

Stay Positive: The Power of An Encouraging Word

August 23, 2020

Job 16:1-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 1 Then Job answered and said:
- 2 "I have heard many such things;
 miserable comforters are you all.
- 3 Shall windy words have an end?
 Or what provokes you that you answer?
- 4 I also could speak as you do,
 if you were in my place;
I could join words together against you
 and shake my head at you.
- 5 I could strengthen you with my mouth,
 and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Share a time when someone's kind and encouraging words made an impact on you.

Read Job 16:1-5. Have you ever been around someone who is discouraging to you personally or just negative in general? How does their negative attitude impact those around them?

Read Proverbs 18:21 and James 3:1-12. What do these verses say about the power of the tongue? If more people understood the power of their words, do you think they would be more careful in what they say? Why or why not?

In the sermon, John said, "The power of the tongue effects our witness to an unbelieving world." Do you believe this? How have you experienced this?

If someone did an audit of your social media, what would they find?

Read Hebrews 3:13. John encouraged us in the sermon, "If you think something good, say it." Why do you think people are so quick to criticize and slow to encourage?

Why do you think negative comments have so much weight in our minds and hearts?

Read 1 Samuel 30:6. As we work to be more encouraging to others, we should also work to be kinder and more encouraging to ourselves. What are some verses or truths of scripture that are particularly uplifting when you are feeling discouraged?

Spend some time in prayer together. Ask God who needs a word of encouragement from you this week. Hold each other accountable to answer that call.

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?