

“WISE FATHERLY WORDS”

BIG IDEA

We need to use our words to help rather than hurt!

SCRIPTURE

Read Proverbs 3:1-6. What do you learn about God from this passage? What do you learn about mankind from this passage?

OPENER

Who taught you to be a man or woman of God? What did they teach you?

QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Steve spoke about injuries that produced scars. Has someone in your life said hurtful words to you that left a scar? If so, what did you do to help heal the wound? Have you ever wounded someone with your words? Have you helped them heal? Discuss.
2. When you are frustrated, angry or disappointed do you find yourself responding directly with your emotion(s) or thinking and praying before you speak? Discuss. How can an emotional response be corrected? (see Proverbs 10:19, 29:20 and Matthew 15:18)
3. If someone were to pull a book off the shelf and they were to read the words you spoke this last week, what would they say about your heart?
4. Gossiping is a sin, not only for the person who speaks it, but also for the person who listens. Why do you think God says it is bad to gossip about someone? Why is it bad to listen to gossip? How can you actively avoid participating in gossip this next week?
5. Whose words, both hurtful and helpful, have had the greatest effect on your life? Why do you think the words of others can be so powerful in the way they affect your life?
6. Throughout the Bible God is often referred to as Father. What characteristics of God did you see in your earthly father? What characteristics were absent?

TAKEAWAY

- What you take into your heart influences your words.
- HURTFUL WORDS: Gossip and Criticism
- HELPFUL WORDS: Words spoken after thought and prayer; the right word at the right time
- HOLY WORDS: The words of our Father in heaven
- We will never look like God, but each of us can look more like God next week than this week. With God there is ALWAYS another chance. His mercy is new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). Don't give up...you can be godly and pass the baton of faith to those coming after you!
- "Let your failures REFINE you, not DEFINE you." Max Lucado
- Be humble and wise enough to learn and do it God's way.

REFERENCES

Proverbs 1:8, 2:1-5, 3:1-6, 4:1-4, 10:11a,19, 21a, 12:18, 15:28, 16:28, 17:4, 18:21a, 23:24, 25:11, 26:20, 29:20

Matthew 12:34, 15:18

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read James 3:1-12. What are some examples of an untamed tongue? Why does James mean when he says that being able to control the tongue means you can control yourself in every other way?
- Read Philippians 4:8. Steve mentioned that whatever we take into our hearts will affect the way we think and ultimately what we say. How can you practically ensure that your heart is kept pure and your speech is always Godly?

If you would like more copies of this Small Group Study, they are available at <https://www.connectionpointe.org/sermons/>

Are you interested in leading a new small group beginning in August 2020? If so, our Small Groups Team would love to talk with you about the possibilities. Contact us to set up a time to chat. smallgroup@connectionpointe.org