

It's All In How You Say It

Preparing Your Heart to Teach Session 5:

As a teacher, how do you handle children who are not following directions, becoming wild, or who have to be reminded several times to do something? The temptation may be to become harsh, but harshness has some negative side effects that add more friction to a relationship. A better solution is to be firm without being harsh.

Firmness is establishing a boundary that can't be crossed without experiencing a consequence. Harshness pours emotional intensity into the situation to try to convince the person that you mean business. Usually people become harsh because they don't have a plan for firmness. James 1:20 says it well, "Anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."

Do you resort to harshness to get things done? What kinds of things tend to move you into a harshness mode? Consider some different strategies that apply firmness without harshness. It might mean getting closer to the child and obtaining his or her full attention before giving an instruction, reinforcing what you've asked, or following through more quickly with a consequence.

In the end your ability to be firm without being harsh will help children know that you mean business and will preserve relationships in the process.

What Children Learn in Session 5:

Often children don't realize the significance of their words. Many kids just say whatever comes to their minds. In this lesson children will learn how important their words are and that the way they say their words communicates something as

well. The story of Mordecai and Haman will reveal the dangers of using words to boast. Activities and the craft will bring out the idea that words can hurt or help people in ways we don't even realize.

A Summary of the Video Session 5:

Honor is a two-way street. Children need to honor their parents, but parents also need to learn to honor their children. Parents often fall into extremes in parenting. Either they become too lenient, wanting to please their children, or they become too strict and overly controlling. Honor-based parenting requires a number of skills, and since many parents don't have a good history with honor in their own family growing up, these skills provide a helpful framework. This session focuses on one skill, "Being firm without being harsh." Parents learn that firmness sets a boundary that won't be crossed without a consequence, and that harshness pours emotional intensity into that limit to try to convince a child that you mean business. Suggestions are given for handling bedtimes. With a tighter action point and clearer consequences, parents can replace their harshness with honor.

(parent training video series is optional)

Read Along in the Book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... In You and Your Kids":

Pages 89-106 teach parents ways to communicate without anger. Children also need to learn good communication skills so that their words will help bring about positive change rather than just be hurtful.

Welcoming Activity

5-10 minutes

Use the photocopied frame to draw a picture of your family. Because the term “family” may be different for each child, you may want to say something like, “Draw a picture of all the people that live in your house.” If children live in more than one house it may be best to draw a line in the frame and have the child draw two pictures.

For Older Children: Many older children will enjoy the above project but another welcome activity is available if needed. Have children do the Seek and Find Puzzle, hunting for a number of key words from today’s lesson.



Together Time

15-20 minutes

Use the thoughts and ideas below along with your own thoughts and the Bible to dialogue with the children and help them understand the importance of honoring others with their words.

Introduction:

Let’s see your picture of your family. Which one are you in the picture? How many of you have three people, four people, five people, etc. in your family? All families are different aren’t they? In fact, some people come into a family through adoption, some are born right into that family and others come in when two parents who already have children get married. Families are like a laboratory and are a place where we can learn and grow so that we can be successful with others in life.

Object Lesson:

Pepper Illustration

Be prepared with the following supplies: a dinner plate, a large glass of water, a shaker of black pepper, and a small amount of dish soap in a

bowl (the secret ingredient). Have children close enough to observe what happens. You may need to do this with small groups if you have a large number of children.

Fill the plate with water almost to its edge and talk about how the water in the plate represents relationships. Then say, “Some people only think about themselves. They boast about how good they are. Do you like to spend time with that kind of person? When that happens, people aren’t happy, and others aren’t happy with them.” Boasting and pride are like this ingredient here. (Sprinkle a good amount of pepper onto the water.) It makes relationships dirty and unpleasant like this pepper does to our water.

“I have a secret ingredient that’s going to do something to all that pepper.” Now dip your finger into the bowl of soap and then touch it into the water on the edge of the dish. All the pepper will move to the opposite side. “Today I want to tell you about a secret ingredient in life that works just like that in your family to deal with a lot of the negative words in family life. That secret ingredient is honor and as members of the Honor Club we’re going to learn more about it today.

Bible Story with Application:

Read Esther 5:11-6:12 and use the ideas you learn and some of these thoughts to tell the Bible story.

Haman was a prideful man. He wanted everyone to notice him. If something was going on, he wanted to be right at the center of it. When Haman drove by in his chariot he wanted everyone to bow down low to show respect for him. He said to his wife, “I am rich and have so much money. The king thinks I am very important. The queen only invited two people to her house for dinner, the king and me. I am a very important person.”

But Haman had a problem. There was a man in the town who loved the Lord and who wouldn’t bow down to Haman. His name was Mordecai. This made Haman very angry. In fact,



Haman couldn't enjoy all the good things that he had because he was angry in his heart toward Mordecai. Every day he would get mad and he wished that he could find a way to get rid of this guy who wouldn't bow down to him.

One day Haman went to work and the king called for him. "Haman, I have someone I want to honor. I need an idea of how to show how valuable this man is to me."

Haman thought, "Oh, the king must be talking about me. I'm so important to the king. He must want to tell everyone in the kingdom how great I am." So, Haman told the king his idea. "I think you should put him on one of your horses and let him wear one of your robes and put a crown on his head and let someone else lead this man around town and announce to everyone that this person is special to the king."

As Haman imagined himself on that horse, wearing the king's robe, and a crown on his head, the king said, "Good idea, Haman. I'd like you to be the one to lead the horse."

"What?" thought Haman in shock as he continued to listen to the king.

"Yes, I want you to do all those nice things to Mordecai."

Haman couldn't believe his ears. He had boasted and been so proud and been so angry with Mordecai every day. This was the worst thing he could ever imagine happening. Now he had to give honor to Mordecai. It was terrible.

That's a true story and it illustrates something very important about honor. Some people try to build themselves up by boasting and talking about how good they are. Those people are always in danger. Someday something will happen that will humble them.

People who understand honor don't boast about themselves. They look for ways to build others up. Our mouths can get us into a lot of trouble sometimes. Members of the Honor Club look for ways to care for others and not just focus on ourselves. Our Bible verse talks about pride.

Bible Verse:

Proverbs 18:12 "Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor."

Prayer:

Lord, teach us how to honor others instead of just building ourselves up. Help us to think of ways to make others feel special. Thank you for loving us and treating us as special. Amen.

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Craft and Activity Time

15-20 minutes

Door Knob Sign

Supplies Needed:

- Photocopy the activity sheet onto card stock
- Markers

Discussion:

As children decorate the Door Knob Signs, talk to them about honoring and dishonoring words in family life.

Activity

Color the picture of the heart and the trash can beforehand and put them on the wall. Cut out the strips of paper with honoring and dishonoring words on them. Hand out the strips of paper and have a child read the strip with expression and then tape it on the Heart or the Trash Can depending on whether it is honoring or dishonoring. You may want to make more blank strips and add your own phrases or have children help you think of more. For younger children you'll want to read them all and then have the children tape them up.

After completing all the prepared statements, brainstorm with the kids for other ideas of dishonoring and honoring kinds of speech, write them on strips of paper and have the children tape them up.



Game

15-20 minutes

Honor Bingo

Instructions:

Use the enclosed template to make a Bingo card for each child. Have each child color eight pictures and then glue them onto the Bingo card in any order they'd like. As the teacher, you also color all the pictures but don't put them on the card. Your pictures will be chosen at random to show children so they can mark their cards.

Bring beans or pieces of paper to place in the appropriate squares. Hold up one little picture at a time and ask, "What's happening in this picture?" Children identify the picture and then make a comment about obedience or honor; then continue with the Bingo game. Play the game several times asking children to get three in a row, or the four corners, or the whole card.

Take this opportunity to review the Bible verse and talk about pride and humility in family life.



Snack

5-10 minutes

Using a cereal or other food that's shaped like letters allow children to spell out the words used in the Seek and Find Puzzle. For younger children,

you may want to put the letters on the board for the word honor. Help children identify each letter, find them among the cereal, and then enjoy eating them. Talk about honoring and dishonoring things family members say.

