

Proverbs Bible Study

Choice words

1. What are some of the things that others have said about you in the past that have stuck in your head (positive or negative)? How have they impacted your life and the way you think about yourself?
2. Read Prov 12:18 What does it mean that words have the power of 'life & death'?
3. Read James 3:3-6. How might this knowledge alter the way we speak to children, colleagues, friends or family members?
4. Read these passages about the tongue, share how you have known these things to be true in your life?
 - 12:18
 - 15:1
 - 15:4
 - 15:23
 - 16:24
 - 25:25
5. Read the following verses about lying, anger & gossip. Why is speaking this way 'unwise' in respect to relationships?
 - 12:22
 - 15:1
 - 16:18
 - 20:19
 - 26:28

6. Wisdom in speech is also knowing when 'not to speak', read the following verses about restraining our words. Why do we often find it so difficult to do this?
- 11:12
 - 13:3
 - 17:27-28
 - James 1:19
7. Read Prov 4:23 & Matt 12:34, how do these verses help us understand why the tongue is so difficult to 'tame'? (James 3:7-12) Clearly good verbal 'communication skills' are not what need most. What is it that we really need?
8. Read 1 Peter 2:22, it is likely that James had Jesus in mind when he wrote James 3:2. How is the 'perfect' speech of Jesus significant for us when it comes to our 'imperfect' speech/sinful lives?
9. Read John 6:66-69, what do you think Peter meant when he said to Jesus 'you have the words of eternal life?' Why is it him that we must turn to?
10. When thinking about our speech, how can we be better at building others up, encouraging others and speaking the words of eternal life to them? How can we be better at doing this particularly in our 'electronic communication'?