

NO GIRLS ALLOWED

Devotions for Boys

WRITTEN BY JAYCE O'NEAL

Illustrated by Arrolynn Weiderhold



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No Girls Allowed: Devotions for Boys

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Mr. Big Mouth

read it

*A troublemaker
plants seeds of
strife; gossip
separates the best
of friends.
Proverbs 16:28*

No one likes a bully. The big guy who walks up and whacks smaller kids on the back of the head during lunch probably doesn't have a ton of friends. No one likes bullies because bullies treat others as if they don't matter, and they don't care if they hurt others. But not all bullies are the same. Some whack you on the back of the head during lunch, but others whack you with words when your back is turned.

The old saying that “sticks and stones may break your bones but words will never hurt you” is kind of like saying the Detroit Lions won the Super Bowl last year: It's just not true. Words *do* hurt, and the Lions haven't won anything in a very long time. Words not only hurt, they often leave scars that last far longer than if someone punched you in the eye.

Think about Siryn, a member of the X-Force. When she is in danger, she screams—*loud*. Her scream has supersonic strength that paralyzes anyone in its path. Siryn's words can physically hurt those around her. Siryn is a mutant, but your words can do just as much damage as hers, even without Siryn's supersonic strength. The Bible refers to your tongue as a

spark that can easily set a large forest on fire. That's a *lot* of damage. When you say mean things to or about others, whether because it makes you feel good about yourself or because it means you are not the one being picked on, it still hurts them.

Have you ever been a bully? If so, remember two things: First, Jesus doesn't want you to be mean to other people. Jesus loves you, but he also loves the person you're being mean to. Second, remember how you feel when others say mean things about you. When someone calls you names or tells other people something untrue about you, it hurts really bad. Be nice to everyone just like you want them to be nice to you, because no one likes Mr. Big Mouth.



Dear God, please help me to be careful in what I say and not hurt others with my words.

"When the bully demanded my lunch, he wasn't just pulling my leg!"



Word Search

BULLY FRIENDS HURT KIND PROVERBS SCARS
MEAN NAME UNTRUE FEEL WHACK

D	B	D	F	U	M	E	X	J	F	W	H	A	C	K	L	M
S	U	E	G	E	S	G	P	C	D	B	F	Y	C	U	T	Y
G	E	N	V	P	E	W	I	U	B	C	H	L	K	I	V	M
L	O	P	T	U	R	G	H	J	U	D	V	B	N	H	E	U
Y	T	R	F	G	I	O	L	K	L	J	H	S	C	A	R	S
Y	U	Y	E	W	S	K	V	D	L	X	F	V	N	C	D	R
T	G	V	H	Y	J	I	G	E	Y	R	T	D	L	K	O	P
Y	J	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	R	T	Y	U	O	I	E	O
H	J	U	P	L	B	D	G	H	F	B	V	D	R	U	U	J
T	O	P	I	U	L	G	K	J	T	U	S	B	N	M	R	D
F	G	H	U	R	T	F	H	R	Y	G	U	I	F	J	T	N
V	M	F	K	D	I	R	E	H	G	N	A	M	E	O	N	P
W	S	Q	A	D	F	K	N	J	H	G	Y	T	U	R	U	E
K	F	J	G	U	T	F	D	G	J	F	H	G	G	T	T	E

Secret Code

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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Things to Do

- *This week if you think about saying something bad about someone, think of a positive thing to say instead.*
- *Think about the negative things you have said to someone else, and go to that person and apologize.*
- *If someone says something mean about someone else, try to change the subject. If that doesn't work, walk away.*
- *Write down ideas of ways you can keep your mouth in check.*



do it

Things to Remember



And 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.

— *James 3:6*

A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatters.

— *Proverbs 20:19*

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. — *Matthew 7:12*

My lips will speak no evil, and my tongue will speak no lies. — *Job 27:4*

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences. — *Proverbs 18:21*

wisdom

Who gossips with you will gossip of you.

— *Irish saying*

He gossips habitually; he lacks the common wisdom to keep still that deadly enemy of man, his own tongue.

— *Mark Twain*

Gossip needn't be false to be evil—there's a lot of truth that shouldn't be passed around.

— *Frank A. Clark*

Swimming with Dumbbells

read it

Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns against you, you must forgive.

