



Sermon Study Guide
6/10/18

Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.

Series Theme

Some Assembly Required

Faith:

Sermon Title

Words (Khorl Smith)

Key Sermon Points

- Huge, destructive wild fires often start from a small spark. Our words can have a similar effect.
- We use an average of 16,000 words per day and the average person spends 15 years of their life speaking.
- People, being human, frequently have problems in communication because of the words they choose to use.
- If we, as Christians are going to heal the world, we will do it with healing words.
- We must consider whether our words are bringing life or death to each situation or person we encounter, including ourselves.
- We must keep watch over (guard) what comes into our life, but also what comes out it through our mouths.
- The Scriptures teach that we are to speak in words "by the Spirit of God" and that we ought to be slow to speak and, then, only in love.
- Jesus is called the Word of God and communicated His nature including issues such as sin by dwelling among us and coming close to us. We need to be close to people to speak of difficult issues. Don't be a keyboard warrior!
- Jesus' words were full of "grace and truth." Grace moves with flexibility and fluidity. Truth must be spoken with grace, but grace without truth is a lie.
- We can learn to speak with grace and truth and follow in the way of Christ. We can speak life into people with our words and that word can grow up in them to become healing, wholeness and peace. Our words have the power to bring life or chaos, which one will you choose today?

Scripture: James 3:1-6; Proverbs 18:21, 29:11; 1 Corinthians 2:13; John 1:14

Personal Application

1. Think about some examples from your life when your words have brought either healing and life or, on the other hand, chaos and death. Make a list of some people or situations into which you can speak life this week. Pray and ask God to give you opportunities to use words of life from the Holy Spirit.
3. Memorize Proverbs 18:21 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it several times each day...

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Discussion Questions: (conversations)

1. When have you used your words to bring either life/healing or chaos/death? How do you sense that you are doing in this key area of discipleship? How would the people you interact with most often describe the way you use your words?
2. Do you tend to speak more in grace or in truth? How might you be able to find the right balance between them?
3. Following James' analogy of words as a rudder, how might you be able to steer conversations or situations that might become toxic toward grace and truth?
4. What person or situation that is difficult or uncomfortable for you, can you begin to speak words of life, peace or healing into this week?

Life Groups

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you consider the way you/we use our words. Is there a group application for this principle?

Children & Families

Talk with your children about the words that make them feel most comfortable, encouraged, or uplifted and the words that tend to discourage and hurt the most. Make a list of the positive words and make up some sentences using those words about each other. Post those sentences in a visible place in your home.

Other Resources

[Words That Hurt, Words That Heal: How to Choose Words Wisely and Well:](#) by Joseph Telushkin
Joseph Telushkin is renowned for his warmth, his erudition, and his richly anecdotal insights, and in *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal* he focuses these gifts on the words we use in public and in private, revealing their tremendous power to shape relationships. With wit and wide-ranging intelligence, Rabbi Telushkin explains the harm in spreading gossip, rumors, or others' secrets, and how unfair anger, excessive criticism, or lying undermines true communication. By sensitizing us to subtleties of speech we may never have considered before, he shows us how to turn every exchange into an opportunity. Remarkable for its clarity and practicality, *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal* illuminates the powerful effects we create by what we say and how we say it.

[Words That Hurt, Words That Heal: Speaking the Truth in Love:](#) by Carole Mayhall

The Bible tells us that our mouths are to be fountains of life, but our day-to-day interactions prove otherwise. So how do we address our hearts as well as our words? This book explores the impact our words can have and helps us develop a filter to hold back things we shouldn't say.