

LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Various

May 24, 2020

Overview:

At some point, while growing up, all of us have been told to, “Watch your mouth.” You might have gotten into an argument with a sibling or friend and in the heat of the moment words were said that caused hurt. You might have just been having a bad day which resulted in you being very critical of everyone around you. No matter the situation, at some point you said something that wasn’t appropriate and needed correction. The scriptures teach a lot about the power of words. They have the ability to build someone up or tear them down. Proverbs 16:23-24 reads, “The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious (good judgement) and adds persuasiveness to his lips. Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”¹

When was the last time you would describe the words you say as gracious or as sweet honeycomb? A lot of the words we say have little thought put behind them. With our Western minds we tend to just focus on the facts. Communication has become just an exchange of facts rather than any meaningful, heartfelt conversations. Most people are stuck to a daily routine. Going beyond casual niceties and engaging in significant conversation takes time. This is time that most people would rather not give. Society has got to the point of where you can have a whole conversation with someone over text and not even say a word. You can just send emoji’s.

Jesus is Lord over your mouth. What you say can have eternal consequences. One major issue facing society is we are bombarded every day with constant noise. This continual connection to either written or spoken words has led us to become numb to their significance. Society tends to put too much responsibility on the listener instead of the speaker. If someone is offended, then they are just being too sensitive. We need to remember that words have power. God created the entire universe with words. The words you say can either be a blessing to someone or tear them down. It is up to everyone to take responsibility for the words they say.

A lot of our communication today is done electronically. Whether it be through text, email, Facebook or Twitter we tend to communicate with others via the internet. This can be both good and bad. It is good because you can have access to communicate with anyone at any time. It is bad because it takes away the

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

personal connection and becomes easier to come across as critical or harsh. The written word can also let you remain anonymous and not take responsibility. This is one of the biggest downfalls of written communication. You can write whatever you want with little to no accountability. Whether written or spoke God wants each of us to communicate with grace, love, and kindness.

Bible Study: Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 4:15, James 1:19, 2 Corinthians 10:1, Colossians 4:6

1. Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." How can you give advice to someone in a way it will be well received?
2. Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Paul knew conversations needed to be personalized to each person. In what ways do you talk differently to people in your life?
3. Ephesians 4:15, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ". What does speaking truth without love sound like?
4. James 1:19-20, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Are you a good listener? How can you become better at listening to others?
5. James 3:4-5, "Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things." How have the words of others impacted your life?
6. How do you respond when harsh words are spoken to you?
7. What do you do when you have spoken harsh words to someone else?