

# My Language

## I. OPENER

### **Communicating Challenge**

Give everyone a number. They have to arrange themselves in numerical order by communicating with each other without speaking or holding up fingers. They make up their own sub-language or sign-language and it often is pretty amusing. For Round two, have people arrange themselves in order of birth or in calendar months.

## II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

## III. STORY

Dusty is bright, popular, and seems like he's got it all together. However Dusty's main problem is that he has a problem with his language. It is not uncommon to hear dusty cussing when playing sports at school, or after he gets a bad grade on a school assignment. Dusty's cussing is so frequent, that he has attracted friends that also like to cuss and use as much foul language as he does. Kids at school call Dusty and his gang the "Cussing club". Dusty hates being called this, and tells anyone that calls him this to F\*\*\* off. Dusty's language seems to overrule his grades and intellect. So Dusty has a rough time finding leadership positions and other tasks out of the classroom. Dusty does not understand why, because he thinks he is **smarter** than people that are put in authority over him.

## Scripture

<sup>33</sup>"**And don't say anything you don't mean.** This counsel is embedded deep in our traditions. <sup>34-36</sup>You only make things worse when you lay down a smoke screen of pious talk, saying, 'I'll pray for you,' and never doing it, or saying, 'God be with you,' and not meaning it. You don't make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true. <sup>37</sup>**Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong.**  
*Matthew 5:33-37 (MSG)*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Rate yourself on the following 0 being never and 5 being heaps.

Swearing	0 1 2 3 4 5	Gossiping	0 1 2 3 4 5
Stretch the truth	0 1 2 3 4 5		
Lying	0 1 2 3 4 5	Dirty Jokes	0 1 2 3 4 5
Talking out of line	0 1 2 3 4 5		

Dear Peter,

I am writing to you for some advice. I told my best friend at school something really personal and now everyone in the school knows. I feel so hurt. What should I do about it?

Julie

### 2. How would you answer this letter?

<sup>3</sup>A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. <sup>4</sup>A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. <sup>5</sup>A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything--or destroy it!

It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. <sup>6</sup>A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. **By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.**

<sup>7</sup>This is scary: You can tame a tiger, <sup>8</sup>but you can't tame a tongue--it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. **With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image.**

<sup>10</sup>Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

My friends, this can't go on. <sup>11</sup>A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? <sup>12</sup>Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you? *James 3:3-12 (MSG)*

3. What do you think the following means "The tongue is like a spark."?

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4. Why are dirty jokes and swearing wrong? What advice would you give to someone who swears or tells dirty jokes?

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## WRAP UP & PRAYER