Luke 17:4

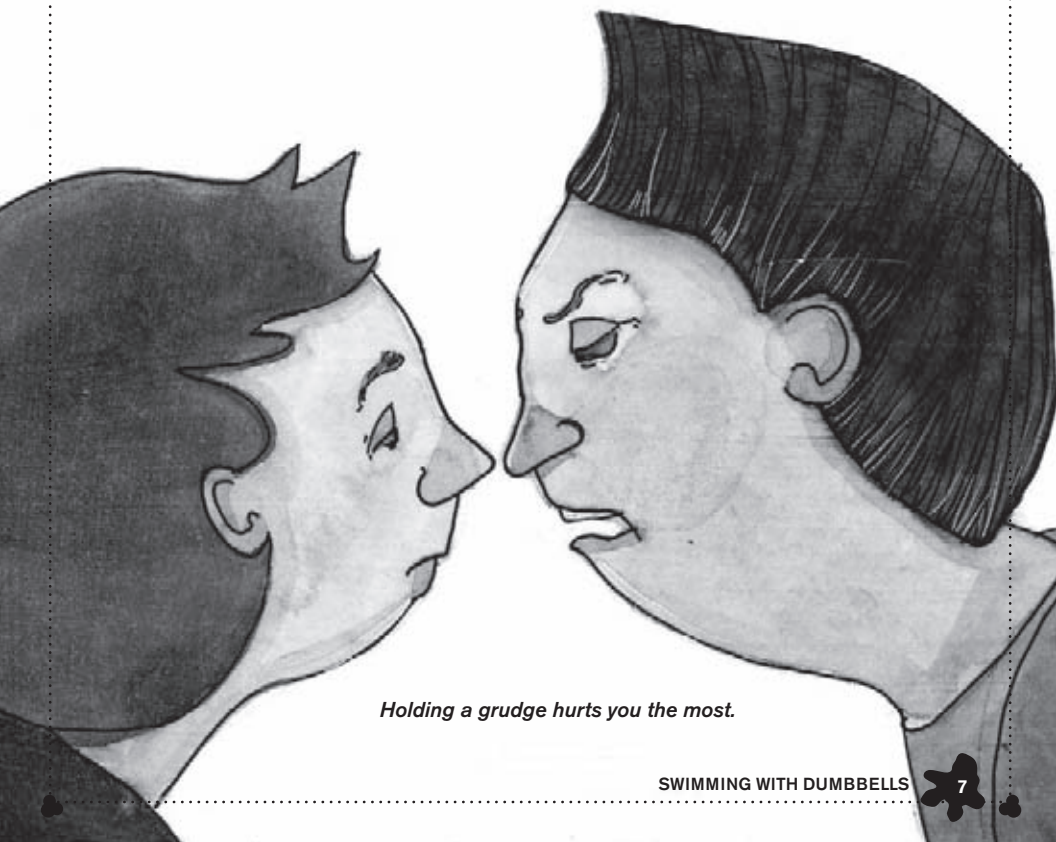
Jack and DJ were having loads of fun on Saturday afternoon playing video games. Jack had invited DJ over to play the new Rock Band game that had just come out. Everything was great until Jack lost his temper and threw the controller at the TV. The plasma screen fell to the floor with a crash. And if that was not bad enough, Jack blamed DJ for the mess when his mom came running in. Jack's parents barred DJ from ever coming over again, and DJ's own parents grounded him for a month. DJ was blamed for something he didn't do, set up by someone he thought was his friend. And the worst part was that no one—not even his parents—believed him.

DJ was angry with Jack for lying about him, and his anger deepened when Jack invited other friends over to his house while not inviting him. His anger grew so much that one day on a class field trip, DJ lost his temper. DJ confronted Jack at the museum gift shop. DJ told Jack that he was a jerk for lying about him, but Jack pretended not to know what he was talking about. DJ got so angry he threw a dinosaur at a glass display of dolphins and broke it. DJ got in trouble, and this time he was responsible.

When you hold a grudge, the person you hurt most is yourself. Unforgiveness is like trying to swim while holding dumbbells in your hands. Holding resentment and anger slows you down, and sometimes even sinks you. And the more you let it bug you, the more weight you have to carry. DJ did not do anything wrong when Jack broke the TV, but because DJ let his anger grow and grow, he ended up making an even bigger mistake. Though it hurts when others are mean to us, remember that Jesus was beat up and made fun of—and was even betrayed by one of his friends—but he chose to forgive. Jesus wants you to forgive others like he forgave those who hurt him.

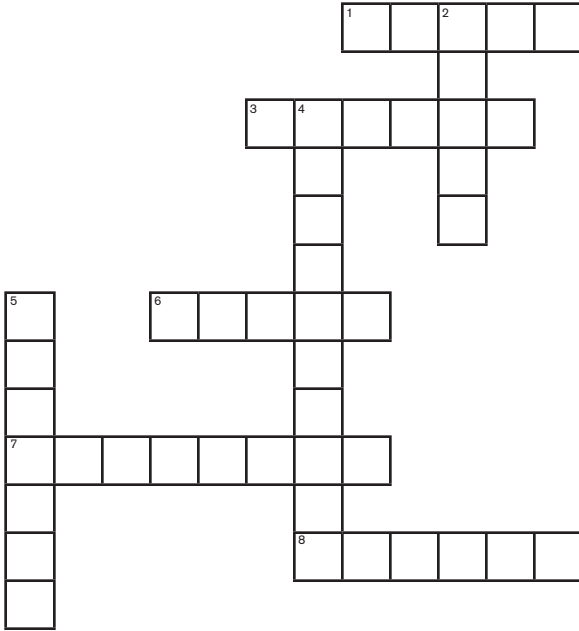
pray

Dear God, please help me not to build up anger but to forgive others when they hurt me.



