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## Reaction



How we respond to a situation is as important as the situation itself. When we're angry, it's easy to yell or say hurtful things. What about when we've been wronged? It's tempting (and easily justified) to respond in the same way we've been treated. We can easily justify it by thinking, "Well, she did to me, so I'm going to do the same thing to her just so she knows what it feels like."

Teach your kids that it's important to be careful how we respond to situations we encounter. Everything we've learned—our attitudes, our relationship with Christ—all come to play in how we react to situations.

Our words are powerful things. But though our words can be powerful allies when we've been wronged or hurt, they can also quickly diffuse an ugly situation. Instead of engaging in an insult war, a kid can choose to either ignore, or use their words to try to end the conflict.

Help kids understand that, even though they are powerless to change another person, they do control their personal reaction to a situation. Teach them to take a deep breath and think before they speak!



## Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

1. How did Ralph and Reuben react to Reuben getting stuck in a tree? (*Ralph ridicules Reuben and then leaves him stuck in the tree.*) Is the way Ralph talks to Reuben helpful or hurtful? (*Hurtful.*)
2. Did you think Lucy was going to forgive Jake? What other response could she have had? (*She could have yelled at him, gotten angry, etc.*)
3. Have you been in a situation where you should have responded with kindness (or forgiveness), but chose to respond in anger? (*Answers will vary.*) What can you do to make the situation right? (*Answers will vary.*)
4. What can you do to help you choose to respond properly before a situation gets out of hand? (*Think before you speak! Take a deep breath, etc.*)



## Activity

Give kids the opportunity to discover ways they can react positively to bad situations. Give them opportunities to role play, write a skit, or even draw ways they can positively react.

### Example situations:

1. Someone starts a rumor about you being a nose-picker.
2. Your best friend accuses you of breaking her Xbox.
3. Your brother destroys your favorite \_\_\_\_\_. How do you react? How should you react?

