

Wise Words

Proverbs 13:3; 18:21 & others

*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life;
he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

Proverbs 13:3 esv

GUARD YOUR WORDS, GUARD YOUR LIFE!

Four questions to ask before you speak:

1. Is it _____? *Are my words honest?*
(Prov 6:19a; 10:18; 12:19,22; 13:5; 14:5; Ex 20:16; John 1:14,17; 4: 24; 14:6; 17:17; Eph 4:31; 1 Peter 3:9-10)

2. Is it _____? *Does it need to be spoken?*
(Prov 4:24; 10:8,10,19; 16:28; 17:28; 18:8; 21:23; 26:20; Ex 20:7; 2 Cor 12:20; Eph 5:4; Col 3:8; 1 Tim 5:13; James 1:26)

3. Is it _____? *Is this the right moment?*
(Prov 12:18; 15:23; 16:24; 25:11; 29:11; Matt 18:15; Gal 6:1-2)

4. Is it _____? *Will they give life or death?*
(Prov 10:11; 12:18; 15:1, 4; 16:24; 18:8,21; Eph 4:15, 29; Col 4:6)



Group Discussion Questions

Title: **Wise Words** Key Verse: **Proverbs 13:3**

Big Idea: ***Guard Your Words, Guard Your Life!***

Opening: We have all experienced the power of words. Can you remember something someone said to you — positive or negative that has stayed with you for years? Why do you think those words made such a lasting impression?

1. The Power of Our Words: Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” What does this teach us about the influence of our words? In what ways can our words bring either life or destruction to our relationships?
2. Is it True? Read Proverbs 12:19 & 22. Why does God place such a high value on truthful speech? How can exaggerations and assumptions about someone’s motives, or sharing unverified information become forms of dishonesty?
3. Is It Necessary? Read Proverbs 21:23 and Proverbs 16:28. The sermon emphasized that something can be true without being necessary to say. How can we distinguish between sharing information that is helpful and engaging in gossip? Why is gossip so tempting?
4. The Wisdom of Restraint: Read Proverbs 10:19 and Proverbs 17:28. Proverbs teaches that speaking too much can lead to sin and that sometime remaining silent is wise. Why is it difficult for us to hold back our words? When might silence be wiser than speaking?
5. Is It Timely? Read Proverbs 15:23 and Proverbs 25:11. Sometimes we need to have difficult conversations, but timing matters. What makes a conversation the right or wrong time to address and issue? How can we know when to speak and when to wait?
6. Is It Edifying? Read Proverbs 18:21 and Ephesians 4:29. What is the difference between speaking words that simply make someone feel good and speaking word that genuinely build them up? According to Ephesians 4:15 we are to speak “the truth in love.” What does this mean? What does it not mean?
7. The Heart Behind Our Words: Read Matthew 12:34-37 and John 1:1-4. Jesus teaches that our words reveal what is in our heart. Why does lasting change in our speech require more than simply following four questions? How does the gospel offer hope for genuine change?

Application: ***Guard Your Words, Guard Your Life!***

Is there someone in your life who you have hurt with your words, or someone who needs to hear life-giving words from you? What specific step can you take this week to seek forgiveness, restore a relationship, or offer encouragement?

Closing Prayer: Ask God to reveal areas where your words have been hurtful, careless, or unwise. Pray that He would transform your heart so that your words increasingly reflect the truth, wisdom and grace of Jesus Christ.