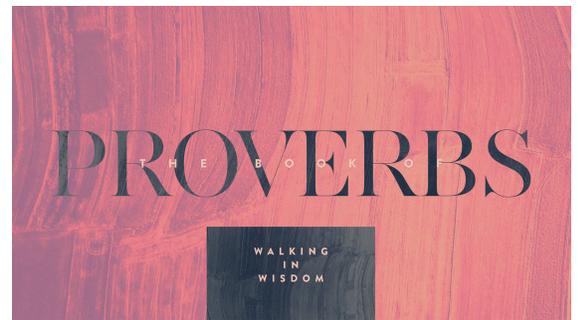




Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



The Words of Wisdom

Introduction: . The book of Proverbs gives wise advice to bring blessing to the individual. Those who heed the voice of wisdom will be a blessing to those around them. The book addresses often the use of our mouth. Our tongue will either be used to glorify God, or we can use it to dishonor him.

Text: Proverbs6:16-19

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Tell of a time when you have been a part of a conversation that was filled with gossip. How did you feel during that discussion? After you left that discussion, what were some of the ramifications?
2. Read Proverbs 6:16-19 These verses make a strong statement about things in which the Lord hates. Three of the seven speak of the misuse of our tongue. What does that say about the seriousness of how we use our words?
3. Read Prov. 12:22; 14:5 What insight do these reveal? Why is lying so abhorrent to the Lord? Read James 3 and John 8:44.
4. Read: Prov. 10:20, 31-32; 15:2. Foolish words misguide, while wise words guide. How do you see this in these verses? It is important to listen to the wise person and not the fool. The people in your life who are godly and wise are a blessing to you. Godly advice is like choice silver. Who in your life is that godly person who you can lean on for advice? How are you developing your walk with Christ to be that person to others?
5. Read Prov. 12:18; 15:4; 16:24; 18:14; 15:23 Foolish words harm, while wise words heal. How do you see this in these verses? Words can be used like a knife and inflict wounds that will damage someone emotionally for years. The way we speak to our spouse, children, co-workers, and friends are powerful. We can either use our words to encourage and heal, or to tear down and destroy. How have you ever used your words to harm? How have you ever used your words to heal? How does using our words to heal benefit yourself and others? Why is it important to encourage others? Tell of a time when you have gotten an encouraging word at the right time in your life?
6. Read Prov. 16:28; 17:4; 11:13; 20:19; 22:10; 26:20 Foolish words attack, while wise words protect. How do you see this in these verses? Why is it ungodly to tear people down, slander, and talk about people in a critical and harmful way? What does the Bible say about the character of someone who loves to criticize and talk about others and also those who love to listen to others slander people? If you love someone, you will not try to share their flaws with others . . .you will protect them. Who have you been around that tries to hurt people with their words and reveal the flaws of others? What does the Bible tell us to do if we know individuals who are gossips and slanderers? Why is it good to get rid of some people in your life? How is getting rid of trouble makers good for a business, team, or church?
7. Read Prov. 20:3; 18:6-7; 13:3; 21:23; 17:27 Foolish words are many, while wise words are few. How do you see this in these verses? Why should you avoid arguments and quarrels? Wisdom helps us to remain calm and to not allow people to provoke us to anger. Why is it important to remain calm and say little?
8. Read 1 Cro. 6:9-11 & Matthew 10:32-33 Paul reveals the seriousness of the sin of slander. Our mouths will either damn us to hell, or deliver us from it. The good news is that we can turn from our sin and confess Jesus as Lord and be forgiven and set free. Have you called upon the name of the Lord?

Think About it:

Words matter. What we say makes impact to all around us. We can honor God by being people who speak truth and love. Our words can hurt or harm, guide or misguide, protect or attack. Our tongue can be used to brighten people's days, or darken their spirit. How will you use your words this week?

Moving Forward:

Read one chapter of Proverbs each day. Set a goal this week to use your words wisely. Avoid gossip, slander, and arguments. Be truthful in all things. Set a goal of 1-5 people that you will encourage this week! Pray for them.

