



Small Group Discussion Guide

November 11, 2018

Sermon Title:

"T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak"

Sermon Text: James 3:1-12

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-7

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting. Have someone offer a brief prayer inviting God to speak and lead using the group's discussion.*

Getting Started:

Can you think of a time when your speech got you in trouble? In school? In a family situation? At work? With a friend? Maybe you used your speech to diffuse a difficult situation. Is your speech a significant part of your job? (ck) In what manner?

Discussion:

1. Of all the ways we reveal what is in our heart, our speech has to be one of the most prominent ones. As we consider the great orators in the Bible, does any one specific Preacher/Prophet, message or declaration come to mind? Maybe you can think of several. (If several examples come to mind, mention more than one.)
2. Common observation will reveal how careless we have become with our speech. There was a time when common decency would pressure people to refrain from profanity in public- and CERTAINLY not on the tv or radio. Not so today. Can you think of situations where you have been shocked by such careless language? How did it make you feel?
3. James wrote of the tongue "it is a restless evil full of deadly poison." (**Vs.8**) Can you cite an instance where you have seen this "**deadly poison**" take its toll? Maybe you've been a victim of such an attack. (Share experiences.)
4. A common acrostic gives us a very good pattern with which to filter our speech. Consider these filters to use as we follow the old adage, "Think before you speak."
 - T--is it **TRUE**? We are all searching for truth today. (**Reference: John 18:37**)
 - H-- is it **HELPFUL**? We often ask "**How can I help you?**" Our speech is an easy way!
 - I --is it **INSPIRING**? We can inspire/encourage others w/a simple "**You can do it!**"
 - N-- is it **NECESSARY**? Listening is a great skill. Be certain to exercise it before speaking. Make sure your words "improve upon the silence." (Trapist Monks)
 - K-- is it **KIND**? Remember: "**Truth- without love- is still an attack.**"

Closing: *Close by sharing prayer requests. Pray for each another and for the needs that were shared.* **GO SHARE JESUS!**