



## INTRODUCTION

## Part 7 - The Power of Words

The series, Wise Guy, explores wisdom from the biblical book of Proverbs. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation, and He granted the request. We could all use a little more wisdom, insight, knowledge and understanding, too.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, penned the Old Testament book of Proverbs to address our need to know and understand life. His insights can help us navigate relationships, work, pleasure, and a host of other challenging situations.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Words can be very powerful. Can you think of an occasion where someone's positive words had a powerful effect on your life? Can you think of an example where someone's negative words had a negative impact on you?
2. Read Proverbs 12:25. Can you think of a time where someone shared just the right words with you when you needed them? Why do you think words can have such a powerful impact on us?
3. Read Proverbs 10:19 and Proverbs 17:27-28. Why do you think we sometimes dominate conversations? Why do we often say the wrong things at the wrong times? What could help us to be more careful when we are speaking?
4. Read Proverbs 18:13 and James 1:19. Why is it so difficult for us to listen to others sometimes? What do you think James means when he says we should be "quick to hear?"
5. Read Proverbs 15:28 and Proverbs 16:23. Why do we sometimes speak before we think? What are some negative effects of doing so?
6. Jesus said that a person's speech is a reflection of what's inside the heart. Read Philippians 4:8. What are some of the positive things we can think about that might translate into positive speech?
7. Read James 3:1-8. James says the tongue is untamable. Does that mean it's hopeless to try and change how we communicate with others? What are some resources that God has given us to help us "tame the tongue?"
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

Words are powerful. They can be used to build or to destroy. With our words, we hold the ability to encourage other people, to cheer them up, and to build them up, but we also hold the ability to tear other people down.

The quality of our speech is determined by the effect our words have on others. There are practices we can use to get better at using our words for good. What are they? We should: talk less, listen more, think first, and guard our heart.

What comes out of us is a reflection of what we are, and it's also a reflection of what we've put inside of us. It is impossible to always get it right, but we can get better, especially when we are willing to lean on the Holy Spirit to help us. Let's decide to use our words well.

## KEY VERSES

Proverbs 12:25	Proverbs 15:28
Ephesians 4:29-30	Proverbs 16:23
James 3:1-8	Proverbs 4:23
Proverbs 10:19	Matthew 12:34
James 1:19-20	Philippians 4:8
Proverbs 17:27-28	Proverbs 10:11
Proverbs 18:13	