Review and Close

5-10 minutes

Read the following story to the children and then discuss it together. Talk about the value of our words as we communicate with each other.

A Story About Words

"Hi, Karen," said Grandma as they passed each other by the mailbox. Grandma and Grandpa lived on the same property as their son and his family. Karen was 13 years old and enjoyed spending time with Grandma. "I talked to your parents about us going up to RJ's for hamburgers for dinner tonight," Grandma continued.

"Oh, no," said Karen. "We can't go there."

"Why not?" asked Grandma puzzled. "RJ's has always been your favorite place for hamburgers. You usually beg us to take you there."

"Yeah, that was until I found out how they make those hamburgers."

"What do you mean?" Grandma asked.

"Those hamburgers are so juicy because they put worms in with the meat when they cook them."

"Oh, that's silly," said Grandma, "Where did you ever hear something like that?"

"Everyone knows that," continued Karen. "All my friends have heard about it."

"That's ridiculous," shuttered Grandma. "First of all, it would be illegal."

"Well they just sneak them in and no one knows about it."

"Karen, that's just a rumor and you better be careful about believing everything you hear. Let me tell you a story about rumors."

Grandma and Karen sat down on the porch as Grandma continued.

I read in the paper yesterday that two boys, James and Philip, were playing with matches. They are only 10 years old but they thought that matches were pretty fun and took some out to the field

where no one could see what they were doing. Matches make fires and a fire can be a good thing in a fireplace or in a grill for cooking but these boys were just playing around and didn't realize what trouble they would cause. They were lighting the matches and throwing them around. It was a very foolish thing to do. Do you know what happened?

Some of the grass started to catch fire. The boys watched it for a moment because it looked pretty interesting to them and besides, they could stamp it out with their feet, it was so small. But the wind came up and the fire started to spread quickly. They tried to put it out but it just continued to grow. Pretty soon the fire was so big that they couldn't do anything about it. It was burning the whole field.

Philip and James ran back to James' house and his mom called the fire department. The firemen came and tried to contain the fire but it spread to a forest area and ended up burning part of one house. It was a very sad story and Philip and James are now in a lot of trouble.

"That's an interesting story," said Karen, "but what does that have to do with worms in the hamburgers?"

Ask the children, "Do any of you children know how those two stories are related? What do worms in hamburgers have to do with the fire caused by James and Philip?" Let's listen some more.

