

STRAIGHT TALK

biblical communication

**Use edifying
speech!**



Week 6
11/12/23



WELCOME



Welcome to the Fall 2023 Life Group Series! For the next two weeks, we will be learning about Biblical communication principles.

Why are we learning how to communicate? Haven't we been communicating for as long as we can remember? Yes! But things have changed. Technology has had a huge impact on how we communicate with one another. Twenty years ago, we had an easier time getting along with friends, family, and coworkers because most of our communication was verbal. We talked in person or called people on the phone.

When we disagreed with someone in conversation before smartphones, we tried to do it gently. Saying something nasty to someone in person might get you punched in the face. Say it on Facebook, or over a text, and you'll just get unfriended or blocked. COVID, the culture war, and smartphones have drastically altered how we communicate - even with our own family and loved ones. A lot has changed, but the principles of Biblical communication have not changed. They are...

1. Listen before speaking.
2. Be open to correction.
3. Tell the truth.
4. Hold one another accountable.
5. Handle conflict in a way that leads to peace.
6. Use speech that edifies.
7. Forgive one another.

We hope you enjoy this time COMMUNICATING with your Life Group as we teach one another how to honor God and one another in our speech.



THINGS TO DO BEFORE LIFE GROUP

- If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
- Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
- Read the scripture focus for the study.
- Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.





INTRO

"What's the magic word?" Maybe your parents asked you that question when you asked them to do something without saying "Please?"

Our words change the world - not in the sense that "magic words" do. Rather, our words can inspire, motivate, encourage, and create. Or, our words can dishearten, hinder, discourage, and destroy.

Our God is a God of creation and overflowing love. As Christians, our speech should reflect his as we build up one another in love with our words and deeds.



HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

The Apostle Paul founded the church in Ephesus during his third missionary journey (Acts 19). The church in Ephesus, like every church, struggled with sin, which brings brokenness, hurt, and death. Paul wrote the church he loved with the message of God's shalom (peace). God's peace undoes the curse - it brings wholeness, health, and life. The Lord gave the church in Ephesus peace in their relationship with God, and Paul wanted that shalom to take root in the church's interactions with one another. Their words to one another should be words of shalom to reflect the shalom they had with the Father.

COMMUNICATION TIPS



Advantages of Edifying Speech

1. You will build up whoever hears you.
2. You will glorify God by showing the world the type of speech he loves.
3. You will set a good example for anyone who hears you.

Disadvantages of Corrupt Speech

1. You will tear down whoever hears you.
2. You will bring dishonor to God's name as his representative.
3. You will set a bad example for anyone who hears you.

LET'S

TALK

ABOUT IT

Notes

What We Believe

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. Paul says in verse 17 that the church should no longer live as Gentiles. How did the Gentiles live?
2. What was the church taught with regard to their old way of life?
3. Verse 25 starts out with the word "Therefore," - which means the next paragraph is going to be a conclusion based upon the previous information. On one side of the "therefore," Paul describes who they are in Christ. What are the "therefore" implications of putting off the old way of life and putting on the new self?
4. What does Paul expect those who have put off the old self and put on the new self to communicate with one another?

God Speaks to Us

1. What is corrupting talk (verse 29)? Share a time when you were involved in a conversation where people were engaging in corrupting talk. What effect did it have on you?
2. Our words have the power to build up and tear down others. Share a time when you built someone up with your speech. Share a time when you tore someone down. Can we undo corrupt talk?

God Speaks to Our Family

1. Corrupting talk doesn't always happen in person. Quite often, we passively consume corrupt talk in the media and on the internet. How does your family regulate corrupt talk from the media and the internet?
2. Kids won't always be under our roof or supervision. What steps should parents take to help their children make wise decisions when they are free to make their own decisions when it comes to the media they consume?

LET'S

TALK

ABOUT IT

Notes

God Speaks in Our Worship

1. We take music with us, no matter where we go. What praise song or hymn do you sing to yourself (or out loud) when you need God's encouragement?
2. During worship at First CRC we have a Time of Celebration where we highlight something God is doing through the people of our church. How have you been encouraged during our Time of Celebration?

The Gospel Call

1. Should Christians use speech that is "good for building up" (verse 29) when sharing the gospel? After all, don't unbelievers need to hear the bad news (our sin, God's righteous judgment, and our inability to save ourselves) before they hear the good news (Jesus died to pay for our sin and rose again that we might have new life in him)?
2. Our text draws a behavioral distinction between the old self and the new self. When people become Christians, they should live differently because they ARE different. How does living differently from the world impact evangelism. How does NOT living differently impact evangelism?

