

Building Strong Families and Relationships Can We Talk – Learning to Communicate and Solve Problems

What Kids Need to Succeed by Dr. Peter L. Bensen

Psalm 127:1-2 – *Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.*

3 principles to help us grow in the way we communicate:

I. Recognize the Tongue's Power

A. To direct

B. To destroy

James 3:5 – *See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!*

C. To control

James 3:8 – *But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.*

D. To contradict

James 3:9-10 - *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.*

Proverbs 18:21 - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue*

II. Recognize the Tongue's Potential

A. The centrality of faith

Hebrews 11:6 - *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

B. To direct...positively

C. To build up

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

D. To be tamed

E. To be consistent

James 3:10 - from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

III. Recognize the Tongue's Purpose

God wants you to speak in such a way that you demonstrate "wisdom from above" that only He could give.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

A. Pure

B. Peaceable

C. Gentle

D. Reasonable

E. Full of mercy and good fruits

F. Unwavering

G. Without hypocrisy