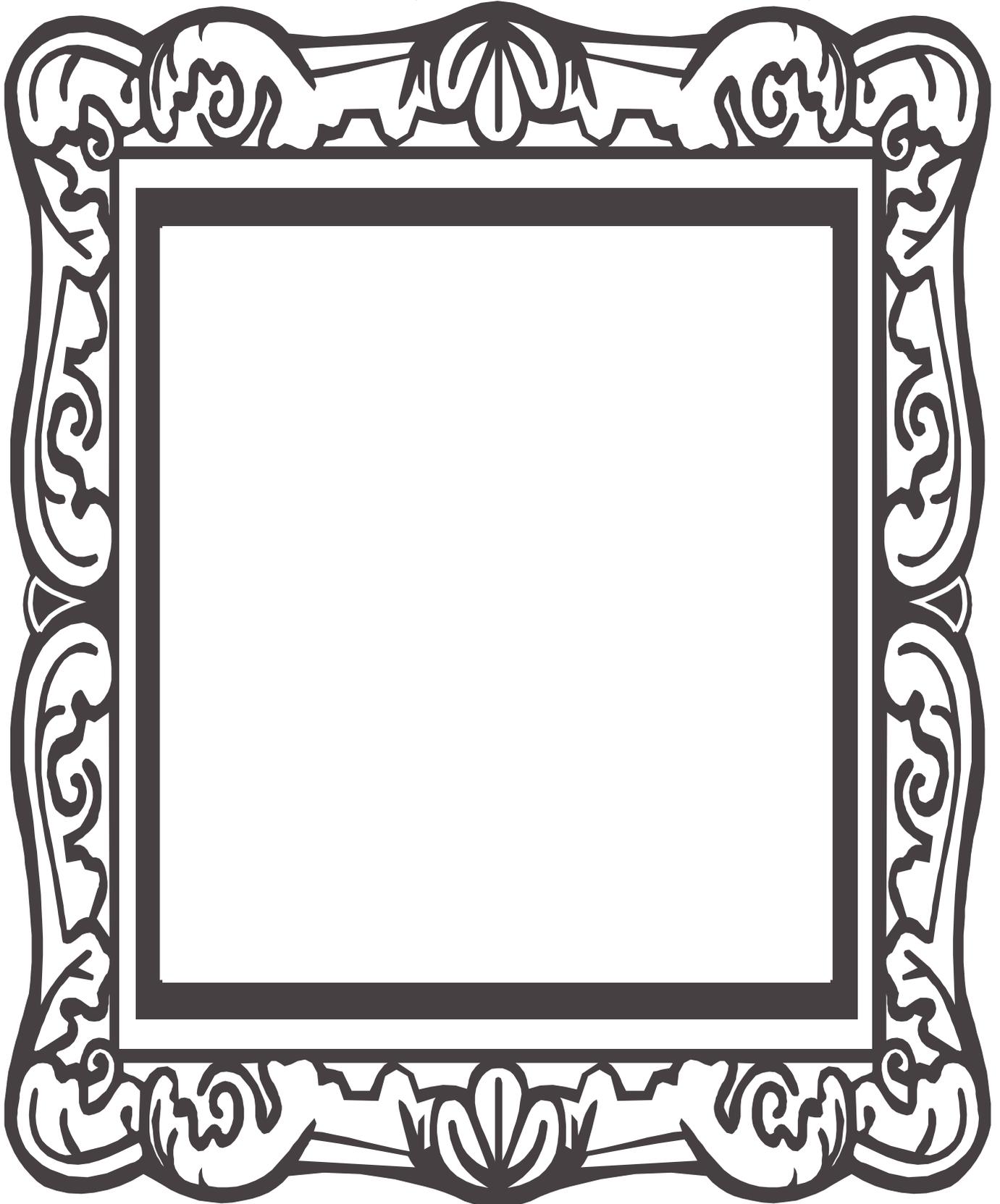
Grandma said, "Let me tell you how these two stories relate. Rumors are like fire. They start small but pretty soon they get out of control and they do a lot of damage. How many people don't want to go to RJ's now because of this rumor? How much business have they lost? You see, we need to be very careful about the things we say. James 3:5 tells us that our tongue is like a fire. It can cause a lot of damage if we aren't careful. Rumors are just one way. Boasting, whining and complaining, and lying are other ways that our tongue can hurt other people."

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You wouldn't play with matches would you? No. That would not be good. But what about your tongue? Maybe your tongue is doing more damage than you think. The best thing we can do is ask ourselves the question "Is what I'm going to say helpful or not." That will help us know if we're doing the right thing with our mouths.

What's something honoring that you might try to say this week in your family? Let several children answer and then brainstorm of other ways children might be honoring with their words.

Welcoming Activity Frame for Family Picture



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Door Knob Sign **Instructions:** Photocopy onto card stock. This page contains enough signs for two children. Allow child to cut and color.



Seek and Find Puzzle

It's All in How You Say It

Instructions:

