



Small Group Discussion Guide

April 30, 2017

Sermon Title:

"3 Keys for a Healthy Marriage: Communication"

Sermon Text: Proverbs 18:21

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:33-37

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: Which evening sounds better to you: You and your spouse watching a movie together? or- You and your spouse having conversation about the events of the week?

Discussion:

1. Our scripture today speaks of the tongue having the power of life and death. Read the following passage and discuss where each are exemplified. **(Ref: Matthew 27:19-22)** Who were the characters involved? What was the outcome?
2. Have you ever been a part of a decision where your words greatly impacted the future of other individuals or families? Symbolically speaking, did your words contain "Life" or "Death"? What are some examples? In some cases, our best use of words may contain either.
3. "Communication" is a very broad topic. Consider these attributes that contribute to how effective our communication may be in our marriages.
 - * **Know your spouse:** How well do you know your spouse? Are you a "student" of them? Do you try to improve on the knowledge you have of him/her so as to better be able to serve them? If you were asked, would you know your spouse's hopes and dreams? (Or how about their favorite color, their favorite meal, favorite movie?)
 - * **Accept and honor gender differences:** There are REAL and SIGNIFICANT differences in the way genders communicate. Women are more verbal (24,000 words a day. Men use appx 12,000). Women love details... Men primarily want facts. Would you agree? Do you see this played out in your marriage? Does it cause any problems?
 - * **Always speak edifying words:** Remember the Proverb... **"life and death"...** Would you care to share an example of either occasion happening in your marriage? Be especially mindful of this if your spouse's love language is "Words of Affirmation." **(Reference: Proverbs 12:18)....** How well are you doing?
 - * **Practice the art of listening:** Men: a word of warning. Men like to "fix" their wife's troubles when sometimes they just need listened to. This is generally true! However, James gives each gender this advice: **(Ref: James 1:19)** Of what value is listening?
4. Here are the 5 Love Languages. How well do you know your spouse? Which is theirs'?
(1) Words of Affirmation **(2)** Quality Time **(3)** Receiving Gifts **(4)** Acts of Service **(5)** Physical Touch. If you don't know, take time to find out. It's important to know!

Closing: Close by praying for each other. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!**