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**Coweta FCA Elementary Lesson Plans**

**Gossip**

**Game Time**

**Telephone Game**

Gather a group in a line or a circle

One person makes up a story (not about someone) and whispers it to someone else.

The next person tells what they think they heard and it moves down the line

The last person announces what they heard.

Chances are, each person heard something differently and that is how gossip spreads.

**Big Idea**

We should not gossip because it hurts friends and relationships. It does not honor God.

**Memory Verse**

“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret” (Proverbs 11:13)

**Definition**

**Biblical definition of gossip:** One who reveals secrets, one who goes about as a talebarer. Doing evil with words.

**Biblical information about gossip**

The Bible teaches us what and how to talk to each other. We should be willing to help others as we can. We can use our mouths for encouragement and kind words.

James 3:5-8 tell us, “In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

How do we Biblically stop gossip? We should be willing to tell the person who is gossiping that we do not want to be a part of the conversation. We can tell the person God is not honored by gossip. Gossip is a sin, and God does not like sin.

The Bible also tells us to go to the person. It is better to talk to the person about a problem than to talk to others about the problem.

**Devotion**

What does the Bible say about gossip?

Gossip hurts people. It divides friends, hurts people, and damages reputations. Gossip can be fun and give us pleasure. It can be entertaining, and it can be fun to know something others do not. It can be hard to tell what gossip is. You may have an in general conversation and gossip slides into the conversation.

A hurt person often gossips. Think of workplace drama. It usually starts because someone is hurt or did not get what they wanted. They vent or tell others about their feelings and as the Bible states, a small spark starts a fire.

Gossip is distinguished from sharing information in two ways:

1. **Intent**: People who share gossip have the goal of making themselves look important and others look bad.
2. **The type of information shared:** Gossipers speak of the faults of others. They reveal embarrassing information without the knowledge or approval of others.

If it is something you would not say to someone’s face, you are likely gossiping.

At times, our motivation can be good. Some conversations happen to help others. We can bear good and bad news, be up front with others, and speak with a loving heart that honors God.

The good news is, we can be forgiven for gossiping about others. When we want to share gossip, God can help us to control our thoughts and mouths. All we need to do is ask.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What is gossip? Sharing information about someone that is not true or unkind without the person being present.
2. Are we showing love like Jesus when we gossip? No. Gossiping is a sin and Jesus does not like sin.
3. What should we do if we are with someone, and they share gossip? We should tell them God does not honor gossip and walk away. We can end gossip by going to the person and finding out the truth.

**Campus Huddle Checklist**

□ Speaker confirmed?

□ Do you have a printed list of who is registered to attend your campus huddle? All students who attend must be registered. If someone shows up and is not registered, please have a form ready to send home or contact the parent to register for the next meeting.

□ Music selected and equipment/supplies ready?

□ Are you having breakfast? If so, has it been ordered?

□ Do you need paper goods for breakfast?

□ Are you doing any type of take away item?

**Prepare for Campus Huddle**

* Print out definitions and memory verse as well as any take home papers.

**Campus Huddle Suggested Itinerary**

**Suggested Template and Time Frame**

Depending on your time constraints, this may be changed to fit the needs of your school.

**7:00-7:05 – Check-in**

Please have a checklist of all registered students available. **Students must register before they can attend.**

**7:05-7:15 – Large group worship, no more than 3 songs when combined with a game.**

Songs can be led from You Tube or can be presented by a worship leader.

**7:15-7:30 – Speaker**

This should be a coach, children’s pastor, student pastor, church staff, or school staff. Please keep in mind that whoever the speaker is, they MUST be preapproved by FCA staff. We will have some contacts of speakers on the Coweta FCA Elementary resources page on our website at CowetaFCA.org.

**7:30 – Dismissal**

* Always close in prayer prior to dismissing the students, you could have the speaker, a student (who was asked beforehand), or Coweta FCA staff pray.
* You could have the students do prayer requests on index cards as they leave.
* Many schools like to dismiss to music.
* Some schools prefer to hand breakfast out as the students leave.