

WELL SEASONED WORDS

SCRIPTURE:

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15: 1).*

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person (Colossians 4: 6).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Can of WD-40

MAIN MESSAGE:

We need to keep our tongue in check and ensure that we do not use our words to hurt others.

SONG: "Angry Words"

LESSON:

After dodging the sing-along book and the noisy toy popper, I felt safe that my midnight run to the kitchen went undetected by the 9-month-old sleeping down the hall. Arriving at the master bedroom was a relief because I had not made a single sound until I opened the door. For some reason the door choose that time, after being opened and closed a million times before, to make the loudest creak. It seemed as if windows quaked and dogs barked half way down the road as a result of this ear splitting sound. Of course our 9-month-old never heard a thing; it was the three-year-old who woke up screaming.

A bike left out the night before and now has high-pitched squeaking sounds after each down stroke of the peddle on the way to school. The chain has a telling orange color to it that indicates rust. Later that day, you are caught getting an extra cookie because mom heard the telling creak of the cabinet being opened

What these three things have in common is the need for the seemingly magical substance called WD-40. While the bedroom door creaking never seems to be an issue during the day, it seems so much louder when you are trying to be quiet. A quick squirt of lubricant and the problem is solved whether the problem was a noisy door or noisy chain.

Like the noisy door, our words can often get us into trouble when we are not paying attention. First thing in the morning or at the end of a hard day, we may find that our words are not gentle, and the way we respond to a simple question may lead us into an all out argument with the ones we love. If we keep our attitude and tongue in check, we can often times avoid trouble by seasoning our words.

PRAYER: Help us to keep our anger in check and give us patience to grow.