

The Power of Love Words

Group #1

Instructions:

Divide into two groups. One group is for people who prefer drawing, the other is for people who prefer acting. You can read out both tasks before deciding which groups to go in. Roughly same sized groups is preferable but not essential.

Drawing Group's Task: The Power of Jesus' Words & Ours

Read the following verses and work out how to represent them in beautiful artistic and symbolic splendour without words (as time allows). All groups have the first verse. The second verse only you have. Other groups will have to guess from your picture (without words) when we get back together - don't give away your secret.

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Mark 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Acting Group's Task: Proverbs Portrayed

Read the following verses. Create a situation that demonstrates the truth of each of the Proverbs below. Be creative! Other groups will have to guess from your acting - don't give away your secret.

- Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. (Proverbs 27:6)
- A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends. (Proverbs 16:28)

A verse to dwell on:

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 7:35)

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Group #2

Instructions:

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Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Acting Group's Task: Proverbs Portrayed

Read the following verses. Create a situation that demonstrates the truth of each of the Proverbs below. Be creative! Other groups will have to guess from your acting - don't give away your secret.

- He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue. (Proverbs 28:23).
- Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24).

A verse to dwell on:

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 7:35)

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Read the following verses and work out how to represent them in beautiful artistic and symbolic splendour without words (as time allows). All groups have the first verse. The second verse only you have. Other groups will have to guess from your picture (without words) when we get back together - don't give away your secret.

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Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

Acting Group's Task: Proverbs Portrayed

Read the following verses. Create a situation that demonstrates the truth of each of the Proverbs below. Be creative! Other groups will have to guess from your acting - don't give away your secret.

- He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame (Proverbs 18:13).
- When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. (Proverbs 10:19).

A verse to dwell on:

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 7:35)

The Power of Words

Group #4

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Drawing Group's Task: The Power of Jesus' Words & Ours

Read the following verses and work out how to represent them in beautiful artistic and symbolic splendour without words (as time allows). All groups have the first verse. The second verse only you have. Other groups will have to guess from your picture (without words) when we get back together - don't give away your secret.

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

James 3:3-5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Acting Group's Task: Proverbs Portrayed

Read the following verses. Create a situation that demonstrates the truth of each of the Proverbs below. Be creative! Other groups will have to guess from your acting - don't give away your secret.

- He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity. (Proverbs 21:23)
- Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. (Proverbs 27:2).

A verse to dwell on:

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 7:35)

ONE BODY # 1
BIBLE STUDIES ON
LIVING TOGETHER AS JESUS' PEOPLE

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Speaking about others

Some Key Bible Verses for this week:

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Jeremiah 19:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

Matthew 12:34-37

- ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
³⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.
³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.
³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

James 3:5-8

Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, sin is not absent,
but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 21:23

He who guards his mouth and his tongue
keeps himself from calamity.

Proverbs 16:28

A perverse man stirs up dissension,
and a gossip separates close friends.

Speaking about others

ONE BODY

1. Why might it be so very dangerous to speak about a person when that person is not present? *Refer to the Bible passages.*

***An analogy:** Would you take a fragile personal belonging from someone and just throw it about without care? Would you chuck it to your friends without worrying whether they will damage it? Well then what of something more valuable, more significant and of more enduring use - a person's personal reputation: how other people will perceive them.*

2. How do people justify speaking about another when the person is not there?

3. Read and consider the following dangers:

- What you think is true about someone may not in fact be true.
You have misheard information but because you are speaking about someone who is not there they cannot correct your misunderstanding.
- Exaggeration.
This can even occur unintentionally (but of course intentionally) when you try to emphasise the point of what you are trying to say, or by making it more interesting.
- Not having all the facts.
Example: You saw part of an incident where a girl has a fight with her boyfriend but you didn't see her on her hands and knees begging forgiveness.
- Not passing on all the information
Again, it can be even by accident or because you summarised due to limited time.
- The way you present it gives a certain impression.
By laughing or having a critical attitude, you can place 'a spin' on the information. Eg. "Let me tell you the **worst** thing I've seen them do! ..."
- Attributing bad motives.
Seeing (or worse hearing of someone) doing something but intentionally or unintentionally attributing bad/suspect motives. Eg. James chucked-a-sicky to get out of work on the Friday after Anzac day on the Thursday.
- A person may mishear despite your accurate, balanced and necessary recounting.
They may not listen properly or may think you are referring to them, or they may add into the picture they are forming things, from their own experience.

