

Week 2: Speak Up

Overview: Living out the gospel matters – but so does speaking up. This week will help students see how the peace of Christ rules their hearts, how the message of Christ forms their words, and how the Spirit guides them to speak with courage and grace. Students will be reminded that speaking up doesn't always mean preaching – it means representing Jesus well.

Key Scripture: Colossians 3:15-17

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: Your words carry weight – use them to reflect Jesus with courage, wisdom, and love.

Key Points

- Let the peace of Christ rule your heart (v.15)
 - We speak words that are full of settled confidence in God.
 - When Jesus shapes your heart, He shapes your courage. His peace gives you confidence to speak up – even when it's intimidating.
 - Don't get unsettled by gossip, etc. – the peace of Christ ruling in our hearts gives us a settled confidence in God (which is a great antidote to drama)
- Let the message of Christ dwell in you (v.16)
 - The more Jesus fills you, the more naturally you talk about Him. The Spirit gives wisdom when you don't know what to say.
 - We need to drink daily and deeply from the well of Scripture
- Teach and encourage with your words (v.16)
 - Speaking up means encouraging a friend, sharing truth, inviting someone to church, or bringing Jesus into a conversation
 - Ephesians 4:29
- Do everything in the name of Jesus (v.17)
 - Words + actions = one unified witness. Speaking for Christ must match living for Christ

Gospel Application: Jesus doesn't just call us to speak – He equips us to speak. After his death and resurrection, He sent His Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us the words, the courage, and the wisdom we don't have on our own. Because Jesus spoke for us on the cross, we can speak up for Him in confidence and gratitude.

Key Question: Where is God asking you to speak up this week – and what's one step of courage you can take?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- “Name your 3” – identify 3 people at school you can pray for, encourage, invite, or speak truth to this week.
- Give phrases or situations (someone asks why you’re different, a friend is hurting, a classmate brings up faith) and practice responding with a simple, authentic response.
- Grace story: write down your grace story.
- At the end of the message, have students break up into groups throughout the room based on schools they go to. Take 10 minutes to pray for their schools in those groups.

Community Group Questions

- What hobbies are you involved in? Is it natural for you to talk about Jesus while you are in those hobbies?
- When you have Jesus in your heart, you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. How does this change the way we speak and act?
- If you are saved, everything you do is a witness to others of Christ. Where is God asking you to speak up this week – and what’s one step of courage you can take?