

Series: #Struggles  
Sermon: Encouragement  
February 19, 2017

1. Do you think it is going to snow before Easter?
2. Have you or someone you know ever been bullied? How did it affect you/them?
3. Have you ever seen someone being bullied? What did you do?
4. Read the following passages:
  - A. Proverbs 18:21 MSG - "Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit – you choose."
  - B. James 3:1-12
  - C. Why do you think Solomon and James focus on our words?
  - D. What do you learn from these verses?
5. Have you ever connected bullying to gossip? Do you think there is a connection? If so, how?
6. Share a time when someone broke trust with you or gossiped about you. How did that affect you?
7. What method(s) have you used to gossip about others? ("Have you heard", "I have a prayer request"; "He is a good guy, but...", or "You can't tell anyone else")
8. Read Proverbs 18:8. Why are we drawn to gossip?
9. How is social media giving new power to gossip?
10. 3 Filters were mentioned that we can apply to our words so they will give life. Which filter is the most important to apply to your life at this time.
  - A. Is what I am about to say helpful or hurtful?
  - B. Am I making private matters public?
  - C. Am I permitting, or even encouraging others to gossip?