

## **Lesson 1: The Truth About Words**

### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. To convince students that their words matter
2. To illustrate from the Scriptures that gossip is a sin
3. To motivate students to control their tongues

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION**

James 1:26

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **GROUP BUILDING**

- ☐ Who can touch their tongue to their nose? (Make everyone try.)
- ☐ Can anyone fold his or her tongue? Who can make the most folds? (

We can do some pretty silly stuff with our tongues. But when the Bible talks about our tongue, it's not fun and games.

### **GETTING STARTED**

There are a few ways that we use our tongues that we need to examine. As you can imagine, they all have to do with words. Today, we're going to talk about the truth about words.

General Discussion:

- What are some negative uses of our words? (Allow students to come up with several examples, such as gossip, lying, filthy language, etc.)
- Have you experienced hurtful words in your life?

You're beginning to get the idea that a tongue is serious business, and it is related to our spiritual lives in a significant way. Let's go deeper and see how.

### **DIGGING IN: *Read James 1:26***

Discussion Question:

1. What does this passage say about the tongue and our ability to control it?

Let's look at an even more condemning Scripture. ***Read James 3:5-8***

Discussion Question:

1. What does that passage say about the tongue?

**Let's talk about gossip first.**

General Discussion:

- How would you define gossip?
- Do you like it when people gossip about you?

Some people think only girls gossip. Others don't realize that they are also horrible gossips. Most people don't understand that gossiping is condemned in Scripture.

General Discussion:

- Do you ever consider the words you use before you use them?
- What do you think words can say about a person?

Gossip isn't the only way our words can hurt others or be sinful. We also need to talk about our language choices, too.

**Proverbs 12:18**

**Colossians 3:8**

**Romans 3:12-14**

**Discussion Questions:** 1. What do these passages say about our words? 2. Should a Christian use filthy language? Why or why not? 3. Proverbs says our "reckless words" are like a sword. What does that mean to you? 4. Are there other things a Christian should never say? What? We as believers in Jesus should not gossip. We should know that our words are serious, that we shouldn't use filthy language, or take lightly the impact of what we say on others. In addition, the Bible also advises us to monitor the quantity of our words. **MAKING IT REAL** The truth is, controlling our tongues is a responsibility we should take very seriously. Hateful words, filthy words, and gossip are all condemned. We have all probably experienced one form of an uncontrolled tongue at some point. There are things we should just never say. I think we know that. However, there are some ways that we can use our words positively. When we do that, they have just as much power.

### ***Read Proverbs 12:18 and Proverbs 16:21***

Discussion Question:

1. What are some ways we can use our words for good?

If words can be used for good or bad, it is obvious that the right way to use our words is for good. You probably all have word habits that you need to fix.

1. Do you say things about others that are not true?
2. Do you share secrets about others that they would not want you to share?

3.Do you insult others or act hatefully towards others?

**CLOSING PRAYER**