4. Add some more to the list that you have noticed in your experience.

5. Share with each other how you have seen those dangers in action.

6. Are *all* of those reasons in Q2, worth the risk in light of the great dangers? *Look back at the Bible verses.*

Are you prepared to notice when friends, leaders get it wrong with their speech? Will you have the courage to talk to them about it (politely and in private) instead of another?

CASE STUDY 1

You are members of St Martha's Baptist Church. You hear a rumour that a couple in the church who lead a Bible study group are not going to be allowed to lead next year because the pastor doesn't like them. You only know the couple a little bit.

Hypothetical for you:

- Q. What would the temptation be to do?
- Q. What would be the best way to react?
- Q. What negative consequences might there be if you take no action?

The rumour in actual reality has no truth to it at all. The pastor and the couple always thought they got on well. However, place yourself in the shoes of each of the people at the time.

- Q. What are some possible feelings/thoughts you might expect the two leaders to have when they heard the rumour? What about the pastor when he hears the rumour?
- Q. What danger lies in a rumour like that? *Also, look again at Proverbs 16:28*

CASE STUDY 2

Your good friend and you share with each other regularly the joys and frustrations of life, as good friends do. Your friend often recounts how frustrated he is with one of the other people at work. Your friend doesn't like talking heaps about work since he has spent all day there and prefers to leave it all behind and enjoy the evenings. However, he does feel he has a need to get his annoyances off his chest without much discussion, before he can forget about work.

You have never met the other person at your friend's work. You have no other information about the other person except what your friend tells you.

- Q. What problems might exist for you forming an accurate picture of the person?

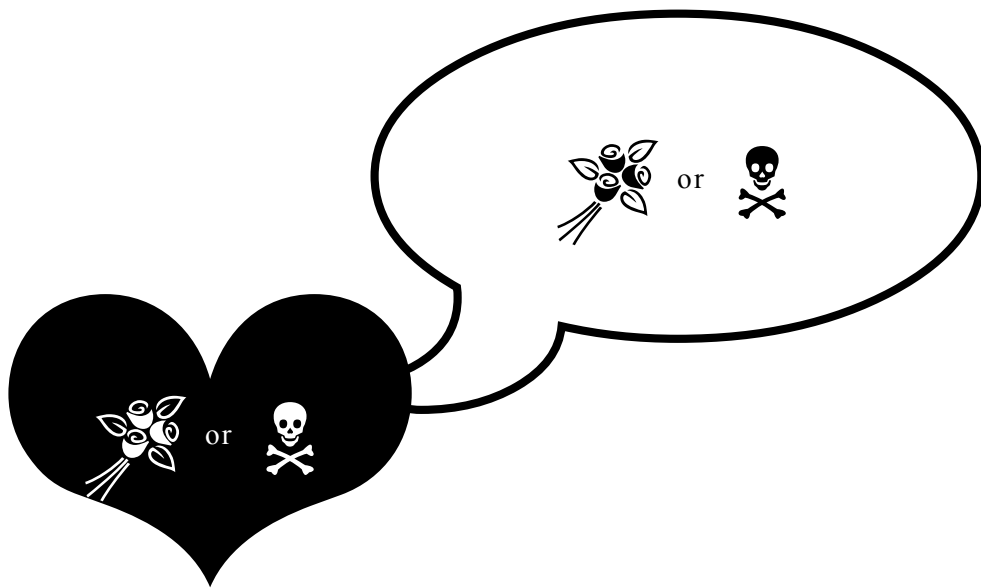
A year passes with your friend working with this person who annoys them. Then, at a party, you meet the person.

- Q. What will your likely impression be of that person?
- Q. Do you think you would make the effort to get to know them properly?
- Q. What are other more helpful ways to handle the annoyances at work? (also Phil 4:4-9)
- Q. Even if you did know the person and spoke to them regularly, do you think your impression of that person will still be affected by your friend's constant criticism?
- Q. What other situations do you encounter where similar dangers arise?

