



The Power of Words

Week of June 26, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 12:33-37

Words are powerful. They can build up, or they can destroy. The words you use have a lot to say about who you are—and who Jesus is in your life. What words do you speak to your family? What words do you post on social media? Can you stand behind those words? One day you will be held accountable for the words you speak. Even the idle words. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you, Jesus says. Good words don't come naturally, but if you spend time in God's word and watch what else goes in, you'll find that you will speak (or write) words that glorify God.

Pray

Father, it is so easy to speak harsh words, to pass judgement or condemn with my words. I pray that you will convict me when I speak idle and unkind words, and that you will help me speak words of love and life into the world around me.

Share Your Experience This Week
#SevernRun

Getting Started

- Read aloud to your group the last social media post you made. Was it filled with words that lift up, or other words?
- Share an example of how someone's words have affected you in either a good or a bad way.

Listening Deeply

1. Why do you think Jesus was so concerned about the words we speak?
2. Read Matthew 12:34-35. What does the heart have to do with the words you speak?
3. Verse 36 says we will give an account for every idle word we speak. What are "idle words"? Share some examples.
4. "Good words don't come naturally." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. There are (at least) three ways you can build up a treasury of good words (fruit). Discuss how each of these ideas will help you build up your treasury of good words and help you produce good fruit.
 - spending time in God's Word
 - being a question asker instead of a statement maker
 - watching what you watch
6. How will you change your habits this week to produce more good fruit with your words?

Living Wide in Jesus

God created the world with a word. Words have the power of life, or of death. Your words can identify you as someone with good fruit or as someone with bad fruit. Jesus says a good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart. He says whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Are you speaking the kinds of words you can stand behind? Or are you speaking words that hurt others so you can build yourself up? We will be called to give an account for the words we speak. What are you doing to make sure your words are good fruit? This week listen to what you say (to yourself and others), and look at what you write on social media. Then think about how you can use your words in a way that is edifying to those around you.