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## INTRODUCTION

### Part 10 - Avoiding Gossip and Slander

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. How would you define "gossip?" What about "slander?"
2. Why do you think people gossip or slander others? Have you been guilty of gossip or slander? Share what happened.
3. Can you think of examples where people have been hurt by the hurtful comments of others? What happened? Were things ever resolved?
4. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. What does this say about how we should speak to other people? Why do you think this would be a good approach?
5. Kevin said, "What we say about others can promote love or separate friends." How does gossip or slander not promote love and instead separates friends?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:1. Why do you think Peter says we need to rid ourselves of slander? What can we do to help us remove these habits from our lives?
7. Kevin suggested that we talk to the right people, about the right things, in the right way. Which of these three things do you have the most trouble with? In what ways can we improve in these three areas in our own lives?
8. How might following this pattern help us as we sort out whether we should or should not listen to someone who wants to share something with us? How might this plan help keep us from spreading slander or gossip?
9. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

What we say about others can promote love or separate friends. What we say to and about people does matter—it shapes relationships, the way we are viewed, and the way people view others.

Gossip and slander should be avoided. Whether done intentionally or unintentionally, or for purposes of control, superiority, to gain attention, boredom, or anger, words matter and can cause damage to reputations and relationships.

There's a right way to talk about the right things to the right people. Doing so, strengthens and improves relationships, and it promotes wisdom, love, and encouragement.

## KEY VERSES

Proverbs 17:9	Ephesians 4:29-32
Proverbs 20:19	Proverbs 15:1
Proverbs 18:8	Philippians 2:14-15
Matthew 18:15-17	1 Peter 2:1
Proverbs 21:23	