

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – **God Never Said That, Week #3**

The Power of Words // Mother's Day – May 12, 2019



Engage One Another – Connection

1. In honor of Mother's Day, reflect on your own relationship with your mother. What are a few qualities about her that you most admire? Share a cherished memory that you have with your mother. How has your mother impacted the person you are today? If Mother's Day is a difficult day for you, share some context for those feelings.

Engage One Another – Introduction

2. In general, would you characterize yourself as someone who is quick to speak and perhaps a verbal processor, or someone who is slow to speak and perhaps an internal processor? Briefly explain your answer. [And yes, you're allowed to laugh since the order in which people respond may itself provide the answer to this question.]
3. Read Proverbs 18:21 together. Novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne remarked that, "Words so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of the one who knows how to combine them." How often do you consider the power and purpose of your words?

Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

4. Farrah shared that what we say matters – not only to God but also to others around us – because **words determine direction and dictate purpose**. Discuss the following questions together:
 - a. Read Proverbs 12:18-19 together. Pause for a time of intentional silence and reflect upon something that was spoken to you, either positively or negatively, that deeply impacted and set a trajectory for your life. Share about those words and why they had a profound effect on you. If needed, spend time in prayer for a group member who is still processing through wounds and shame brought about by words spoken to them. [For a possible group prayer exercise, reference the second paragraph in the Engage God section at the end of this discussion guide.]
 - b. Read James 3:1-10 together. How often are words spoken, or perhaps unspoken, the primary source of relational conflict in your life? What might this say about the way we could resolve these conflicts and bring about healing?
 - c. In the face of negative words/criticism, we can either use our words for good by giving or asking for forgiveness, or we can compound the issue by being bitter and harming others in response. Share about your experience with both of these approaches.
5. Farrah declared that **God's words ultimately define us, not man's words**. How have you experienced this truth in your life? How has God used the presence of Christian community to speak to you about your true identity?
6. Read James 1:26, Ephesians 4:29, James 1:19 together. What practical step(s) can you take to align your words with the heart and will of God and **dispel negativity**?

Pause & Reflect:

In the Psalms, it's called a "Selah". A moment to catch your breath, rest, and praise. It's an intentional break to reflect and fully experience the moment before moving on. How did God challenge, encourage, correct, etc... as your group engaged one another in this conversation?

Engage God – Time in Prayer

When it comes to our words, Jesus articulated an incredibly powerful truth that, “*what you say flows from what is in your heart*” (Luke 6:45). A critical heart produces a critical tongue. A self-righteous heart produces a judgmental tongue. A bitter heart produces a spiteful tongue. An ungrateful heart produces a grumbling heart. A loving heart produces a gracious tongue. A faithful heart produces a truthful tongue. A peaceful heart produces a reconciling tongue. A trusting heart produces an encouraging tongue. It is only by God’s grace and through the Holy Spirit that our hearts can be renewed daily so we can live out the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). **If you’re struggling to tame your tongue, then don’t simply pray to speak more encouraging words. Rather, pray the following in the presence of your group members:**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me” – Psalm 51:10 (NLT)

For many, this sermon on the power of words may evoke painful memories of harmful words spoken to them that affected their identity and self-worth. In these times, it is crucial to lean on the truth of who God says we are in Jesus Christ as articulated through the Bible. Review the list¹ below and pray the truth of God’s words over the group member experiencing pain. You may want to select a few core verses/truths that connect specifically with what the person has experienced. If you aren’t a Christian, know that these truths are available to you in Jesus Christ as you admit your sin, believe in Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection on your behalf, and commit your life to following Him.

I AM ACCEPTED...

John 1:12 I am God’s child.

John 15:15 As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 I have been justified.

1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ’s body.

Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.

Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I AM SECURE...

Romans 8:1-2 I am free from condemnation.

Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.

Romans 8:31-39 I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.

Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God.

Philippians 1:6 I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.

Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.

2 Timothy 1:7 I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

1 John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT...

John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.

John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God’s temple.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

Ephesians 2:6 I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.
Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship.
Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

Engage One Another + Engage God = *Extraordinary Together*

Additional Resources

1. List of identity verses compiled from Dr. Neil T. Anderson and available via Freedom in Christ Ministries
<https://ficm.org/about-us/>