**Words – a classroom worship based on the Ikea anti-bullying advert.**

**Teacher Notes**

This classroom worship is based the [Ikea advert](https://www.google.co.uk/search?safe=active&sxsrf=ALeKk01jNUH7wOiIgHQEFOBgO_s-RQNyzg%3A1603285950159&source=hp&ei=vjOQX-WVB-SOlwSLyZ2IBw&q=ikea+two+plants+advert&oq=Ikea+&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQARgAMgQIIxAnMgQIIxAnMgsILhDHARCvARCRAjIFCAAQkQIyBQgAELEDMgUIABCxAzIICAAQsQMQyQMyBQgAEJIDMgUIABCxAzILCC4QsQMQxwEQrwE6BQguEJECOgsILhCxAxDHARCjAjoICAAQsQMQgwFQoAhYqA5g9iloAHAAeACAAagBiAGPBZIBAzEuNJgBAKABAaoBB2d3cy13aXo&sclient=psy-ab#spf=1603285950135) where one plant is spoken to positively and flourishes, while another is spoken to negatively and withers. As one of the children in the video says, ‘If it affects a plant, it can definitely affect other people.’ If you google the experiment, you will find plenty of critics, who argue that it wasn’t conducted in properly scientific conditions, but it’s a vivid Illustration of the way our words can build people up or bring them down.

**Introduction**



Show the class a paper chainfamily. (A simple outline on a piece of A4 paper folded into 6 works well. Make sure that the hands – and feet? – touch the folded edges.)

One by one, tear a person off, scrunch it up and throw it away, saying something negative such as ‘You’re rubbish,’ or ‘Nobody likes you.’ Ask the children how they think somebody would feel if they were rejected like that. Ask them to show you what that person’s body language would be like. What sort of words would make them feel good about themselves? Ask them to show you how their body language would change.

Show the Ikea advert of two plants having kind and unkind words spoken over them.

**(PowerPoint slide 1)**

Discuss what the children think of the experiment, did anything surprise them? Can they put its message into their own words?

**Bible verses and reflection**

The book of James may have been written by one of Jesus’ brothers. It contains lots of practical advice about how to live our lives. Chapter 3 uses a range of images to describe the impact our tongues can have, although they’re only small.

Show **PowerPoint slides 2 – 4** and ask the children which image they think is best. Why?

Can they come up with their own simile or metaphor to explain the positive effects of speaking kind words to others? There are some images on **PowerPoint slide 6** which might help them get started, but encourage them to be creative!

**Closing Prayer**

**PowerPoint slides 7.**

You could show the class a teaspoon to illustrate teaspoon prayers. (TSP = thank you, sorry, please)

I am going to finish with a prayer now and if you would like to make it your own prayer, you can say Amen at the end.

Dear God,

**Thank you** for all the people who encourage us and speak positively to us.

We’re **sorry** that sometimes our words are negative and hurtful.

**Please** help us to encourage other people and build them up. Help us choose words that will let other people flourish.

Amen.

*Or ask for volunteers in the class to say their own teaspoon prayers. Ask for some thank you prayers, some sorry prayers and some please prayers, based on the ideas you have discussed.*

**Final challenge**

Remind the class how one of the plants flourished when the children spoke kind words over it. Challenge them to choose their words carefully for the rest of the day (and beyond!) so that others in their class, school and family feel good about themselves, stand tall and smile!