Attitude is a crucial: A love for people will ooze out in how you speak about people, even when they are present, but bitterness and malice will also ooze out in your speech too. Look again: Matt 12:34-37

Share in 2s or 3s specific things you personally need to work on from this discussion. Then pray.

- I need to work on ...*
1. _____
 2. _____



The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.
For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
Jeremiah 19:9-10, Matthew 12:34-37

ONE BODY

#2

BIBLE STUDIES ON LIVING TOGETHER AS JESUS' PEOPLE

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Speech that builds others up

Some Key Bible Verses for this week:

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Be _____ of God, therefore, as dearly _____ children 2 and live a life of _____, just as Christ loved us and gave _____ up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 5:3-4

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, **but rather thanksgiving.**

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish* one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

**Admonish: to provide instruction as to correct behaviour and belief; to warn*

Galatians 6:1-2

1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Philippians 2:2-21 [Paul speaking]

I have no-one else like [Timothy], who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Proverbs:

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (16:24)
Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid. (12:1)

He who rebukes* a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue. (28:23)

Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. (9:8)

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. (19:20)

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. (27:6)

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (27:17)

**Rebuke: to express strong disapproval of someone*

Speech that builds others up

ONE BODY

1. According to the Bible passages, what are the different ways that we can be of benefit to others by our speech? Why should we do these things?

2. Write out who your Christian friends are. Do you discuss and share with them about the following?

- struggling with a particular sin (eg pornography, anger) never sometimes often
- what you have been learning or seen God do never sometimes often
- how to avoid being greedy with what you buy never sometimes often
- which clothes might be unhelpful as a Christian never sometimes often
- unhelpful things they said to another never sometimes often
- priorities that hinder attending Bible study & church never sometimes often

Discuss why not (or why).

he died for all,
that those who live
should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died for them
and was raised again.

2 Cor 5:14

3. Go around the group and share what has been the biggest help to you personally for your growth as a Christian. *It may be a part of the Bible, a person, an event or conference, an activity ...*

4. Reflect on the encouraging things about other people in your group. Two (or at most three) people share something they have found encouraging in the life of another member of the group. Try and choose something that is not immediately obvious to all the others in the group (& not about a leader). *Remember Ephesians 5:3-4 stresses thanksgiving!*

Everyone think now of someone they can write a note of encouragement to. Tell another person in the group when and how you will deliver it.

Who is it to?

When will you send/deliver it?

5. Re-read the Proverbs from the first page. Think back to when you have been rebuked or when you rebuked someone. How did it feel? How well was the rebuke done? How could it have been done better?

Spend a moment personally praying for the person who rebuked you or that you rebuked. Thank God for the concern between the two of you & pray there will be growth in the area of godliness and also our ability & willingness to rebuke and correct.

6. What factors fight against us rebuking, or correcting each other when we need it? How can we overcome them? *Refer back to Bible verses*

7. CASE STUDY: Imagine you are getting out of the car at church when you hear another Christian friend speaking in an unhelpful manner to their spouse. This is the third time you have noticed them speak in a similar way. What would you do (when, what, how)?

- *Why* would/should you do something? *Refer back to Bible verses*

- Would you do anything differently if it was not your friend but another regular at Church?

If you have time do these also:

8. A question like “Have you been reading the Bible like you should?!” can be very confronting. Another way you can help people to keep on track with Bible reading is by simply sharing what you have been learning. This is an encouragement for others to do the same. What other encouragement could we give in a similar way?

9. Has someone ever told you that they have/are praying for you? What effect did that have?

10. Older Christians have often been battling with many of the the struggles and temptations we have. Brainstorm briefly on how we can foster opportunities to gain their lived wisdom.

11. Share in 2s or 3s what areas you need to work on from tonight’s discussion. Pray about those things. Share how you went at the things you discussed **last week** at the end of the study. Pray for that again.

