

Gossip

Kris Brenes

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.
Proverbs 18:8

Everything said should be *true* but not everything true should be *said*.

Who does gossip hurt?

- Gossip hurts the person it's spoken about. (Proverbs 16:28)
- Gossip hurts the listener. (Proverbs 17:4)
- Gossip hurts the speaker. (Proverbs 25:9-10)

Avoiding gossip

- **Guard your ears**

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much. Proverbs 20:19

- **Close your mouth**

Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.
Proverbs 21:23 NLT

Would I want someone sharing similar information about me if I were not around?

- **Clean your heart**

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Matthew 12:34 NLT

Connect

How would you define gossip?

Word and Reflection

Gossip. Like tasty morsels. Gossip is alluring and appealing, but don't be fooled! Gossip is destructive to relationships, wounding everyone in its path. While everything said should be true, not everything true should be said. To avoid gossip, guard your ears, close your mouth and keep your heart clean. A good question to ask is, "Would I want someone sharing similar information about me if I wasn't around?"

Proverbs 18:8, 16:28; 17:4; 25:9-10; 20:19; 21:23; Matthew 18:15; Luke 6:31; Matthew 12:34; 2 Corinthians 12:10

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Proverbs 18:8. Why do you think we're drawn to gossip? What are we hoping to get out of it?
- Read Proverbs 16:28; 17:4; 25:9-10; 20:19. Without naming names, how have you seen gossip hurt relationships? How could asking, "Have you talked to _____ about this?" help you navigate these difficult conversations?
- Read Proverbs 21:23; Matthew 18:15 & Luke 6:31. How can applying the wisdom found in these scriptures help you when you are tempted to gossip or find yourself in a conversation that is leading to gossip?
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. Gossip claims, "You are weak, I am strong." The Gospel admits, "I am weak, He is strong." What step do you need to take to fight gossip with the Gospel?

Action

- Declare a gossip-free week. Instead, find ways to encourage people.
- Practice asking the question, "Have you talked to _____ about this?" when you find yourself in a conversation leading to gossip.

Prayer

- Ask God to convict your heart when you are tempted to gossip. Pray that God will help you guard your ears, control your mouth and clean your heart.
- Pray for the people in your Grace Group and those you're reaching out to.