

# WATCH YOUR MOUTH: WEEK 4- Gossip

## ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, define gossip?
2. Have you experienced being gossiped and how did you feel about it?

## WORD

### **2 Corinthians 12:20 (NIV)**

*For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.*

Everyone of us have gossiped at some time or another. Sharing information can quickly turn into gossip and this could end up in damaging our relationship. The most deadly part we can do with our mouths is gossiping about someone else. It sneaks up on all of us. It can start as innocently as wanting to pray for someone but before we know it, our good intentions turn into a slander and damage both ourselves and others around us.

Gossip cause people to sin. Its a big deal. Gossip doesn't build the kingdom of God. Both *2 Thessalonians 3:11* & *1 Timothy 5:13* they go house to house they are idle and not busy but busybodies. Busybodies is doing the habit of gossip and cause other people to sin. Gossip divides people. Gossip doesn't edify people. "...gossip separates the best of friends." *Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)* Gossip destroys reputations. Gossip doesn't edify you. *Proverbs 25:9-10 (NLT)* When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. 10 Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation.

### **Proverbs 26:20 (NIV)**

*Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.*

## DISCUSSION

How can you know when a good story about someone crosses the line into sinful gossip?

How can you deal with your own gossip? How can you deal with gossip in others?

## LIFE APPLICATION

### **Acts 1:3-5 (NIV)**

*3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

### **Zephaniah 3:9 (NIV)**

*"Then I will purify the lips of the people, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder."*

Let us allow God to purify our lips through the baptism of fire. The Holy Spirit also is a fire that will purify anything that is not of Jesus. Then He give us power to become Jesus witness.

3 types of Tongues God will give us to do instead of gossiping as the Holy Spirit enables us..

1. Tongue of Evangelism = Builds the Kingdom of God. Acts 2:41

2. Tongue of Prophecy = Builds the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4
3. Tongue of Prayer = Builds the believers

Let us control gossip. How? We are to guard our ears and close our mouths. We are all imperfect people. When we gossip about others, we merely say that we are better than them. Refuse to listen to those who wants to spread gossip. Make a commitment to build others in Christ, not to tear them down. Let us choose to mirror our Lord`s example that only through Him we find strength to overcome gossip because when we are weak , He is strong.

## DISCUSSION

What step do we need to take to fight gossip with the Gospel?

### **VERSE TO MEDITATE ON**

*Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)*

*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.*

*Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)*

*A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.*

## PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.

