



**The Week of August 22, 2021**  
**Don't Say That!**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **Self-Control:** (Ephesians 4:22-24) My thoughts, emotions and actions are brought under control through the power of the Spirit as I pursue a holy, God-honoring life.
- **Patience:** (Romans 15:5) I am patient with other people because God has been patient with me.
- **I show great compassion:** (Psalm 82:3-4) I actively show my caring for those who are vulnerable in real and tangible ways.

**Intro Questions**

- What are some funny mispronunciations you've heard that have brought you joy?
- What is something that was said to you in your childhood that have stuck with you to this day (good or bad)?
- Has someone said something foolish to you that still hurts years later? Something wise that is still a positive influence on you?

## The Power of Words

Read Proverbs 18:21a

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue...*

Read Romans 10:9 (NLT)

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Read Matthew 12:36

*"I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak."*

Read Proverbs 13:3

*'The one who guards his mouth protects his life; the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin.*

Read James 3:5-6

*So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.*

- What do each of these verses tell us about the power of our words?

## Wrong Words Wreck Right Relationships.

Read Proverbs 12:18-20

*There is one who speaks rashly,  
like a piercing sword;  
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.  
Truthful lips endure forever,  
but a lying tongue, only a moment.  
Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil,  
but those who promote peace have joy.*

Read Proverbs 10:19-21

*When there are many words, sin is unavoidable,  
but the one who controls his lips is prudent.  
The tongue of the righteous is pure silver;  
the heart of the wicked is of little value.  
The lips of the righteous feed many,  
but fools die for lack of sense.*

Read Psalm 64:2-3

*Hide me from the scheming of wicked people,  
from the mob of evildoers,  
who sharpen their tongues like swords  
and aim bitter words like arrows,*

- How does this passage describe our rash words? How does it describe our wise words?
- How do these types of words affect our relationships?

## Deceptive Words Wreck Relationships

Read Proverbs 26:18–19 (NLT)

*Just as damaging  
as a madman shooting a deadly weapon  
is someone who lies to a friend  
and then says, "I was only joking."*

Read Proverbs 26:23-27 (NLT)

*Smooth words may hide a wicked heart,  
just as a pretty glaze covers a clay pot.  
People may cover their hatred with pleasant words,  
but they're deceiving you.  
They pretend to be kind, but don't believe them.  
Their hearts are full of many evils.  
While their hatred may be concealed by trickery,  
their wrongdoing will be exposed in public.  
If you set a trap for others,  
you will get caught in it yourself.  
If you roll a boulder down on others,  
it will crush you instead.*

- Do these verses differentiate based on the size of the lie? Are "little white lies" less offensive and damaging?
- Have you ever been deceived? What did it do to your relationship with that person?
- How many times have you see someone fall into traps set up by their own lies?
- Have you ever been caught in a lie?

Read 1 Peter 3:10

*For the one who wants to love life and to see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit,*

- Based on these verses what are the consequences of lying?
- What are the rewards for speaking truth?
- How do these verses show how seriously God takes truthful speaking?

## Rumors Wreck Relationships

Read Proverbs 26:20, 22

*Without wood, fire goes out;  
without a gossip, conflict dies down...  
A gossip's words are like choice food  
that goes down to one's innermost being.*

Read Proverbs 11:13 (NLT)

*A gossip goes around telling secrets,  
but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.*

Read Proverbs 17:9

*Whoever conceals an offense promotes love,  
but whoever gossips about it separates friends.*

- How have you seen rumors and gossip destroy relationships?
- What are some effective ways of stopping gossip from happening around you?
- Is it our job to defend the innocent? If someone's "guilty" how should we respond?
- Have you ever been guilty of gossiping via prayer requests?

Read Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

- How can we use our words for building up?
- How can we encourage those around us to use their words for good?

## Arguments Wreck Relationships

Read 2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)

*Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.*

- Why are people so unwilling to put themselves in the other person's shoes during disagreements?
- How are by-standers and listeners affected by arguments that they aren't involved in?
- What does arguing do to our ability to talk to others about Christ's love?

Read Proverbs 15:1-4

*A gentle answer turns away anger,  
but a harsh word stirs up wrath.  
The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive,  
but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.*

*The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,  
observing the wicked and the good.  
The tongue that heals is a tree of life,  
but a devious tongue breaks the spirit. '*

- What is Proverbs answer to arguing?

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-25

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth...*

- According to this passage how are we to respond to quarrelsome people?

## Next Steps

Read James 3:1-12

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.*

- This passage shows the true power of our words and our inability to control it on our own. Only the Holy Spirit can tame it. Take time each day this week to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your words and use them to honor God.

**Enjoying Conversation Guides? Want to be a part?**

**Come join the Writer's Team, Wednesday Nights at 7:45pm in Room 4.**

**Email Pastor Doug Bedgood if you'd like more info, [dbedgood@icelebration.org](mailto:dbedgood@icelebration.org).**