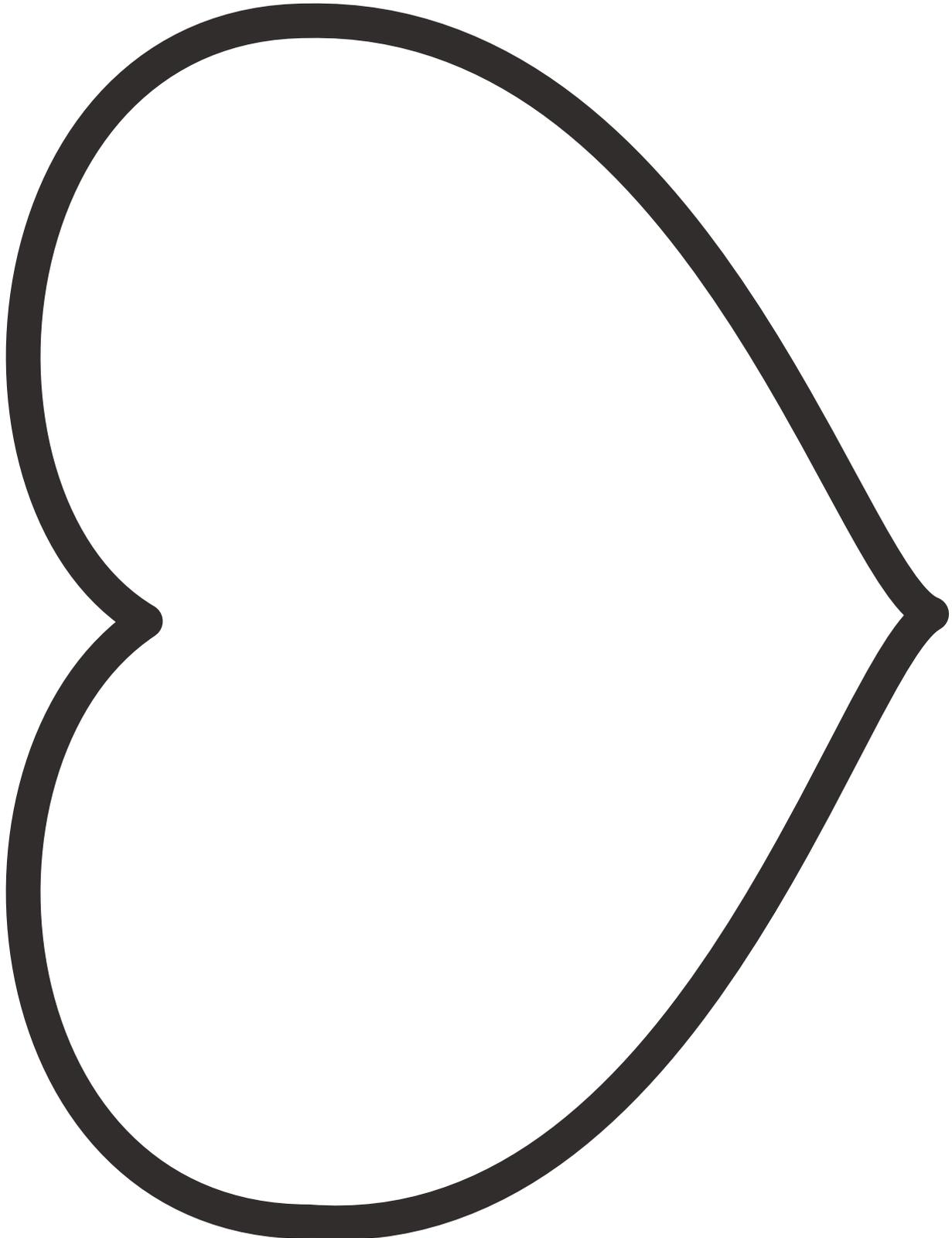
Find the words in the boxes below. They can go in any direction: horizontal, vertical, or diagonal; forward, or backward. Draw a circle around each word.

