



## GOSPEL FLUENCY IN OUR WORDS

April 30, 2023

# The Big Idea

### Best Practice

Speak life to those around you in ways that reveal God's redeeming work in you.

### Passages:

Colossians 4:2-6, Ephesians 4:29,  
James 3:3-5

### Group Goal:

Words matter. Sometimes the simplest throw-away comment can be the one bringing the biggest impact for good or bad. We need to pay attention to what we say and how we say it because of the effect words can have on others.

The Gospel brings an influence upon how we speak and communicate. It invites us to listen to the life stories of others, to hear their pain and hurt. It challenges us to respond with care and concern, with our words sprinkled with dashes of grace, love and hope that would pique the interest of others towards Jesus.

Pray over what you say, how you say it, how you listen, and how you respond to others.

# Group Talk

## For Starters

What's your favorite salty snack?

If you had to eat all your food without salt for a day or two, how might this affect your eating habits?

## To Discuss

### Open doors to share (Read Colossians 4:2-6)

How would you describe your prayer life?

- Intense       Room temperature  
 Sporadic     Frustrating     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways is prayer linked to opportunities to share Jesus?

Most of the time, sharing our faith with someone occurs in conversation as we let people see how Jesus impacts our lives. What are some examples of ways you might bring Jesus into your conversation?

How can we practice this without it being contrived or making others feel as if we are forcing the conversation to faith?

(v.4) Notice Paul doesn't request prayer for personal liberty (be set free from prison). He asks for help to fulfill God's call on him (share the Gospel clearly) - a very subtle distinction.

Can you think of an area where you could shift your prayers from focusing on personal freedom or release to more of a missional fulfillment around you?

### Words of life (Read Ephesians 4:29)

Did you come out of a background where words were used to hurt? How has God helped you to transition away from that?

Do you currently work or live in an environment where words can be careless or cruel? How is that a challenge for you?

What helps you or keeps you accountable to being intentional and encouraging with how you speak to people?

### Taming the tongue (James 3:3-5)

How have you experienced your tongue making a big impact, either positively or negatively?

What does the tongue reveal about our hearts and our minds?

## Prayer Focus

Divide your prayer time into two parts:

- **Rejoice** – where have you seen God already at work in your life? Celebrate it with praise!
- **Request** – where do you desire Him to break new ground and begin a new work? Ask...

## Leadership Tip

Tonight (April 30) is our LEAD 101 event. It's a great chance to learn some basic group dynamic skills in facilitating a vibrant discussion. If you are an apprentice, or you just like helping to facilitate your group, then consider coming. This training does not automatically oblige someone to be a leader. There is no commitment just by attending. It's just a great way to start the ball rolling on developing them for greater things down the road.

How does your tongue get you in trouble? How does mastery of one's speech keep the whole body in check?

What does it look like to turn to God for the controlling of our tongues?

## Next Steps

**Thanks:** Who has spoken words into your life that truly helped you? Can you find them and thank them for that?

**Encouragement:** Think of 3 people you can encourage this week and do so. Be as specific as possible. How can you bolster their confidence or faith?

**Media Fast:** Many of us learn unkind habits of communication from talk radio, cable news, or online videos. If this is a problem for you, engage in a "fast" – abstaining from those media sources for a period of time. Perhaps the next seven days? Then re-evaluate and see how it affected your speech.