

HANDCRAFTED

ICEBREAKER

Let's play a game: Sitting in a circle, have everyone choose a favorite fruit or veggie. Each person takes a turn saying their favorite and someone else's...without showing their teeth.

SCRIPTURE

- **Genesis 1:26-30** - Words and Creation
- **Proverbs 18:20-21** - Words and Fruit
- **Matthew 12:36-37** - Words and Accounting
- **Ephesians 4:25-5:2** - Words and Purpose

SUMMARY

From the beginning, words have had significant power. How we choose to use our words can tear down and destroy or build up and give life. What will you choose to speak into existence?

BEFORE YOU MEET

- Read the scripture reference(s) and the discussion topics.
- Pray for your meeting and group.
- Be the first to smile!

AS YOU CLOSE

- Remind people to pray
- Update the prayer journal
- Give praise reports and updates
- Follow up with your group midweek

DISCUSSION

These discussion questions are a helpful guide as you lead your group through this week's Sunday message content.

Genesis

Pay careful attention to how God creates.

- What sorts of things are you creating?

Proverbs

God, through Solomon, provides us a list of consequences and truisms about certain actions.

- What do you think it means that a person's stomach is filled from the fruit of their mouth?
- In **verse 21**, what do you think it means, "and those who love it will eat its fruit"?

Matthew

- Share a time when your use of words with others would make "the day of judgment" a *little* uncomfortable.
- Why is Jesus concerned with the things we say?

Ephesians

Paul didn't waste words in his letters to the churches.

- What behavior is Paul addressing in the first half of this passage?
- How many of those "don'ts" do you think you have an issue with?

The point isn't to focus on the bad. We should be focusing on where we want to end up. Our focus leads us to our finish. So Paul provides a list of do's in **verse 32** that we can focus on.

- Which of these is the easiest for you? The hardest?

Personal

We want to create life, not death with our words.

- Where are your words influencing others?
- Are you sewing life or death in that arena?
 - If death, what can you do to change what or how you communicate to life?
 - If life, what tips could you give to others who may be struggling?