

Juicy Gossip!

If we claim to be without sin, we **deceive ourselves** and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - **1 John 1:8-9 NIV**

“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him... **a false witness** who pours out lies and a person **who stirs up conflict in the community.**” - **Proverbs 16:16,19 NIV**

“The words of a **gossip** are like **choice morsels**; they go down to the inmost parts.” - **Proverbs 18:8 NIV**

OVERCOMING THE SIN OF GOSSIP

1. “Is My Conversation _____ Or _____?”

Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is **helpful for building others up.**

- **Ephesians 4:29 NIV**

“Scoundrels create trouble; their words are a **destructive blaze.** A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; **gossip separates the best of friends.**” - **Proverbs 16:27-28 NLT**

2. “Am I Making _____ Matters _____?”

“It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet. A gossip **goes around telling secrets**, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.” - **Proverbs 11:12-13 NLT**

“When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret.¹⁰ Others may **accuse you of gossip**, and you will **never regain your good reputation.**” - **Proverbs 25:9-10 NLT**

3. “Am I _____ Others To _____?”

“**Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip**; liars pay close attention to slander.” - **Proverbs 17:4 NLT**

YOUR WORDS MATTER

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on **the day of judgment** for **every empty word** they have **spoken.** For by your words you will be **acquitted,** and by your words you will be **condemned.**”

- **Mathew 12:36-37 NIV**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Share a time when you were affected by gossip. How did it make you feel?
- Why do you think you gossip? What are you looking to get out of it?
- What are some of the ways gossip harms relationships?
- What steps do you need to take to overcome the sin of gossip?
- Read Proverbs 18:8. How is gossip like “choice morsels”?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it.
- How can you begin to pray this week about any Sinful Habit?