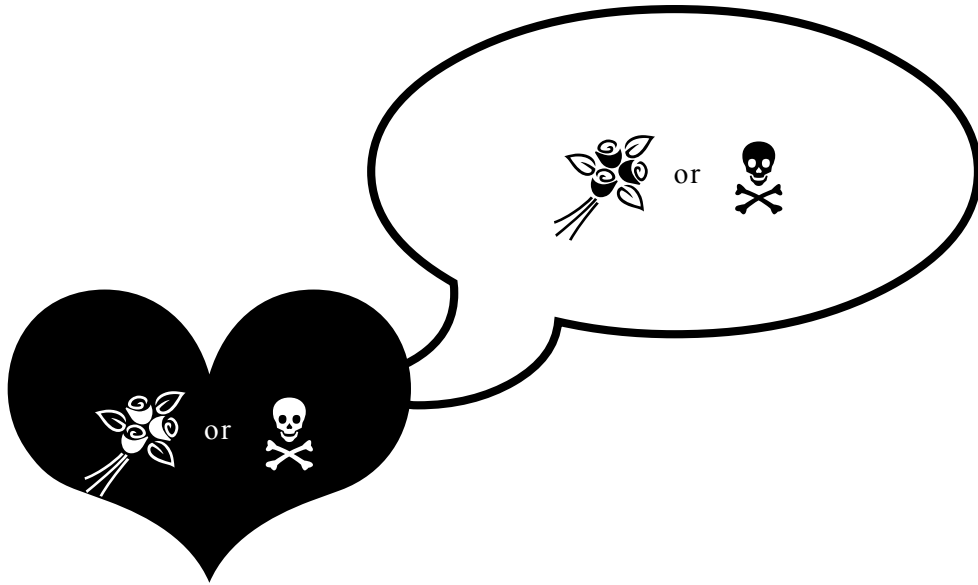
Last week I decided: _____

My assessment of my success:
 none poor OK good
(Praise God!)

My Action Summary: Things I need to personally work on from this week’s study ...

1. _____
2. _____

The person I will write a note of encouragement to: _____ When I will do it: _____



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For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
Jeremiah 19:9-10, Matthew 12:34-37

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May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Relationships of love and forgiveness

Some Key Bible Verses for this week:

Ephesians 5:1-2 (fill in the blanks)

1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly _____ children 2 and live a life of _____, just as _____ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:2-4

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
4 There is **one body** and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called-

Ephesians 4:25-26

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of **one body**. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:29-32

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Get rid of all bitterness*, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.* 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

***Bitterness**: a state of sharp, intense resentment or hate

****Malice**: a feeling of hostility and strong dislike, with a possible implication of desiring to do harm

1 Corinthians 13:5

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Romans 12:9-10 & 17-19

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. ... 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Proverbs

_____ from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies _____ (27:6)

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel. (15:18)

Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. (26:20)

Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs. (10:12)

Matthew 6:9-15

9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21-35

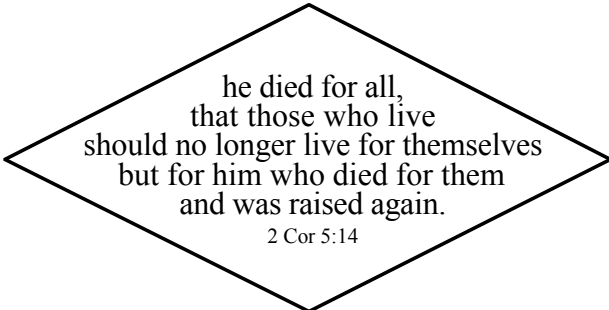
21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow-servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."



Relationships of love and forgiveness

ONE BODY

1. Imagine you are a first century Christian. Your brother was put in prison by a fellow called Saul and your good friend, Stephen, was stoned to death by a bunch of Christian haters which included Saul. This fellow Saul was converted, gets the name Paul & then turns up at your church to work for 2 years. What would be your immediate gut-reaction? What would you have to pray for and continually work on?
2. Why are love and forgiveness such foundational and absolutely crucial Christian attitudes for us to have? *Refer to the Bible passages.*
3. According to Ephesians 4:3, what do we need to make every effort to do?
4. From your general observations, what gives you the impression that many Christians don't make 'every effort' when seeking unity by love and forgiveness?
5. What are the common causes of division within an individual church?
6. When one Christian is angry at another, who will often get their way in the end? (*see Eph 4:25-27*)



he died for all,
that those who live
should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died for them
and was raised again.