HUMILITY HONOR HARSH
 PRIDE ENCOURAGE WHINING
 LYING COMPLAINING BOASTING
 FIRMNESS FORGIVENESS

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

Honoring Words Activity

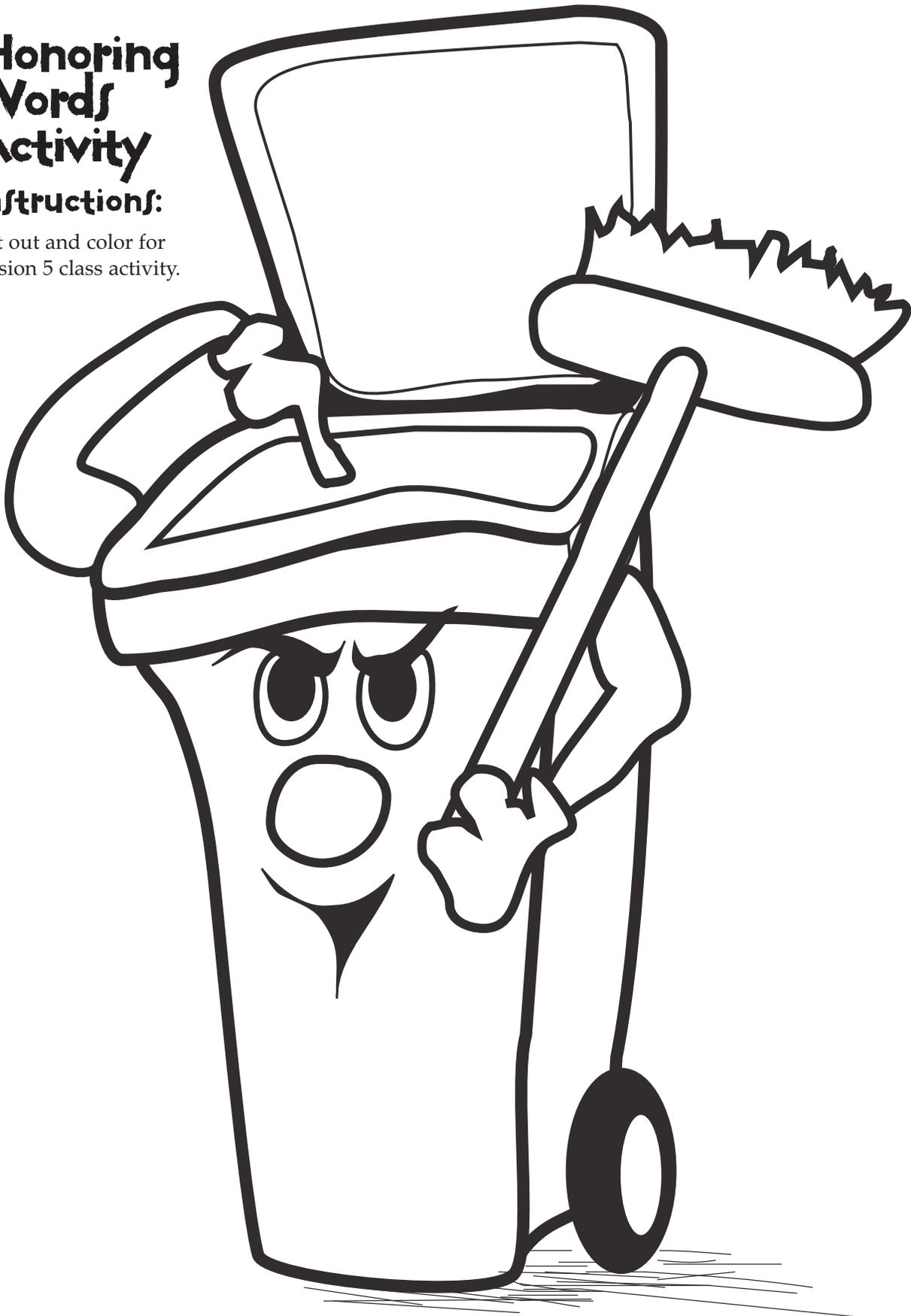
Instructions: Cut out and color for Session 5 class activity.



Honoring Words Activity

Instructions:

Cut out and color for
Session 5 class activity.



Honoring Words Activity

Instructions: Cut out for Session 5 class activity.

That shirt looks nice.

My story is the best!

Thank you.

Are we there yet?

Would you like a piece of my candy?

Hey, Gimme my tape now!

I like the way you drew that picture.

No you can't have any.

