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GOSSIPING

KEY VERSE

“The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Proverbs 18:21

Three Truths About Gossip

1. God _____ gossip

“There are six things the Lord hates—
no, seven things he detests:
¹⁷ haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that kill the innocent,
¹⁸ a heart that plots evil,
feet that race to do wrong,
¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies,
a person who sows discord in a family.”
Proverbs 6:16-19

2. Gossip _____ our _____ purpose

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so
that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over
the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that
move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.”
Genesis 1:26-27

3. _____

Memory Verse

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only
what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it
may benefit those who listen.”

Ephesians 4:29

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for the first time
- Memorize Ephesians 4:29
- Ask God to help me to see where I engage in gossip and give me
the conviction and power to change
- Ask God to help me to build community through my words
rather than destroy it
- Get the most out of this weekend’s teaching by attending my Life
Group this week



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Discussion Questions - Week #5

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend “Gossip” in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- Why do you think gossip is something in which we take so much pleasure?

- Do you think Christians take the sin of gossip as seriously as the bible does? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Solomon, the author of the book of Proverbs, is known as the wisest man that ever lived (except for Jesus). Read what Solomon has to say about gossip in Proverbs 20:19, 21:23, 26:20, 26:22. How would you summarize the message of each verse?

Do you feel like gossip is something you struggle with personally?

Are there certain people in your life who bring out the gossip in you?

What ways have you discovered to be effective in putting a stop to gossip?

2. When someone wrongs us, it's tempting as a first response to share the situation with someone else and in the process enlarge the circle of those who are involved in the conflict. Read Matthew 18:15-17. How would you put this process into your own words?

Do you think it's ever ok to ask someone for advice before you go and speak to the person with whom there is a conflict?

How do you know when doing so is ok, and not gossip?

Have you ever put the process found in this passage into practice?

Are there any practical steps we can take to ensure our Life Group remain a place where we can share our hurts without delving into gossip?

3. Just as the gauges and lights on our dashboard can help us to diagnose the health of our automobiles, our words serve as a helpful diagnostic of our spiritual health. Read Matthew 12:34-37. Do you feel like the words you speak are a good indication of your relationship with Jesus?

Does your answer change depending upon your environment?

Based on the truth contained in this passage, what do you think is the solution for those who continually engage in gossip, criticism, and negativity?

TAKING IT HOME

☞ What can you do this week to promote God-honoring conversations in the areas you are most prone to gossip?

PRAYER REQUESTS