



Made for Relationship

1. Explain a time when you got yourself in trouble because of a thing you said. What were the consequences? Explain a time you were hurt by what someone else said. Are there negative things that have been said about you that you have never forgotten?
2. Read Numbers 20:1-13. What did the Israelites accuse Moses and Aaron of doing? Do you think it made Moses angry? Why? How did his anger at the Israelites cost him?
3. What were the 8 things that Pastor Rick said cause us to forget to watch our mouths? Do you agree that these things affect how we talk to people? Which ones have caused you to say things you wish you hadn't said?
4. Read James 3:2-12. What things in this passage is the tongue compared to? In what way is our tongue like a bit, a rudder, and a spark? What does it say the tongue does to a person? What does it say the tongue should never do, especially for a Christian? If no one can tame the tongue, what hope do we have of controlling our tongue as Christians?
5. Read Ephesians 4:29. What does this verse say should and shouldn't come out of our mouth? Based on this, what is the definition of "corrupt communication"? Read Ephesians 4:15. What does it say we should speak and how should we speak it? What would it look like to speak the truth, but not in love? So do you think God is just as concerned with why we say what we say as what we actually say?
6. Assign people in your group to look up and read the following verses aloud. Then talk about what truth each verse teaches about what we say with our tongue. Matthew 12:34-37; Psalm 19:14; Proverbs 12:18; 16:23,24; 17:27; James 1:19.
7. Some people boast that they always say exactly what is on their minds, that they always say what they think is true no matter what. From what we've studied today, is that a good thing or a bad thing for a Christian?

1. *Highlight how we never forget the negative that people say about us because of the pain it causes and the damage it does.*
2. *The Israelites said that Moses had led them there just so that they could die. It probably made Moses furious because of how much he had done for these people in the past. As a result of responding in anger, he was prohibited from entering the promised land, which must have been devastating for him since everything he had done was to get them there.*
3. *The 8 things are: a. Emotional triggers; b. High stakes; c. Communication patterns; d. stress and fatigue; e. Unresolved Issues; f. Lack of emotional regulation; and g. projection. You might want to talk about what each one is as described in sermon notes.*
4. *It is compared to a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, a poison, and a spark, a It is like each one of those in that it is a very small thing that causes huge consequences. It tells us that our tongue corrupts us and sets our life on fire. It says that for a Christian, blessing and cursing should never both come out of our mouth, that would be like salt water and fresh water coming from the same spring. The only hope we have of controlling our speech is to give the Holy Spirit control of our tongue. God is the only one who can control our tongues.*
5. *Ephesians 4:29 says that corrupt communication should never come out of our mouths but only what builds people up, which therefore defines corrupt communication as anything that we say to a person that tears them down, even the truth if that is what it is used for. Ephesians 4:15 says that truth should only be spoken in love, which would be to build a person up and help them. If the truth is said for the purpose of hurting people, we should not speak it. God is just as concerned with our motive for what we say as what we actually say. If your motive for what you say is destructive, it should not be said.*
6. *Matthew 12:34-37—God is going to judge you for what comes out of your mouth and what you say reveals what is in your heart (your mind). Psalm 19:14—What we think about and what we say should always be what pleases God. Proverbs 12:18—Reckless people do harm with what they say and wise people actually heal by what they say. Proverbs 16:23,24—A wise man has good things in his heart so good things come out of his mouth and helps people by what he says. Proverbs 17:27—An intelligent person uses restraint in what he says and is able to control his temper. Proverbs 29:20—There is more hope for a fool than for someone who hastily speaks without thinking first. James 1:19—Be quick to listen to people and extremely slow to reply—implies you need to think before you speak.*
7. *Someone who boasts about being like this is boasting how they sin with their mouth, it is not a good thing to say anything and everything you think without considering the consequences of what you say to the people around you. This is simply a person with no self-control trying to make it sound like a good thing.*