2 Cor 5:14

7. Comment on this "over-the-top" statement in light of the Bible passages:

"We live in the nice part of town. Social customs here mean we don't say many nasty things to one another but instead we all have deep seated bitterness and malice under the surface. We stroke it and keep it alive like patting a dog under the table, throwing it scraps to eat. But this is more of a problem because its either not dealt with properly or it bursts out under stressful circumstances like squeezing a fat juicy festering boil"

8. Comment on this "over-the-top" statement in light of the Bible passages:

"The modern Christian church has found the most wonderful excuse for ungodliness in relationships ever imagined. It's called the 'personality clash'. It's so easy. If ever I find myself annoyed at another person all I do is avoid them from then on and think to myself - "Oh well, we just clash". If I still feel guilty about this then I tell another person and when they agree with my 'personality clash' diagnosis then I know for sure I was right. I pity the poor Christians who lived for centuries before our modern age, not knowing about personality clashes. They were under a great delusion that they had to be more accepting, tolerant & loving. Imagine living for all those years under the tyranny of thinking that God created differences in people that were to be enjoyed. I'm glad we know better!"

9. Imagine they are forming new *weekly* Bible study groups at church because new people have joined and the groups need to be restructured. They have decided to draw the groups out of a hat. Spend some time personally thinking through specific people you currently know at our church and other people you have met in Christian circles (eg other churches, conferences). Ask yourself these personal reflection questions.

Personal Reflection:

- i. What would be your initial reaction to being placed with those individuals you've thought of?
- ii. Do any rub you up the wrong way or do any have 'problem personalities'?
- iii. If your reaction is not neutral or positive then ...
 - Do you have a significant unresolved conflict you need to sort out with that person?
 - Do you have a trivial issue that you personally need to leave behind (1 Cor 13:5)?
 - Do you need to be more accepting, tolerant & loving - enjoying people's differences?
- iv. Do you feel you need to work on unconditional love?
- v. Why not pray for God to produce the fruit of 'love' in your heart.

As a group discuss your reflection on this exercise: Did it help highlight things for you? Are there any areas you need to work on? Be honest (but don't speak of specific people you have difficulty with).

10. CASE STUDY: Love for others.

You are a new person who has moved into the area and have started coming to our church. You turn up the big church meeting and wander in just on starting time.

- i. What could another person do to make you enjoy the whole church meeting?
- ii. What could another person do to make you come back next week?
- iii. As weeks go by, what would make you feel like this church was *your* church, your home?

Personal Reflection:

Do you in reality feel 'at home' at church. Think of what another could do to make you feel more at home. Now why don't you do that for another instead of waiting for someone to do it for you! If we all do it first then not only is that love, it might be done to us!

11. Share in 2s or 3s what areas you need to work on from today's discussion. Pray Eph 4:3 together.

| Topic | I decided then (or now) to work on ... | My success has been ... |
|---|--|---|
| Speaking about others: | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> good |
| Speech that build others up: | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> good |
| I wrote a note of encouragement to another person: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, so I'll write one _____ (when) | | |

My Action Summary: Things I need to personally work on from this week's study ...

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

From Q8: I need to reconcile with someone forget a trivial issue grow in unconditional love

ONE BODY #4

BIBLE STUDIES ON
LIVING TOGETHER AS JESUS' PEOPLE

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Wholesome speech

Some Key Bible Verses for this week:

Ephesians 5:1-2 (fill in the blanks)

1 Be _____ of God, therefore, as dearly _____ children 2 and live a life of _____, just as _____ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Colossians 3:7-8

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.

