



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 21, 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." This week we're talking about "words that bite" and the problems that come with them.

DISCUSSION:

What is your choice exclamation when you stub your toe?

When is the last time you remember getting in trouble for using a "bad word"?

Has anyone ever wondered about the question, "Is there really such a thing as a bad word?"

So, what makes a word or phrase "unwholesome"? Read Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 4:12, & Psalm 19:14

1. *It offers no benefit to the listener.*
2. *It hurts your example.*
3. *It is displeasing to God.*

Does anyone know someone that is always using "unwholesome talk"?

Would anyone here admit that they have struggled with controlling their own tongue when it comes to "unwholesome talk"?

Why is unwholesome talk often such a challenge for Christ followers? Read Luke 6:45

What goes in, comes back out and unwholesome talk is everywhere!

What are examples of how "unwholesome talk" is everywhere? Think about Movies, TV, and Music that you listen to that has "unwholesome talk".

As a group, gather around a computer and go to www.pluggedin.com to look up one of the latest movies most of the people in your group have watched. Look for the review of profanity. (Leaders, go check out the website *before your small group* so you are prepared to navigate.)

Google search lyrics of the latest songs your group has downloaded or songs that everyone at school talks about and likes. Talk about the "unwholesome talk" in the lyrics.

APPLICATION:

What can we do about unwholesome talk? Look up Philipians 4:8 and Psalm 19:14

1. *Keep the bad stuff out.*
2. *Keep the main thing the main thing.*
3. *Trash talk that isn't pleasing to the Lord.*

What are some words that you would like to "trash" from your vocabulary? How can the others in this group hold you accountable for your speech?

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 21:23

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