

LESSON 7 // LIFE GIVERS—PART 2

Big Idea: The quality of our relationships is determined by the quality of our communication. When we communicate well with others, we build them up in a life-giving way. The Bible tells us that this kind of life-giving communication involves less talking, less anger and more listening—and the awareness that your words matter!

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT) The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT) And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Proverbs 25:28 (AMP) Like a city that is broken down and without walls [leaving it unprotected] is a man who has no self-control over his spirit [and sets himself up for trouble].

Proverbs 15:1 (NCV) A gentle answer will calm a person's anger, but an unkind answer will cause more anger.

Romans 14:19 (AMP) So then, let us pursue [with enthusiasm] the things which make for peace and the building up of one another [things which lead to spiritual growth].

Start Talking:

Are you generally more at peace or more anxious? How do you think others who know you well would answer that question? Why do you think this is the case?

Start Thinking:

Read Proverbs 18:21 and Ephesians 4:26-27. In what ways can anger bring "death" and destruction to your communication?

Read Proverbs 25:28. Why are self-control and self-awareness so valuable in communicating and building relationships with others?

Read Proverbs 15:1. How can a "gentle answer" help diffuse tension and open the door for better communication?

Read Romans 14:19. What would happen in your communication if you were always "pursuing peace" with others? What are some ways you can become more intentional and effective in doing this consistently?

Start Praying and Doing:

Jesus taught us that "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9, NLT). Pray that the Lord will make you a more peaceful person and give you the grace to pursue peace in all your communication.

This week, look for opportunities to bring peace into stressful conversations and grow as a peacemaker.