



WORDS WITH FRIENDS
Part 1: The Power of Words
Sermon Small Group Questions
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

In this series, we will look at the power of words: how words with friends define our future and how we can learn to speak in alignment with the Word and will of God in order to change our lives for the best. In this first lesson we will discuss the power of words and the inherent problems we have with our tongues.

MESSAGE

[Proverbs 18.21]

Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

[The Message]

²¹ Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

The quality of your life is directly connected to the content of your conversation.

Facts about Words:

1. Words Cost

[Proverbs 13.3]

Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

Words are a continual choice with an inevitable consequence.

[Proverbs 6.2]

My son, if you have trapped yourself by your words and are caught by what you said.

2. Words create and destroy

[Amos 3.7]

Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.

3. Words lead to a destination.

[Matthew 12.36-37, The Message]

“Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of Reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.”

Your thoughts become words which become actions which become habits which create your character and character sets your destiny.

4. Words hurt and heal.

[Proverbs 15.4]

Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

[Proverbs 12.18]

The words of the reckless pierce like swords.

[Proverbs 26.18-19]

Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

5. Words endure (stick).

[James 3.1-10] KEY TEXT: THE POWER & PROBLEM OF THE TONGUE

1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

What to Do with our Words:

1. Raise awareness.

[Psalm 141.3]

Post a guard at my mouth, oh God, set a watch at the door of my lips.

2. Make our confession a major prayer point.

[Psalm 19.14]

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

3. Choose to speak life!

[Deuteronomy 30.9]

19 Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

You will take action on your conversation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever experienced "life" (someone building you up) through a conversation?**
- 2. How have you seen words create and destroy?**
- 3. What should you begin to declare over your life, your family, your job, etc?**
- 4. What words have been spoken over you that may have "stuck"? (Good or bad.)**
- 5. Take some time and intentionally recognize what God has blessed you with and give voice to them.**
- 6. Have you ever tried to tame your tongue through your own power? Have you seen results of the Holy Spirit taming your tongue?**
- 7. What word or promise has God spoken over you?**