may not be true.

And even if they are true, the story is intended to hurt them and make them look bad.

Then that person tells the story to someone else and the story turns into a big lie.

Let me give you an example: Let’s say that John and Mary are a boy and girl in your school.

And one day you see them walking together at recess.

So you tell one of your friends, “Hey, guess what. I saw John and Mary walking together at recess and I think they like each other.”

Then that friend tells another friend, “Hey guess what. John and Mary like each other and they were holding hands at recess.”

Then that friend tells another friend, “Hey guess what. John and Mary love each other and they were kissing in the woods at recess.”

So gossip can start with a little innocent story and grow into a big lie that hurts the people we gossip about.

So I brought with me the magic gossip box today that shows what happens when we tell stories about other people.

[Put small object in one end of box. “This is John and Mary talking at recess.” Do some loud whispering and bla, bla, bla, and gossip, gossip, gossip. Pull the similar large object out the other end of the box. “This is John and Mary kissing in the woods.” Emphasize for each object that gossip makes the lie bigger the more it gets told.]

Do you think God wants us to gossip about other people and tell stories to make them look bad?

No, God wants our words to be kind and helpful to others.

That’s why we need to think before we speak and think before we repeat stories that others have told us.

Who can spell “Think?”

T stands for True. Think: Is the story true?

H is for helpful. Is the story helpful?

I is for important. Is the story important?

N is for necessary. Is the story necessary?

K is for kind. Is the story kind?

God wants you to think before you start a story or repeat a story that may hurt someone else.

How many want Jesus to help them speak good words that build others up, not tear them down?