

# MYOB

Or “Mind Your Own Business”  
Part 1

## Goal for the Lesson

“Mind your own business!” is a phrase frequently used by parents and teachers. These four words are very important, and they reflect an important Bible truth. Sometimes teaching the “why” behind the command to “mind your own business” will help children realize how this statement is vital to them and others. A continual stream of stress is added to people’s lives by those who meddle. Thus, our goal in this lesson is to teach the importance of minding one’s own business.

## Scripture for the Lesson

*“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters,”* —I Peter 4:15.

### *Definitions*

Ask the children what they think the words mean in this verse, and then explain the correct definitions.

*Busybody* -one who concerns himself with affairs not his own  
synonyms include: meddler, gossip, talebearer, snooper, nosey person

*Business* -affair, matter, task, activity

*Matter* -subject under consideration or subject of disagreement or circumstances of a situation

## Ask the Children

Ask the children questions to prod them to think about how the verse can apply to them.

- (1) What is a child’s business? (There can be many right answers to this question.)
- (2) How can children be busybodies? (Ask the children to give specific examples.)
- (3) Do you like it when someone points out things about you that you would rather not have pointed out?
- (4) How do you feel when others gossip about you?
- (5) Do you think being a busybody is a very bad sin?
- (6) Notice the list of names that precede the name busybody in I Peter 4:15: murderer, thief, evildoer. Whew! Murderer is put on the same level as busybody in other men’s matters. What do you think about that?

## Skit 1

Tammy is standing with some boys and girls at church when Susie walks up and says to Tammy in a slightly superior tone with a little smirk on her face, “Your blouse doesn’t match your skirt.”

### Ask the Children

- (1) Why do you think this was rude of Susie to say?
- (2) Would Susie appear more knowledgeable than Tammy if she pointed out Tammy’s clothing mistakes?
- (3) Would it make Susie feel more important than Tammy?
- (4) Why do you think Susie’s comments might embarrass Tammy?
- (5) Were Susie’s comments sinful? Does she need to ask Tammy’s forgiveness? Why?
- (6) Is it really any of Susie’s business to judge what Tammy was wearing?

### Personal Application Questions

- (1) Do you ever ask questions about things that are really none of your business?
- (2) Why? Is it because you like to show off your knowledge? Or do you simply like to talk without thinking about how you may be hurting others?
- (3) Do you like to act like you are better than others?
- (4) Do you use “asking questions” to be a busybody?
- (5) Is this a sin? Why?

### Responding in Love

When *others* become busybodies and ask questions or make inappropriate comments about us, we need to know how to respond in a proper, yet godly manner. We are to be *kind* in all situations. Others can be rude, for whatever reason, but we can be kind.

Proverbs 26:4 says, “*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.*” While we want to be careful that we do not go around calling others fools, we do want to learn *not* to answer back in the same manner.

Susie can sweetly say, “Why, thanks for pointing that out. I didn’t know.” She could respond with a question, “What makes you think so?” She might just smile and say nothing or say, “I just love the color in both of these. That’s why I wear them together.”

### Teacher Notes (explanation of skit)

There are many underlying reasons for the things people say. It is often a good idea to help a child reflect on the real motives involved in saying such things. These motives are usually sinful, but are seldom thought of as such until one is introduced to such motives for what they are. This should be done gently. It will not be a learning experience if it is not done gently.

It is also important to teach how others are affected when we say such things, and how we may need to seek forgiveness for our sin against them, and, last—or maybe first—before we ever speak, we need to know if it is even “our business” to say anything at all. In this example, Susie comments on her friend’s blouse, informing Tammy that the blouse and skirt do not match. This is really none of Susie’s business.

### Sharing Thoughts With Children

Susie seems to need to feel important by showing her superior taste, but Tammy will likely feel embarrassed, defensive, and perhaps a bit angry. Even if Susie is right, Tammy will not like Susie for pointing this out, especially if it was done in front of others. Whether Tammy’s clothes match or not is one of those things which is not part of Susie’s “business.” Tammy did not ask for her advice or opinion. Susie’s “business” was simply to give Tammy a warm greeting.

Ah, but what if Susie was trying to be helpful? If she was, she likely would have told Tammy in private in order not to embarrass her in front of others. However, telling Tammy in private could still embarrass her. Also, Tammy may not have had any matching clothes to wear that day. That also could be embarrassing. These are all very good reasons for Susie to “mind her own business.”

## Skit 2

Jack has spent the night at his cousin Joey's house, and he is eating breakfast with him. He watches Joey pour ketchup on his scrambled eggs. Jack comments, "You put ketchup on eggs? That's gross!"

### Ask the Children

- (1) Do you think Jack's comments were rude? Why?
- (2) Is it any of Jack's business how others might season their food?
- (3) Was Jack's comment a sneaky way of lifting himself up or making himself seem better than Joey?
- (4) What sins are committed when we make ourselves to seem better than others?
- (5) How might Joey have felt after Jack told him the way he was eating was gross?

### Personal Application Questions

- (1) Do you ever make unnecessary comments about what someone else eats, wears, or does?
- (2) Why? Is it to show that you do things a better way?
- (3) Do you sometimes like to act as if your way of doing things is better? Why do you think you do so?
- (4) Do you use the "making of comments" as a way of lifting yourself just a little above another?
- (5) Name some of the sins involved in this behavior.

### Responding in Love

Proverbs 26:4 says, "*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.*" While we want to be careful that we do not go around calling others fools, we do want to learn *not* to answer back in the same manner.

For instance, in the case of Jack and Joey, we would not want Joey to say, "Yeah, well your eggs look sick without ketchup." We don't want a tit for a tat. Thus, that leads us to an important thing for all of us to know, and that is that God expects us to respond kindly. When other folks misbehave, we do not always know why, but we can always act in love.

Joey should not feel uncomfortable because Jack is so rude. Neither should he doubt his family's enjoyable eating patterns. He could smile and say nothing. He could smile and say, "I love ketchup on my eggs. It's delicious. You ought to try it."

### Review

Review the verse and give the children a challenge to "mind their own business!"

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### Teacher Notes (explanation of skit)

It is always rude and unfair to judge others according to *our* own personal tastes. We certainly would not want others to judge us according to their personal tastes. It is none of our business how other people season their food. Jack's attitude and demeanor seemed to indicate that the way *he* eats eggs must be far superior to the way Joey eats eggs. But, of course, Jack's way is no better at all. It is all about individual taste, and Joey's tastes have no part in Jack's "business."

### Sharing Thoughts With Children

It might seem like a little thing, but Joey was probably embarrassed when Jack acted like he, Joey, was odd or strange. Something that was perfectly acceptable in his family has now been labeled as unacceptable by Jack. Joey was made to feel uncomfortable because of the thoughtless words of his cousin. Jack could have said, "Joey, that's different! I've never seen anyone eat scrambled eggs that way. I think I'll try some ketchup on mine."

It is always rude to make unnecessary comments about what others do. Again, the person making such comments usually lifts himself up, generally at the expense of pushing someone else down. This sin of seeking superiority over others is something called "self-love." Jack's comment was made without any love, care, or thought about Joey. It was simply selfish.