

WISDOM THAT WORKS...FOR WORDS
Proverbs 18:21, 15:1–4, 26:18–28, James 3:5–10

NOTES:

1. WORDS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD
2. CHOOSE WORDS WISELY
3. WORDS SPEAK WHAT'S IN THE HEART

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: Think of the most powerful words you've ever heard (positive or negative, public or private, written or spoken). Describe what made them so powerful. How have words directly impacted your life? Discuss.

The Basics: Read Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 25:11–12, and James 3:1–12. Why are words described as leading to death or life? What analogies stand out to you in James' description of the tongue?

Quick-Fire Round

1. Read Proverbs 10:20–21 and 12:18–19. Our ability to speak separates humanity from the rest of creation and reveals we are created in God's image. Words are a gift to us from God. We are to use words to encourage, love, build trust, protect, and provide care. Do you see words this way? How are you doing receiving and sharing this gift with others?
2. Read Proverbs 15:1–4, 7, 10:11, and 12:25. Describe a time when you saw a positive or gentle word in action. When you have given or received positive words, what has been the result in your life and relationships?
3. Read Proverbs 26:17–28. What are some examples of contentious words used to hurt others, whether purposefully or not? Discuss the dangers of lying, gossip, quarrels, flattery, deception, bragging, impetuous, and perverse speech.
4. Do you agree or disagree that our words and speech are a reflection of what's in our heart? Read Psalm 143:3–4. What did David ask of God? How could you exercise self-restraint when it comes to your words, both written and spoken?
5. Read Colossians 3:16–17. What is the connection between being filled with God's Word and our speech? How can you build a habit studying God's Word? What is one thing you could do this week to speak words of life, love, and hope to someone else? To whom could you say a simple, *I'm sorry, I love you, I'm proud of you, or please forgive me?*

Community Group Prayer: Take time to pray through the Scriptures in this study and ask the Holy Spirit to take control of your words through a changed heart. Share specifically how you tend to use words negatively (e.g., lying, gossip, anger, etc.) and pray for one another.

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank you for the gift of words. I ask that you control my tongue and teach me to share words that bring life and not death, especially to the most important people in my life. Help me be an example to a watching world with my spoken and written words. I ask for your control over my words. Amen.*