

October 8th, 2017 :: The Power of Words & Our Group Covenant

One of the most meaningful impacts of Community Groups is that we have an opportunity to build one another up with our words. This week, The sermon and the short video explore the impact of our words on one another- both for the better and for the worse. As you work through the study questions below, take time to process how your words may be affecting others, and how we can all be better stewards of one of the most powerful tools at our disposal.

Before you begin, watch the short video “the impact of words” on Right Now Media. It’s available at <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/206471>

1. As you listened to the video, what were your initial thoughts? Have you ever had times where your behavior (and specifically your language) impacted others around you for the better or worse?
2. The book of Proverbs is loaded with short, “pithy maxims” on how we use our words. Read Proverbs 16:21, 18:21 and 12:18. What does it mean that the tongue “has the power of life and death?”
3. Read together James 3:1-12.

Even though this passage has a largely negative tone (James isn’t exactly known for oozing positivity in his letter), it demonstrates how seriously the early followers of Jesus took their words. Do you think we take seriously enough the power of our words and language? What can be learned from James’ warning here?

4. In this week’s sermon, Pastor Glen gave us three ways to “harness” the power of our words for good and not for harm. As you read through his list of suggestions below, talk together about how we can implement these suggestions in our group.
 - Be intentional to consider the *genuine needs* of the listener
 - Be intentional in the *way* you use your words
 - Be intentional about the *way you guard your heart* and the heart of your listener.
5. **Don’t skip this one!** As a group, one of the most important things we have is our trust. Each member needs to know that this circle is a safe place to share and “be ourselves” in front of each other. At the same time, we need to be mindful of other people in the group

and make sure that they are also being heard, respected, and encouraged in the best possible way.

So, With the list Glen gave us (question 4 above) as your guide, take the time on the back of this sheet to write out a “group covenant.” It doesn’t have to be long—even a few sentences would suffice—but it does have to be something that each person in the group agrees to. The key elements of this covenant are trust & confidentiality, respect of others, willingness to listen (not just speak), and commitment to one another.

We are very intentionally not giving you examples of other group covenants, because we want this to be your commitment to one another, reflective of your unique group.