

LIFT YOUR LANGUAGE

Big Idea: Our words are extremely important because God gave us the ability to communicate through language to glorify and honor Him. We do this by avoiding words that dishonor God and speaking the language of worship, hope, faith and love.

James 3:8-10 (TLB) *But no human being can tame the tongue. It is always ready to pour out its deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our heavenly Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against men who are made like God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Dear brothers, surely this is not right!*

1 Peter 3:15 (CEV) *Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.*

Numbers 14:9 (NLT) *Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!*

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NIV) *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. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Start Talking:

Do your words tend to be more positive or negative in conversations with others? Why do you think this is the case?

Start Thinking:

Read James 3:8-10. Why do you think it's so hard to "tame the tongue"? What are some practical ways you can work toward being more godly in how you use your words?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Why is it important for you as believer in Jesus to "always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope"? How would you express this hope in a way that someone who doesn't know the Lord can understand it?

Read Numbers 14:6-11. How do words of faith in God based on the truth of His Word strengthen you and inspire others?

Read Ephesians 4:29-30. What kind of words "build others up"? What kind tear others down and how can head off using these in your conversations?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that God will give you a strong conviction and awareness of the need for your words to honor Him and impact people around you for His Kingdom. Take stock this week of your language and allow the Lord to shape it for His purposes.