Holding a grudge hurts you the most.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 To hold someone responsible for something
- 3 A feeling of resentment that lasts a long time
- 6 Telling an untruth
- 7 A punishment that keeps you home
- 8 A tendency to get angry

DOWN

- 2 Extreme feeling of annoyance
- 4 Holding _____ and anger slows you down
- 5 To pardon or grant relief

"Yes, I'm mad at you! Don't you remember that time a million years ago, when—?"



Things to Do

- Read Luke 23 and find out how Jesus forgave those who beat and made fun of him.
- If someone has hurt you and you are still at odds, go to him or her and offer forgiveness.
- Write a list of the top ten good things about the person who hurt you.
- Draw a picture of what you think forgiveness looks like.



do it



Things to Remember



And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

— *Matthew 6:12*

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. — *Matthew 6:14-15*

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

— *Colossians 3:13*

Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

— *Ephesians 4:32*

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. — *Luke 23:34*

When you hold resentment toward another, you are bound to that person or condition by an emotional link that is stronger than steel. Forgiveness is the only way to dissolve that link and get free.

— *Catherine Ponder*

There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.

— *Bryant H. McGill*

Forgiveness is the oil of relationships.

— *Josh McDowell*

David and the Cheese

read it

One day Jesse said to David, "Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers. And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring back a report on how they are doing."

1 Samuel 17:17-18

Everybody knows about David and Goliath, but before David took on that humongous mean guy, he had a much bigger test. People talk the most about when David was king or when he fought giants or even when he really messed things up because of a girl, but few people talk about the cheese. Cheese tastes really good. It's made of milk, and you probably know that milk does a body good. But in David's case, cheese was even more important.

You see, when David was younger he had a lot of chores to do. David looked after the sheep, and he probably even had to clean up after them. One day his dad asked him to do something in addition to his chores: take bread and cheese to his brothers who were in Saul's army. What did David do? He could've gotten an attitude because he had just finished doing the dishes and was looking forward to a break, but David didn't do that. David didn't moan or groan; he just did what he was asked to do. When David got to where his brothers were, his brothers didn't even seem thankful that he had brought them food. So there David was with his ungrateful brothers and a whole load of bread and cheese. It was at this

moment that something big happened. David heard Goliath running his mouth about David's people and David's God. Well, you pretty much know the rest of the story. David showed Goliath who the *true* boss is—God.

The point is that if David hadn't obeyed his father, he would never have been in a position to fight Goliath. So before you complain that it really isn't your turn to take out the trash, just remember that obedience often leads to bigger things. You may be asked to do some pretty boring stuff in your life, but God honors your obedience. And who knows? It may be that boring task that opens a door to something great in your life.

pray

Dear God, please help me to obey my parents willingly and to do what they tell me without putting up a fight.

Obeying your parents is heroic.



Secret Code

Cross out every A, F, J, K, L, M, P, T, and W to solve the secret code.

AFJKPTMLKJGALMPTKJWFAJKLOKMPTJKLAFMP
TWDKLMPTAFJHKLMPPTAFJOWJKLMWAFJKLPTN
JMPTWAFKLPTOAFJLMPTKAFJRWTPLKJFASPTW
LKJFAMYLMP TKLMPTAOAFJKLWPTMLUAFJKLMP
TROLMP TKJBF AJKLMEAFWTP TMLMLDAFKLMPT
WJTIKLMPTJKLEAFLMPTKJNAJKPTWFLMPTCJKL
PTAFKLWPTMWFJLMFWTPTMLPTMLKMPTKAEK

Unscramble These Words

ebyo • loghiat • eeeshc • sosb • iavdd • epehs • yrma



Things to Do

- *The next time one of your parents or teachers asks you to do something, do it the first time they ask, without complaining.*
- *When you are asked to do something, don't just do enough to get by, but give the extra effort and do a bit more.*
- *Look around your house this week for jobs you can do that need to be done. Do them before you are asked.*
- *Have a good attitude when you do your chores. Try smiling while you work.*



do it

Things to Remember



If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the world.

– *Deuteronomy 28:1*

King Jotham became powerful because he was careful to live in obedience to the LORD his God. – *2 Chronicles 27:6*

Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. – *Hebrews 5:8*

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Praise him forever! – *Psalms 111:10*

Young people who obey the law are wise; those with wild friends bring shame to their parents.

– *Proverbs 28:7*

wisdom

Wicked men obey from fear; good men, from love. – *Aristotle*

One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.

– *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

He that cannot obey, cannot command.

– *Benjamin Franklin*