

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# What God Says About

### DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss the power of words and what it looks like to speak life giving words to others. Discuss where life-giving words come from.

### ICE BREAKER



Do you have a favorite quote that's impacted you? Share it with the group and why it was so impactful.

### TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

### Passages from the book of Proverbs | ESV

**18:21a** Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

**10:19** When words are many, transgression is not lacking,  
but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

**15:28** The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,  
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

**15:1,4** A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

<sup>4</sup>A gentle tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

**16:24** Gracious words are like a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

**6:16-19** There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:

<sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,

<sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies,  
and one who sows discord among brothers.

**10:31-32** The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

<sup>32</sup> The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,  
but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

**27:5** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big idea: Our words bring life and cause death

Key question: How can we ensure that our words bring life to others?

1. Speak less and listen more. (10:19; 15:28)
2. Speak grace and encouragement. (15:1, 4; 16:24)
3. Speak truth and challenge. (6:16-19; 10:31-32; 27:5)

## DISCUSSION



- Proverbs 18:21a teaches that words can bring both death and life. What are some of the ways you have experienced life-giving words? What are some ways you have experienced words of death?
- Proverbs 10:19 & 15:28 highlight the importance of listening before you speak. Share a time when you or someone else spoke too quickly without listening first. What did you learn from that? Why do you think taking the time to listen before you speak is important?
- The value of speaking with grace and gentleness is found in Proverbs 15:1, 4; 16:24. When have you struggled to respond with a gentle or gracious word? How has a gentle response changed a situation you've experienced?
- Sometimes a truthful word does not feel "life-giving" but is necessary to help correct and grow a sister or brother in Christ (Proverbs 27:5). How can the truth be shared in love? Share a time when you either received or shared a hard truth with someone out of your love for them.
- Read Matthew 12:33-37. According to verse 34, where do our words come from? With this in mind, how can we ensure life-giving, good, words come out of our mouths? Read Psalm 119:9-11. How does this passage relate to the conversation we have been having about the root of life-giving words?

## LIFE APPLICATION



The Proverbs teach us that our words can bring life and cause death. In what ways can your group commit to speaking words that bring life this week? Remember that the source of our words starts from within.

*Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS




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