



A Guide to Wise Living

About the Series: Life's a maze with many challenges, distractions, and obstacles, and sometimes we take a wrong turn or make foolish choices. The Book of Proverbs gives us practical ways to live wisely so as not to have so many regrets in life and helps us live in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

Part 4

The Power of Our Words

Proverbs 15:28, 16:21, 18:21, 25:11, 26:20, 26:28, 29:5 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

Words are important, whether written or spoken. They are so important for how we relate to one another and how we reflect Christ-likeness that the Bible is full of admonitions and reminders about our speech and the use of words, like in James chapter 3. Let's explore the book of Proverbs together and draw out four biblical principles for how we are to use our words.

The power of our words is such that it can hurt or heal (v. 18:21; 12:18, 12:25)

- Words have consequences, both good and bad. Words can also be used both for good and evil. Share how someone has encouraged you with words. How did it affect you? On the other hand, how did a word from someone close to you strip you of self-confidence?
- Discuss ways on how we could learn to use the power of words to heal instead of to hurt, encourage instead of discourage.

The content of our words should be truthful, expressed in love and with grace (v. 6:16-17, 12:22, 26:28, 28:23, 11:13)

- As a God of holiness and truth, God expects that the words of His followers are also truthful. How does God feel about a lying tongue?
- What do you do if you were caught in a situation where you are asked a question, but if you answer truthfully, it will deeply offend, but you don't want to lie?
- When does flattery become synonymous with lying?
- Why would a rebuke done with love and grace be a great thing?
- How does Proverbs 11:13 and 16:28 describe slander and gossip? How can you avoid being a bearer and/or subject of gossip and stir up problems and issues? On the other hand, how can the content of your words be positive to people around you, like your spouse, children, friends, co-workers or classmates (v. 16:24)?

The timing of our words should be carefully considered and controlled (v. 25:11)

- This verse tells us that words that are spoken at the right circumstance and at the right time will be greatly valued, something that is greatly appreciated and admired. When is the appropriate time to say something to encourage someone, and when is it a time to keep quiet?
- Why is Proverbs 15:1 a very wise proverb to remember when you are angry?
- What does Proverbs 18:13 say to help you not to be judgmental?

Our words reflect our heart. Is it Christ-centered and edifying? (Luke 6:45, 13:2)

- The Bible tells us that what comes out of our mouth is a good gauge or a true reflection of our hearts. How does the words of your mouth reflect what is in your heart?
- When you are talking to someone regardless of the topic you are talking about, is it Christ-centered and edifying? In what way?

REFLECT

*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. (Proverbs 15:28)*

Examine yourself: Are you a person who seeks to bless others in both words and action, planting seeds for the kingdom of God and being the salt and light Jesus told you about?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, how true that my words have so much power either in a positive or negative way. May You give me wisdom to be mindful of the content and timing of how I communicate with others. May my words reflect Christ-centeredness to bless and edify others. Thank You that it is possible with Your help. In Jesus' name. Amen.