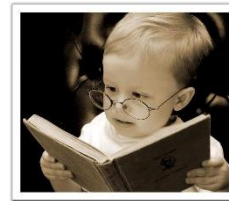




Words Matters
Proverbs 15:1 - 4 (NIV)

Rev. Abi Foerster
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**Do you remember what your first words were?
Or your child's first words?**
Dadda, Mamma, Cat or something else?

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Genesis 1:2 – 3)

- **Have you ever considered that God used words to create a world out of nothing? God's words have power!**

1. What you say has more _____ than you think it does.

³⁻⁵ A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! (James 3:3-5, Message)

2. God gave us words, so we could share them over time...

- **Communicate** _____.

¹ *A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. (v. 1)*

- **Build each other** _____.

² *The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. (v. 2)*

- **Move us in a better** _____.

³ *The eyes of the LORD are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

⁴ *The soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. (v. 3 – 4)*

3. So, if you want to shape how kids think about God, then look for ways to _____.

Some ideas to get you started...

- ♥ Learn another language.
- ♥ Weigh what you say.
- ♥ Recycle big ideas.

Personal Challenge: Use your words this week to turn on a light to help a child see what you see, and what God sees – their potential!



Doggy Bag for the Week:

1. When you first became a person of significance for a child (as a parent, grand-parent, teacher, coach, mentor, etc.) what were some new words or phrases that you learned?
2. How does your vocabulary change as kids get older? How does it change with culture?
3. Who can you look to as a mentor or coach when it comes to learning the words you need in order to stay developmentally, culturally and personally relevant for the kids on your list?
4. Words have more power when they are specific for you. Can you remember a time when someone said something specific to you that made an impact in your direction? What did they say? What can you do to say something specific to help encourage a kid or impact his or her direction this week?
5. When your marbles of influence run out, what are some of the most important messages you hope to have communicated to those on your list? You can't say them all tomorrow. They won't hear you if you say them all every day. So, how are you going to consistently rotate the most important messages in a way that will help those on your list hear what you hope they hear over time?