



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 7, 2010

BIG IDEA:

The tongue is small and mostly hidden from sight. But it can (and does) affect the entire course of your life. This series focuses on James 3:2-6 which says that "those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way." We're going to start by discussing our tongue's tendency to gossip and the impacts of talking carelessly about someone else's business.

DISCUSSION:

1. Let's take a quick 5 question "thumb poll". Give a "thumbs up" if you're innocent and "thumbs down" if you're guilty. Only think about the past week of your life.

1. Have you lied (exaggerations & "white lies" count)?
2. Have you bragged or boasted about yourself?
3. Have you gossiped about someone else?
4. Have you been sarcastic or made cutting/rude remarks?
5. Have you cussed?

2. Read James 3:2-6 Together. How are our tongues like a rudder on a ship, a bit in the mouth of a horse, and small spark of fire?

3. How would you define gossip?

Talking carelessly about someone else's business.

4. How does gossip usually start?

5. Who is gossip usually about?

6. Does anyone here ever get worried that people are gossiping about them?

The speaker said on Sunday that "Gossip Changes Everything". Let's look up some verses and see if he's right.

7. Look Up Proverbs 11:13, "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."
How does Gossip affect the gossiper's character and reputation with others?

8. Look up Proverbs 16:28, "...a gossip separates close friends."
How does Gossip affect our friendships?
Has anyone here ever witnessed a friendship being damaged or broken by gossip?

9. Look up Proverbs 26:20, "Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down."
How does Gossip affect our peace?
Has anyone ever gotten in a fight that started with gossip?

10. Look up Proverbs 20:19, "A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much."
How could Gossip leave a person lonely?
Do you know anybody who you or others avoid because they are known as a gossip?

APPLICATION:

11. Are you more *careful* or *careless* with your words?

12. What could help you be more careful with your words?
Look up Proverbs 10:19, 11:12, and 21:23 for ideas

13. Decide as a group how you can hold each other accountable for the specific ways you struggle with gossip.

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 21:23

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.