

The logo consists of two overlapping speech bubbles. The left bubble is blue and contains the word "Small" in white. The right bubble is red and contains the word "Groups" in white. Below the bubbles, the words "DISCUSSION GUIDE" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Words That Will Change Your Life – The Power of Words

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Main Idea – Words create worlds. The impact of words is clear starting with the first chapter of the Bible, “And God said...” It is important that we speak what God’s word says concerning our world, ourselves and others.

The world was setup by words:

- Genesis 1:3: “And God said...”
- God could have thought or blinked the world into existence, but He chose to use words.
- God used words to speak light, land, oceans, clouds, sun, moon and stars into existence.
- God did not start with anything; He framed the world by His words.

Hebrew 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (NKJV)

Adam used words to name everything God made.

- God brought all creatures to Adam; He did not send them, but brought them.
- Adam spoke the name for all the creatures as God listened and watched.
- In this picture of Adam naming each creature, we can see that words are the single most powerful force we can use.

What is the impact of words?

- Words can be constructive (encouraging) or destructive (cause of despair).
- Words were used by one person (Hitler) to launch WWII while another person (Churchill) used words to bring hope.
- We should speak words filled with gentleness and humility.
- Words can cause wounds. Wounds lead to scars. Scars are the sign of healing from words spoken over someone that were intended to wound.
- “Words can be bullets (take life) or seeds (give life).” Gary Chapman

1. Words and their influence

- James 3:3-6 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (NKJV)
- What this passage demonstrates about words:
 - Words can accomplish or destroy anything.
 - We should make sure every word we speak is life-giving.
 - The tongue controls the whole body; its impact is huge.
 - Words give sentence to life, or a life sentence.
- Some examples of phrases we often hear; the impact can be positive or negative:
 - Phrases that make life go better-
 - You are the most perfect you there is.
 - You look great today.
 - You have the best smile.
 - You make me a better person.
 - Phrases that have negative impact-
 - You are worthless.
 - This looks better than last week.
 - You are really dumb.
 - You really gained a lot of weight.

2. We live with protracted situations due to unclear communication.

- We must take care not to let our words leave the chance something may happen that we did not intend to fulfill.
 - Right words can change everything. For example, asking 'What is troubling you?' versus 'What is wrong with you?'
 - A misprint of the King James Bible which left out the word 'NOT' in Exodus 20:14 changed the passage from, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" to "Thou

shalt commit adultery”. One word can make a difference.

3. Powerful words create powerful worlds

- **Psalm 107:1-2a – “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,... (NKJV)**
- If you are not living an overcoming life, change your words.
- We need to say the words of Scripture so others can hear the words. And, we need to hear the words we are saying.
- When God says something to us directly, or through the Word, we must speak it out as an affirmation. **“I shall not die, but live. And declare the works of the Lord.” Psalm 118:17 (NKJV)**

Words are declarations:

- **Job 22:28 “You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.” (NKJV)**
- If you are not saying the right things, the world will not be right.
- It is great practice to say what God says, else you are saying what you fear most.
- When we are not speaking God’s words about ourselves, or our situation, then we are merely speaking our own words. Are you speaking cynicism or destruction over yourself or others?
- Say great declarations over your life.
- Words are seeds. Put the right seeds (words) in the ground with your words.
- The prodigal son began to declare this before returning to his father’s house. He practiced his words to regain his relationship.
Luke 15: 17-19 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” (NKJV)
- When something needs to happen, it is just waiting to be said.

Reflective Questions for Words That Will Change Your Life – The Power of Words

1. What are the words you are saying about yourself, your situation and others? Are they life-giving words? Using the examples shared in the lesson, give an example of a phrase you use that could be more positive (that aligns with God's word for the situation or person).
2. What words has God spoken to you through this teaching, or through others, that you need to start declaring?
3. What have you identified as life-giving words (from Scripture) that you will speak over yourself in 2020?
4. Like the prodigal son, what words do you need to speak (declare) to regain your relationship with Christ?