Ephesians 5:3-4

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:6

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

1 Tim 4:12 [Paul to Timothy]

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Cor 13:5

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Proverbs

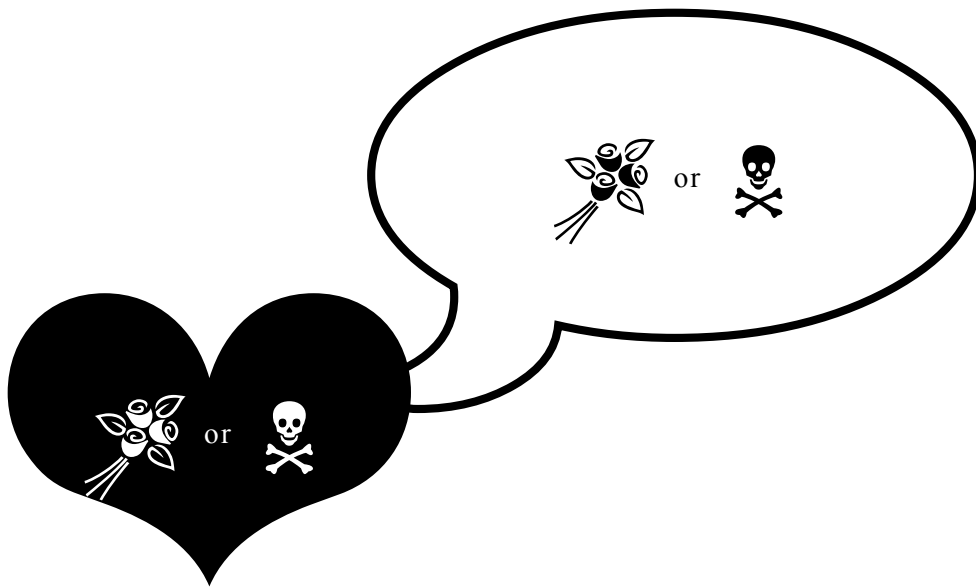
_____ from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies _____ (27:6)

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (15:4)

Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbour and says, "I was only joking!" (26:18-19)

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel (15:18)

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (15:1)



The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.
For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Jeremiah 19:9-10, Matthew 12:34-37

Wholesome speech

ONE BODY

1. Re-read Col 3:7-8, Eph 5:3-4. Together, let's analyse inappropriate language (filthy language).

The source of the problem can be from any of these areas:

1. the feel/impact of the word (sense)
2. thing you are talking about (referent)
3. the motivation or purpose behind the words (drive) *[out of the overflow of the heart ..]*
4. where you say it (context)

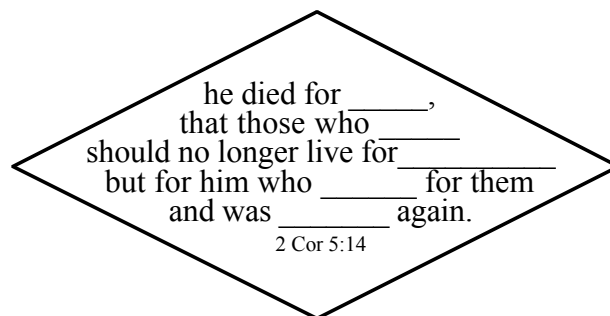
Tick which of the above four areas is the source of the inappropriateness in the following:

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Using the f-word on a fishing trip when alone. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Saying 'It was stuffed!' to a 60 year old. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 'Sh_t' being inappropriate but 'poo' not. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A Prime Minister in Parliament referring to the penis. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yelling 'Oh great!!!' when stuck in traffic. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 'Dam' being offensive to old but not young. | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. What is your response to this idea:

"Listen here mate, 'stuffed' used to be offensive to old people but it isn't offensive to me. Since 'bloody', 'b_gger' and 'sh_t' are not offensive to me or my work-mates, it is OK for me to use them at work or anywhere."

Think about the four areas from question 1.



3. What do you think of the statement:

"But it wasn't a rude joke, because I didn't use any rude words."

4. What does the bible say about coarse joking? (Read Eph 5: 3-4)

What are the other ways we can make people laugh without rude jokes/coarse joking?

5. Is there a problem with humour that revolves around the toilet or sex? Aren't these things just part of the real world we live in daily?? Do any of the four areas from question 1 help us in our thinking?

6. What dangers are there in bagging-out someone?

7. What will happen if we try to replace inappropriate language with 'thanksgiving'?

Eph 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Personal Reflection – Take time alone to think about the following verse:

And I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned. - Matthew 12:36

1. Confess to God
2. Pray and ask God to help you in your conversations/speech.

10. Share in 2s or 3s what areas you need to work on from today's discussion.

| <u>Topic</u> | <u>I decided then (or now) to work on ...</u> | <u>My success has been ...</u> |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Speaking about others: | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> good |
| Speech that build others up: | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> good |
| Unity, love & forgiveness: | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> good |

I still need to reconcile with someone forget a trivial issue grow in unconditional love

I wrote a note of encouragement to another person: Yes No, so I'll write one _____(when)

My Action Summary: Things I need to personally work on from this week's study ...

1. _____
2. _____