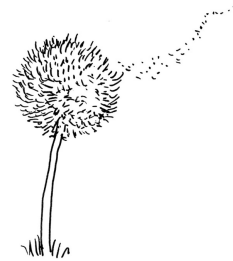


# NEVER BLOW ON A DANDELION

**Theme:** Our words should be pleasing to God

**Scripture:** Psalm 19:14

**Props:** A weeding tool and a photo of a dandelion gone to seed (easily available on the internet)



I brought a mystery item to show you. (*Show weeding tool.*) Does anyone know what this is? It's a tool for digging weeds out of the lawn.

Let me ask you: is a weed a good plant or a bad plant? Most people would say it's a bad plant. It's funny how some plants are good plants and some are weeds. And words are like that, too. Sometimes they're good, but sometimes they hurt people. If you say something mean to someone the words leave your lips, travel through the air and land on that person's heart. It's like you planted a weed in his heart.

Let me show you a picture of a weed. (*Show dandelion.*) You know what that is, right? A dandelion. Did you ever blow on a dandelion? They're fun to blow on because the fuzz swirls all around and goes all over the place. The problem is that all those little fuzzy things are actually dandelion seeds, and when you blow on them they land all over the yard and grow into more dandelions. And they can blow across the fence into your neighbor's yard. So just by blowing on a dandelion you've planted weeds in your neighbor's yard!

It's the same with hurtful words. They travel through the air and land on someone's heart. And that's not good. Psalm 19:14 says, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

So the message today is: never blow on a dandelion – and never use words that hurt people. I mean, we don't want to plant weeds in someone else's yard, do we? And we certainly don't want to put hurt in someone else's heart, either.

That's something we should pray about: Father in Heaven, help us to be careful with our words and not to say things that will hurt someone else. Help us instead to say things that are helpful and kind. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Song: "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"**