

### Key Scripture - Week 2 - Criticizing

*For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. Galatians 5:14-15 NLT*

*Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. Proverbs 12:18 NLT*

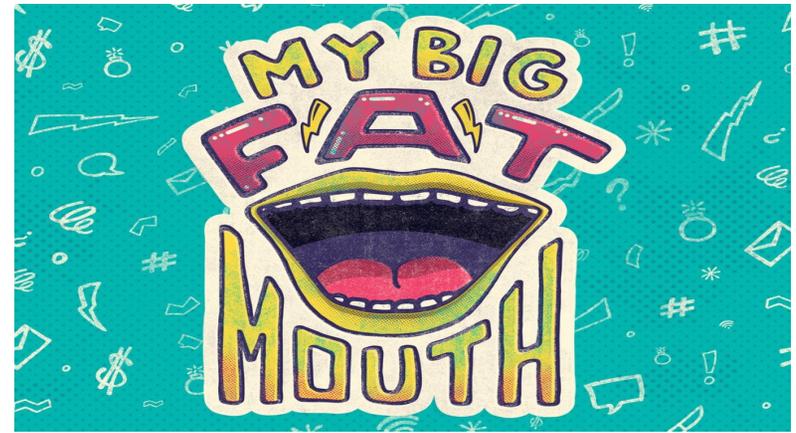
*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

**Ephesians 4:29 NIV**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NIV*

*... I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.*

**2 Corinthians 13:11 NLT**



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## TALK IT OVER

Did you grow up in a more critical or encouraging home atmosphere?

Why do you think it seems easier to criticize than to build up?

On a typical day, are you more of a fault-finder or a hope-dealer?

Who are you most critical of? What could your criticism be destroying?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*God, You are the ultimate supply of hope, peace and encouragement. It is out of an overflow of Your presence in our lives that we can build up others. I want and need more of You. Holy Spirit, I invite You into this week, into this moment, to transform me into a dealer of Your great hope. Amen.*

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