

**This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.**

**Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.**

1. Can you share about a time when you wished you could take back words after they left your mouth? What happened?
2. Which of the five sinful speech patterns (slandering, lying, angry, boastful, senseless) do you struggle with most? Why do you think that is?
3. The sermon states that slandering can include even true things said with wrong intent. How can we guard against assassinating someone's character through our words?
4. What are some helpful practices that enable you to "let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth" (Ephesians 4:29) in your daily conversations?
5. What is the difference between "sinful silence" (like David's) and "sacred silence"? How can you tell them apart?
6. Think of a recent conflict or tense situation. How might seeking "sacred silence" have changed your response?
7. According to the sermon, what characterizes Spirit-led speech? How does it differ from speaking from our own emotions or agendas?
8. Using the SPEAK framework, think of a current situation where you're unsure whether to speak up or stay quiet. Work through each letter - what insights does this give you?
9. Pastor Joe said, "We're not trying to win arguments, we're trying to win people." How does this perspective challenge the way you typically engage in disagreements?
10. The fruit of the Spirit includes gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). How can you tell if you're speaking under the Spirit's control rather than your own emotions? What practical steps can help you stay "in step with the Spirit" when words matter most?