

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 8.2.26



Killing the Ungodly Tongue

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)



Overview

This session explores what the Bible teaches about the connection between our words and our hearts. Rather than approaching ungodly speech as merely a behavior problem to be fixed through self-discipline, this guide will help your group examine the deeper, new covenant approach to lasting transformation in the way we speak.

Key Takeaways

- The tongue cannot be tamed by willpower or self-discipline alone. Lasting change comes through a new heart, a renewed mind, and the ongoing influence of the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus consistently points not to our words but to our hearts as the source of what we say. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.
 - Our words reveal what we worship. Gossip, angry speech, boasting, and criticism are not just bad habits. They are windows into what is sitting on the throne of our hearts.
 - The new covenant promises a new heart, the indwelling Spirit, and transformed desires. These are the foundations for genuine change in our speech.
 - Speech that honors God is fruit, not performance. It flows naturally from a heart that is yielded to the Holy Spirit.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think about a time when words, either your own or someone else's, caused significant harm. Without sharing anything too personal, what did that experience teach you about the power of speech?
2. Before hearing this sermon, how would you have approached the problem of ungodly speech? Would your instinct have been to focus on the words themselves, or something deeper?

Digging Into the Text

3. James 3 describes the tongue as a fire that can set an entire forest ablaze. In what areas of life, whether at home, at work, in your church, or on social media, have you seen this kind of damage play out?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 12 that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What does this tell us about where the real problem lies when our words are consistently unkind, critical, or dishonest?

5. In Ezekiel 36, God promises to remove the heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh, and to put His Spirit within His people. How does understanding this new covenant promise change the way you think about the possibility of real transformation in your speech?
6. The sermon makes the point that we will never kill the ungodly tongue until we stop blaming the tongue. What does it look like practically to stop blaming the tongue and start examining the heart instead?

Going Deeper

7. The sermon identifies the idea that our words reveal what we worship. Consider the following examples and discuss what idol or false worship might be driving each one:
 - Gossip and constantly needing to be in the know
 - Angry or controlling words when things do not go our way
 - Boasting or exaggerating to impress others
 - Constant criticism or complaining
 8. Ephesians 4:32 calls believers to forgive one another just as God in Christ forgave them. How does regularly reflecting on the gospel, on what it cost Jesus to forgive you, change your motivation for the way you speak to and about others?
 9. Ephesians 5:18 calls believers to be filled with the Spirit rather than controlled by outside influences. What does it look like in your daily life to actively rely on the Holy Spirit before and during difficult conversations?
 10. The sermon closes with this question: What is the consistent direction of the words I am speaking, and what does that reveal about my heart? How would you honestly answer that question right now?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting.

1. Conduct a personal word audit. For the next three to five days, pay close attention to your words in the moments when you are under pressure, tired, criticized, or interrupted. Keep a simple journal. Note what you said and what it might reveal about what is going on in your heart. Bring your observations back to the group.

2. Identify the idol behind a recurring speech pattern. Pick one area where your words consistently fall short, whether it is gossip, complaining, harsh tones with family, or careless speech online. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal what you may be worshiping or protecting through that pattern. Confess it and ask for a renewed heart in that area.

3. Memorize and meditate on Colossians 4:6. The verse describes speech that is seasoned with salt, gracious and well-considered. Before important conversations this week, pause and

ask yourself: Is what I am about to say true? Is it necessary? Is it gracious? Will it build up the person I am speaking to?

4. Pray for Spirit-filled speech each morning. Begin each day this week with a simple prayer asking the Holy Spirit to control your words throughout the day. At the end of each day, reflect on where you responded well and where you reacted instead of responded. Thank God for grace in both.

5. Have a gospel conversation. The sermon reminds us that the new covenant begins with a new heart received through faith in Christ. If someone in your life is struggling with their words and has no relationship with Jesus, consider how you might gently point them not to better speech habits but to the One who changes hearts.

Closing Prayer Guide

Close your group time by praying through the following together:

- **Confession** - Ask God to reveal honestly what your words have been saying about the condition of your heart.
- **Gratitude** - Thank God for the new covenant promise of a new heart, His indwelling Spirit, and the forgiveness made possible through Jesus.
- **Surrender** - Ask the Holy Spirit to take control of your speech this week, not as a performance, but as a fruit of a life yielded to Him.
- **Mission** - Pray that your words, individually and as a group, would draw people closer to Christ and reflect the grace that has been shown to you.

"An ungodly tongue cannot be conquered by self-discipline. It dies only as Christ gives us a new heart, as the gospel renews our minds, and as the Spirit controls our lives."