

I DECLARE WAR



Community Group Discussion: 08.09 - 08.30

I Declare War

Whether you recognize it or not, you're at war with yourself. There's anxiety. Selfishness. Self-sabotaging tendencies. Narcissism. The black dog of depression. It is war, but all is not lost. You can win — if you choose to engage. Begin to fill your heart with truth and stop being your own worst enemy.

Group Discussion

James 3:2-12, Matthew 12:33-34

1. Read James 3:2. None of us are perfect, especially when it comes to the words we speak. When have you said something that you regretted?
2. Read James 3:3-5. The tongue is a small thing, but it has a disproportionate impact on our lives. When have you seen words (both positive and negative) have an impact in our world? What words (both positive and negative) have impacted you the most in your life?
3. Read Matthew 12:34. Our words come from a place. Reflect on the words that come out of your mouth. What do they reveal about your heart?
4. Gossip can be really destructive and dangerous because it can be easy to disguise as something else. How have you seen gossip sneak its way into a conversation? How can you redirect conversation when others are being gossiped about? Is there anyone you need to apologize to this week for the way your words have torn them down?

5. Read Matthew 12:33. If we want to see different fruit in our lives, we often try to make it happen by effort and trying harder. Have you ever tried to change your life by just trying harder? How did it go?
6. “If you want different fruit, you have to plant a different tree.” Jesus doesn’t just want to improve your behavior, he wants to make you totally new. Uprooting the old life, and planting the new. What does that mean? Have you asked Jesus to do this in your life?

NEXT STEPS

Words are powerful, and they can change lives. Choose at least one of these 4 phrases below, and say it to someone in your life that needs to hear it in the next seven days. Discuss each phrase and why these words can be difficult to say but powerful to hear.

I’m sorry.

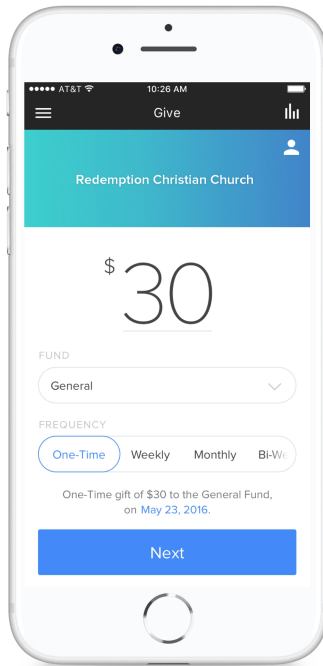
I love you.

I need help.

You’re invited.

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