

KEY SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 10:11 The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain; the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

Proverbs 12:18 Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

Proverbs 15:4 Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 16:24 Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

Proverbs 17:27 A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is eventempered.

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Proverbs 21:23 Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.

Proverbs 25:11 Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket.

START TALKING

Pastor Lyle talked about how our tongue is a super-power because it has the power of life and death. Proverbs 18:21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Has there been a moment when someone said something that impacted your life? What did they say, and how did your life change?

START DISCUSSING

Comparison of Speech

Read through the verses from Proverbs listed in the left column.

Take a few minutes after each verse and discuss the truths within.

Remember this is the poetic section of Scripture, so give some attention to the clever way the writer expresses the truth.

Spirit Controlled Speech

Galatians 5:22–23 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Take each word and consider the impact of this kind of speech.

What good is lost when one is silent and does not add Spirit-controlled speech to the conversation?

What effect does the opposite kind of speech (hate, misery, conflict, etc.) have?

lovejoypeacepatiencekindnessgoodnessfaithfulnessgentlenessself-control

Loving Speech

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Take each word and consider the impact of this kind of speech. What good is lost when one is silent and does not add loving speech to the conversation? What effect does the opposite kind of speech (impatient and mean, jealous, proud, rude, etc.) have?

patient and kind

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does not demand its own way is not irritable

keeps no record of being wronged

does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices when the truth wins out never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful endures through every circumstance