



Ways of the Wise Week 3 Study Guide

Message:

“Wisdom in Our Words.”

SCRIPTURE

<i>Main Text:</i>	<i>Other Text:</i>
<i>Proverbs 18:21</i>	<i>Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 16:24, Proverbs 20:19, Proverbs 26:18-19, Proverbs 26:28, Proverbs 27:14, Matthew 12:34-37,</i>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

***(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —
before jumping to what it means for us.)***

Read Genesis 1:3 & Genesis 2:19-20

Main Idea:

God created words as a gift to bring life, communicate truth, and build relationships.

Commentary:

From the very beginning of Scripture, words are presented as powerful. God speaks creation into existence, demonstrating that words have purpose and power. Later, Adam is invited to name the animals, showing that language is one of God's gifts to humanity as people created in His image.

Our ability to communicate is not something to take for granted. God designed words to reflect His character by bringing truth, encouragement, instruction, and relationship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do these passages teach us about the purpose of words?
2. Why do you think God chose to communicate through words?
3. How does seeing speech as a gift change the way we use it?

Takeaway:

Words are a gift from God and should be used in ways that reflect His character.

Read Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 12:18 & Proverbs 16:24

Main Idea:

Our words have the power to bring either life or death.

Commentary:

Solomon repeatedly reminds us that words are never neutral. They can encourage, heal, comfort, instruct, and strengthen—or they can wound, discourage, divide, and destroy.

Wise people recognize the incredible influence their speech has on others. They intentionally use words that bring healing and grace rather than harm.

Jesus also teaches that our words reveal what is happening inside our hearts. What comes out of our mouths reflects what has first taken root within us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Proverbs 18:21 mean when it says "death and life are in the power of the tongue"?
2. According to Proverbs 12:18 and 16:24, what kind of words bring life?
3. Why do you think our words have such a lasting impact on other people?

Takeaway:

Wise people choose words that bring healing, hope, and life.

Read Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 20:19 & Proverbs 26:28

Main Idea:

Wisdom teaches us to speak carefully and with self-control.

Commentary:

Proverbs doesn't simply tell us to speak positively—it teaches us to speak wisely.

Solomon warns against careless speech, gossip, flattery, harsh words, and talking too much. Wise people understand that not every thought needs to be spoken.

Instead, wisdom produces humility, gentleness, honesty, and restraint. Our words should build trust rather than destroy it.

Discussion Questions:

1. What types of speech does Proverbs warn us to avoid?
2. Why is self-control such an important part of wise speech?
3. How can a gentle answer change the direction of a difficult conversation?

Takeaway:

Wisdom isn't only knowing what to say—it's knowing when and how to say it.

Read Matthew 12:34-37 & Ephesians 4:29

Main Idea:

Healthy hearts produce life-giving words.

Commentary:

Jesus teaches that our mouths simply reveal what already fills our hearts. We cannot permanently change our speech without allowing God to transform our hearts.

Paul echoes this truth by encouraging believers to speak only what builds others up according to their needs.

Rather than relying on self-control alone, followers of Jesus continually invite God to shape their hearts so that grace naturally overflows into their conversations.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Jesus, where do our words come from?
2. What kind of speech does Ephesians 4:29 encourage?
3. Why is heart transformation more important than simply changing our vocabulary?

Takeaway:

The more our hearts are shaped by Jesus, the more our words will reflect His grace.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Every conversation gives us an opportunity to either build someone up or tear someone down.

Our words reveal what is happening inside our hearts. When we spend time with Jesus, His grace begins to shape not only what we believe, but also how we speak.

Reflect:

1. Do your words generally bring life or discouragement?
2. Is there someone you need to encourage or ask forgiveness from?
3. What kinds of words have shaped you most throughout your life?
4. How can you allow God's Word to shape your conversations this week?

Key Truth:

Wise words begin with a heart that is being transformed by Jesus.

LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

Speak Life

Look for intentional opportunities each day to encourage someone.

Pause Before Speaking

Before responding in a difficult conversation, ask, *"What does love require of me in this moment?"*

Fill Your Heart

Spend time in God's Word so His truth shapes your conversations.

Reject Harmful Speech

Ask God to help you avoid gossip, harsh words, dishonesty, and careless speech.

Represent Jesus Well

Remember that your words reflect the One you follow.

For LifeGroups:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Talk through these together:

- When have someone's words deeply impacted your life?
- Why do you think God places such importance on our speech?
- Which type of harmful speech do you think our culture struggles with most?

- How can we encourage one another to speak words that bring life?
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PRAY TOGETHER

1. Thank God for the gift of communication.
 2. Ask God to reveal any unhealthy patterns in your speech.
 3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would transform your heart so your words reflect Christ.
 4. Ask God to help you encourage others with wisdom and grace.
 5. Pray that your group would become known for speaking words that build others up.
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Final Thoughts

Our words matter because people matter.

Throughout Proverbs, God reminds us that wisdom is not only seen in our decisions—it is heard in our conversations. Every word we speak has the potential to reflect the heart of Christ.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, perfectly demonstrated truth spoken in love. As we spend time with Him, our hearts are transformed, and our words begin to bring hope, healing, and life to those around us.

Remember:

Wise people don't simply speak more—they speak life.

Walk with Jesus. Fill your heart with His truth. Let your words reflect His love.

