

# STANDING STRONG

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FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-11

## TAMING *the* TONGUE

By Tracey L. Eagan

Imagine it's Sunday morning, and you're at church! You just finished singing praises to God, praying to Him, and hearing a great message from His Word. You love God and are thankful for all of His blessings, right?

"Ha-ha!" After the service ends, your sister trips on the way to the car. You laugh at her and yell, "Clumsy!"

Your brother can't remember his Bible verse. You tease him and call him "Sir Forgets-a-Lot"!

When you arrive home, your neighbor comes running over. "Do you want to come over later and play?" she asks.

"Get out of here, frogface," you respond.

Wow! Do you have a second mouth stashed away somewhere? You're not using the same mouth you were just praising God with to say all of those mean and hurtful things—are you?

Read James 3:8-10.

These verses tell us we should not use our mouths (tongues) to both praise God and curse people. Cursing people doesn't just mean saying bad words. It also means saying hurtful things to others.

"But wait!" you might say. "The Bible also says, 'No one can tame the tongue.' Since no one can tame the tongue, that gets me off the hook."

Sorry, that does not get you off the hook! It's true we can't tame the tongue, but God can. Pray and ask God to help you tame your tongue. The next time you want to say something mean or hurtful to someone, remember

God made people in His image and loves them the same way He loves you!





# COME HOME

BY KATHLYN LONGTINE

Clive Staples Lewis, known to his family and friends as Jack, grew up in a Christian home. When Jack was almost ten years old, his mother died from cancer.

The whole family was sad. Jack started to believe that God wasn't real or that He liked to watch people suffer. By age thirteen, Jack no longer believed in God at all.

As Jack grew older, he loved to write just as much as he loved to read. He even made friends with a few other writers, including J. R. R. Tolkien, who created *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien, along with several of Jack's writing buddies, was a Christian.

One night, Tolkien and another Christian writer, Hugo Dyson, sat down with Jack and explained to him that God is real and loved him.

The next day, Jack and his brother went to the zoo.

While he was there, Jack turned his heart back to God. On the way to the zoo, Jack did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. By the time he left the zoo, he had surrendered his life to Christ.

C. S. Lewis went on to write many books about Christianity. You may have heard of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which tells parts of God's story. During World War II, Jack gave a series of talks over the radio describing what Christianity is for people who were not Christians. These broadcasts were later written down and published as a book called *Mere Christianity*. Jack wrote many other books defending and explaining the faith.

Even though Jack had run from God, the Lord pursued him and brought him home.

**HEAVEN IS FILLED WITH JOY WHEN A PERSON CHOOSES TO TRUST JESUS AS SAVIOUR! READ IT IN LUKE 15:3-7.**

*“God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” –C. S. Lewis*

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# YOUR THOUGHTS

By Judith Hupp

If you could see your thoughts, what would they look like? Like little turtles swimming in the chemical soup of your brain? Or mental fireworks flashing bright every time you have a great idea?

The real you is what you think on the inside. Only God sees into your mind, and your brain is where it's all happening. Inside your skull, you're always hatching

new ideas.

Your brain is a garden where thoughts take root to grow into fruitful plans or weedy carelessness. Your thoughts grow into words and actions.

God knows you, and He knows the thoughts you think. He tells us how to be smart and use our thoughts for good. Check out Psalm 10:4 and Psalm 139:23-24.

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## MAKE YOUR OWN BRAIN AND GROW GOOD THOUGHTS.

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### YOU WILL NEED:

- an eggshell
- soil
- grass seed
- a marker

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- With adult help, carefully crack an egg so you leave at least ½ of the shell intact without a crack. (Save the egg for eating later!)
- Draw a face on your shell.
- Put soil in the shell, leaving a small space at the top.
- Sprinkle grass seed on the soil surface and cover with a thin layer of soil. Water.
- Use a section of egg carton to keep your brain upright.
- Place in a sunny window. Water when soil feels dry.

Within a week, green shoots will appear. Let your "thoughts" grow tall. Use scissors to trim and style.

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**REMEMBER:** Sinful thoughts can harm us. Godly thoughts can help us make good decisions. Learning God's Word feeds our brain to grow good thoughts and weed out sinful ones.



# maximum storage

By **Sharon Setzer**

What can hold more information: a super-duper, twelve-million-pound computer or your three-pound brain? If you guessed your brain, you're correct! You have probably run out of storage space on your phone before, if you have one. But what about your brain? It can store bazillions of bits of information—way more than the biggest computer.

All of us have memorized important facts like our phone number, address, and computer passwords. We memorize songs and data for tests at school. My brother memorized an entire book of the Bible while in high school.

But there are some people who can learn enormous amounts of information in a short amount of time and quickly recite it back to you. They are called mnemonists. They use tricks called mnemonics to help them remember things. A girl in middle school recently won the title in a memory championship by matching over two hundred pictures with first and last names in under fifteen minutes.

Second Timothy 3:15 teaches that learning the truth of the Bible while young will help us to be wise in trusting the Lord as we grow older. We might not be mnemonists, but we can still use mnemonics to help us memorize Scripture!

Make motions or draw pictures to go with the main words in a Bible verse. Repeat the verse over and over. Write the verse on paper. Put the Bible verses to a song or act them out.

Try to fill up all the storage in your brain with Bible verses! And when you need the Lord, you'll be able to hear Him speaking to you through His Word!

What did one brain say to the other?

**You're getting on my nerves!**

