

Opening Question

What has been your life's most embarrassing moment? Share it with the group?

Big Idea

How we communicate gives us incredible opportunities to spiritually influence others.

Discussion Questions

1. Read James 3:2-12. What does James say about the *"problem"* of the tongue? Which part of these verses do you most closely relate to? What hits home?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15-17. How does Peter say we should treat those who have questions about our faith? Why is this difficult to live out in Canadian culture?
3. Read James 1:19-20. Someone once said that God gave us two ears and one mouth because He designed us to do twice as much listening as we do speaking. This was James' idea before anyone else's (or God's). What does he write in these verses?
4. Read Ephesians 4:29. What four characteristics of our communication does Paul command us to live by? Can you sense ways in which one of these characteristics get violated in your life? (Since Paul is quite thorough, more than one might relate so be careful)
5. As you look back over your communication style - how you normally converse and relate to others - what is one strength and one weakness in your style?
6. What one thing would you like to change about the way you use your tongue?

Prayer

Take some time to pray for each other about the changes you just expressed a desire for. Ask the Holy Spirit for help in this area.

This Week

Make yourself accountable for one action you're going to work at this week and plan to report in at next week's small group about it.

Further Study

Read Proverbs 11-20 over the next week and take note of every time something related to our communication is addressed.

