There are lots of other words used in the Bible like: backbiter, busybody, slanderer, and whisperers. A Biblical definition of gossip would be to spread rumors or secrets, speak about someone maliciously behind their back or repeat something about someone else that you have no right to repeat. One thing is for certain, gossip can destroy friendships and divide faith communities.

A good rule of thumb to follow is: “If you aren’t part of the problem or the solution, its gossip” and there are literally hundreds of scripture verses that back it up….

**Proverbs 26:20-22** For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

Which of the verses below makes that point best for you?

**Proverbs 16:28** A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

**Proverbs 21:23** Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

**Proverbs 15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Proverbs 12:18** There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

**James 1:26** If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.

**Psalm 141:3** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

**1 Peter 3:10** For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

**Proverbs 15:4** A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

**James 3:10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

**Matthew 15:11** It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

**Titus 3:2** To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

**Proverbs 17:9** Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

**Ecclesiastes 3:7** A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ...

**James 1:19-20** Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

**Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**John 13:35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**Romans 12:1-21** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**James 3:5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

**Proverbs 25:28** A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

**Proverbs 17:27-28** Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

**Proverbs 6:16-19** There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.