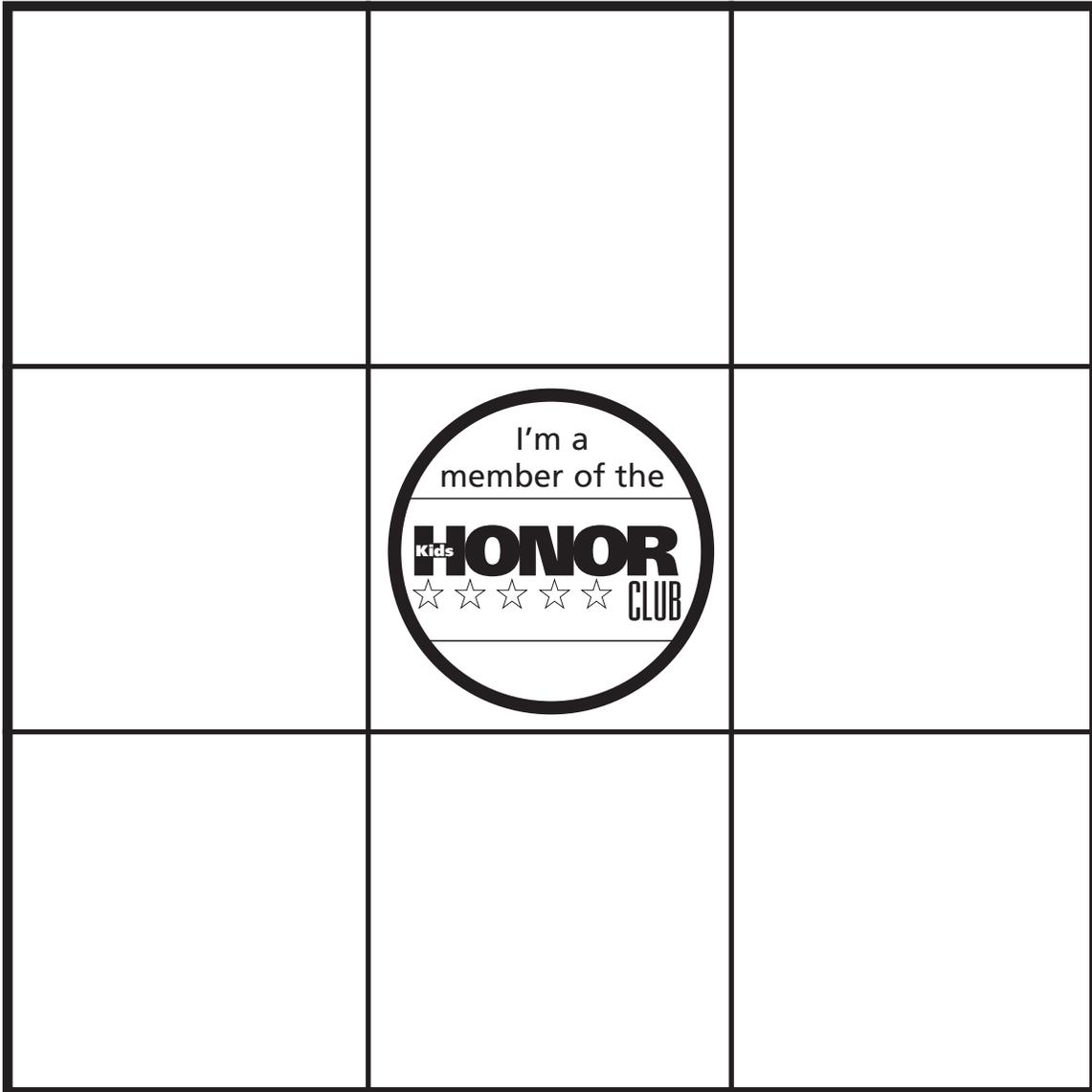
They're all mine.

I'm sorry for hurting your feelings.

Oh yuck, I hate that dinner.

I think it's your turn to go first.

Honor Bingo • Bingo Card Template



Session 5

Honor Bingo • Pictures for the Bingo Cards

