

APPLICATION

We all say bad things at times. But God wants you and me to change and start saying more good words that are helpful to others and pleasing to God.

Some things we can do to become more like Jesus are:

1. Memorize a Bible verse about good talk. Hide God's word in you heart. Psalms 119:11 says ... *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* A good verse to memorize is Eph 4:29 ... *Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Eph 4:29 NLT*

2. Pray and ask God to clean up your heart. The Bible says that our bad words come from our bad heart. David prayed: *Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Psalms 51:10*

3. The Bible says: confess our sins ... *He will forgive and cleanse us.* I John 1: 9 It is good to tell God that we are sorry for the bad things that we are saying.

Write out what you want to do to have God help you change your talk. _____

You may also want to pray to God and ask Him to help you say good words, words that are pleasing to Him.

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GOD'S WISDOM

In SPEAKING

PART 1

After the lesson, draw stick people doing good or bad talk in the above space..

Memory Verse

*... Let everything you say
be good and helpful, so that your words
will be an encouragement to those who
hear them. Eph 4:29 NLT*

INTRODUCTION

Most of us don't think a lot about what we say. We just say it. Sometimes we may say good words that are kind and helpful. Other times we may say harsh, ugly, and critical words that hurt others and stir up an argument.

So where do our words come from? And does it really matter what we say?

God has a lot to say about the type of words that come out of our mouth.

**God wants us to say words that are wise, kind and helpful.
When we do, what we say will please God,
it will help others
and people will see Jesus living in us.**

Sometimes mean and hurtful words come out of our mouth. These words can hurt us, our friends and our family. Hurtful words can cause a broken friendship, death to a marriage, the lost of a job, and they can lead to a fight and physical death.

The Bible says:

***Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.***

Prov. 18: 21 NASB

**This study is intended to help you speak words of life
and not words that cause death. Take it seriously.
Think and pray a lot about the words that come out of your
mouth. Ask God to help you say
good words
at the right time
that please Him.**

Let's look at some examples of GOOD TALK

Good talk is:

*In everything **give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess 5:18 NASB*

Who wants us to be thankful and say "Thank you" when someone gives us something or helps us out. _____

*When she speaks, her words are **wise, and kindness** is the rule when she gives instructions. Prov. 31: 26*

The Bible says the virtuous woman speaks wise and kind words. If a young person was at your house and dropped and spilled their drink on the floor, what could you say that would be words of kindness? _____

*... Let everything you say be **good and helpful**, so that your words will be **an encouragement** to those who hear them.*

Eph 4:29 NLT

What does encourage mean? Say you wanted to encourage your basketball team. What could you say? Would you say "You are a bunch of losers!! No. You would say ...

*A **gentle** answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger. Prov. 15:1*

If someone is mad at you and says, "I don't like your hair", how could you answer back. Give a gentle answer.

Let's look at some examples of
BAD TALK

Bad talk is:

Complaining, being **unthankful**, we don't say words of appreciation when someone gives us something.

Accusing, always trying to **find fault (look for something wrong)** with other people. Looking for and **talking about the bad in other people** instead of the good.

Scorning, mocking (making fun) of someone. The Bible says: *Throw out the **mockers**, and fighting, quarrels, and insults will disappear.* Prov. 22:10

Talking instead of listening, running our mouth.
A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought to be wise when they keep silent; when they keep their mouths shut, they seem intelligent. Prov. 17:27-28

What is Prov. 17:27-28 saying? Put it in your own words.

*A worthless man **digs up evil**, while his words are as a scorching fire.* Prov. 16: 27 NASB

What do you think it means in Prov. 16:27 that a worthless man "digs up evil or looks for bad stuff about other people to talk about" and that his words hurt others like a fire? Try to give an example:

Where do our words come from?

So where do the words that we speak come from? Do they come from our brain, do we just think it up, or do the good and bad words that we speak come from a place deeper within us, from a place where no one but God can reach and fix?

*... whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
A good person produces good words from a good heart,
and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart.
Matt 12:34-35*

Where do the good and bad words that we speak come from?

If a person speaks good words, what kind of person is he/she?

_____ If a person speaks evil words,
what kind of person is he/she? _____

**So let's ask God to clean up our heart so that we
will speak good words that will please him.**

In Psalms 51 verse 10, David prayed: **Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.**

David also prayed: **May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.** Ps 19:14

Take a moment right now, and **write or say a prayer to God** asking Him to help you speak wise, kind, and helpful words.

Your Prayer: _____

GOOD & HELPFUL WORDS

Let's look at some verses that give examples of
the right thing to say.

... Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your
words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.
Eph 4:29

The godly speak words that are helpful, but the wicked speak
only what is corrupt Prov. 10: 32

Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the
body. Prov. 16:24

Since we are God's children, we should say things and talk
in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Let's say ... a new girl just moved to town and started going
to your school. She is not very popular and some people are
making fun of her. She asked some students standing next to
her where the bathroom was, and they just started laughing at
her and walked off. **What can you do or say that would be
kind and helpful?** Read and think about the following verses,
and then write down your answer. (Pray about your answer.)

**What can you do and say that would be obeying these vers-
es? Something that would be "good and helpful".**

In some areas of our life we are more sensitive and more
easily hurt than in other areas.

Often Satan wants to get someone to say something bad about
the sensitive area of our life to hurt us and to get us in an
argument or to make us bitter and steal the joy of who we are
in Christ.

Let's say... a friend of yours had a girlfriend who he really
liked and she just dropped him and started going with another
guy who had more money. Your friend is a little embarrassed
and hurt. Some of his "so called friends" are making fun of him
about how his girlfriend just dropped him. Their words make
him feel like someone just stuck him with a sword. They hurt
real deep down inside.

**What should you do or say that would be obeying God's
words in the following verses?**

Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the
body. Prov. 16:24 NLT

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But
the tongue of the wise brings healing. (?4) Prov. 12: 18 NASB

... Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your
words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.
Eph 4:29 NLT

What could you say to help and encourage your friend?
