

WONDER OF WORDS

1. Have you ever underestimated someone or something? What happened?
2. Are you using your words wisely? What are you building up or tearing down with your words? How are you speaking to or about your spouse, parents, friends, your boss, etc? How are you speaking about your church? How are you speaking about people who have hurt you or you generally don't like (an ex, the classmate sitting next to you, or a co-worker who annoys you, someone else)?
3. Read Proverbs 18:21 and James 3:1-12. How do these passages of scripture speak to you? Are you careful in the way you use your words? Are there areas in your life where you have regretfully used words carelessly and hurt someone?
4. Do the words you use tend to bring life or death? Do curses or blessings typically come out of your mouth? Why did you answer this way?
5. Read Proverbs 26:28. How does this passage speak to you? Do you struggle with either lying or flattery? Why is this harmful to others? Why is this harmful to you?
6. Chris said every time we lie, we are reaching into hell and pulling up and using the language of hell and joining in the language of the enemy. Have you ever thought of a lie as being this destructive and harmful?
7. Read Proverbs 10:18-20 and Proverbs 26:20. What are slander and gossip? Do you struggle with slander and gossip when speaking about others?
8. Chris said one of the challenges of slander and gossip is that it can make you feel important or good about yourself in the moment. Do you find that to be true? If so, what will you do about it?
9. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. What does this say about unwholesome talk? What does the word "any" mean in v29? What is unwholesome talk? What kind of talk can build others up and benefit those who listen? What is the connection between anger, bitterness, rage, brawling, and unwholesome words? Is this an area where you struggle?
10. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to make you aware of crude joking and unwholesome speech? If not, will you do so?

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Chris Dew
May 16, 2024

11. On the positive side, have you ever considered that with your words, you can partner with God to bring His Kingdom to earth?
12. Read Ephesians 4:14-16, Proverbs 27:6, and Proverbs 24:26. What is meant by speaking truth in love?
13. Read Proverbs 12:25, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 15:55 . What does it mean to encourage others? How is our hope in Christ connected to how we encourage one another? Do you take time to consider how you can be encouraging to others in your life? Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to show you how to be an encourager? If not, will you do so?
14. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What do these verses say about God's amazing grace for us? Who were you before Jesus? Who are you now? Read verse 4 - why does God lavish His grace upon us? Do the words you use with others reflect the grace you have received from God?
15. Read Proverbs 16:24 and Colossians 4:6. What do these passages say about grace-filled words? What is grace? What does it mean for your words to be full of grace?
16. How well are you doing with speaking truth in love, encouragement, and grace-filled words to others? Can you think of a few specific ways you will focus on speaking the truth in love, encouragement, and grace-filled words to and over others in your life this week? Don't let this message condemn you, but if you are not doing well with this, be convicted to improve. If you are a follower of Jesus, ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit, to show you where you're falling short with your words, and to help you speak as Jesus taught. Will you commit to doing this? Will you commit to asking the Holy Spirit to lead you to use your words to pull the poison out of this world and further God's Kingdom rather than your words adding to the poison?
17. If you are not a follower of Jesus, consider asking Jesus to forgive your sins and help you use your words wisely to love and lift others up.