Dear Parents,

The preschool years are full of wonder, excitement, rapid development, and adventures for your little ones. Most of these are equally exciting and adventurous for you, too, but oh, how we wish we could skip some of them…especially the art of tattling. The video below is one you will not want to miss. It provides insight as to why preschoolers tattle as well as advice on how to handle this milestone in development before it gets out of hand. After you watch the video, take a few minutes to jot down your thoughts and any questions you have so we can talk about them.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/149140805/4d818cdc61>

While the Bible is definitely the ultimate authority when it comes to morals, decision-making, and growing in faith, I have to say that the Bernstein Bears sure have a lot going on, especially for the preschool age! In the book, *The Bernstein Bears Learn about Strangers*, Brother Bear gets upset with Sister Bear because he feels like she is tattling. Momma Bear puts a stop to their argument and explains that Sister Bear wasn’t tattling—she was telling what happened because she was worried and upset for her brother’s safety. Momma Bear went on to explain the difference by saying that tattling is telling on someone because you can and because you want to get them in trouble. We must teach our children the difference between telling and tattling. Before we get into that, though, let’s remind ourselves of why preschoolers tattle.

Sometimes their tattling is innocent. They’re just little town criers who want to report the news. And then there is the fact that they are discovering the power and capability they possess to manipulate their surroundings by telling on someone. Either way, you can help teach your preschooler by:

1. Reading the Bernstein Bear book mentioned above and talking about it afterwards.

2. Not responding to the tattling in the way your preschooler wants you to. When the result they were looking for doesn’t happen, they will usually stop.

3. When your preschooler tattles on someone, for an actual offense, ask “ What do you want me to do?” Then talk about their answer.

4. If tattling is frequent, simply say, “ You and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ need to learn to get along. If you need help, I’ll help you, but I won’t listen to tattling.”

As you watched the Online Parenting Class video, I hope you were able to take a lot of encouragement from what you saw and were reminded of how important it is for us to teach our children to control their tongues. As I end this, I want to give you a couple of important Bible verses to share with your preschooler when talking to them about using their words wisely:

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person*.” Colossians 4:6 // “*To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people*”. Titus 3:2 // “*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear*.” Ephesians 4:29

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah