

Talk

Icebreaker

Turn to the person next to you. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is perfectly saintly and 1 is awful, how would you describe your talk this past week? Why?

Discussion

It's easy to monitor your talk at church.

Why can it be hard to honor God with your talk during the week?

Read James 3:2-12.

Why is the tongue so evil?

Look back at James 3:9-12 and cross reference Luke 6:45

So the question is how can we avoid being fresh water one day and salt water another?

Ephesians 4:29. Only say what is helpful and benefits others.

Go Deeper

Let's look at 2 examples of speaking what is helpful and beneficial.

As the facilitator, you can either describe the story of Nabal or have people read 1 Samuel 25.

Either way, the focus for this topic is 1 Samuel 25: 23-34.

Again, you may want to just describe the context of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and demand (Daniel 2). Then read Daniel 2:14-16.

Take Away:

When your boss is being irrational, don't get defensive—respond with wisdom and tact.

When an undeserving coworker gets a promotion, don't be hostile—respond with wisdom and tact.

Wisdom is knowing what to say, when to say it, and especially what not to say. It's avoiding defensiveness and personal attacks. It's not being hasty.

Tact is all about how you say something, your tone of voice and body language.

Go Deeper

Let's look at 2 specific types of unwholesome talk.

Gossip

Read James 4:11, James 5:9, and 2 Timothy 2:15-16

Why is gossip not honoring to God?

Flattery

Read Psalm 12:1-4 and Proverbs 26:24-28

Why is flattery not honoring to God?

Case Study

Give people time to read the case study and discuss in groups.

What should Garrett do?

Is it gossip to share what he knows?

To extend the case study, you can add this scenario:

Let's say it turns out to not be Harry's fault. The day before the announcement, Garrett hears Harry flattering their boss. The flattery sounds totally fake to Garrett, but the boss seems to be buying it. Garrett is worried that if he doesn't come up with some way to flatter their boss, Harry might get the promotion because of what he's saying.

What should Garrett do?

Closing

Read Psalm 141:3—David's prayer: Lord, set a guard over my mouth