

**PRAYER & WORSHIP**Suggested Song: **On my Lips, We speak life****INTRODUCTION**King Solomon wrote Proverbs to offer instruction, wisdom and understanding (**Proverbs Chapters 1:1-4**).**Proverbs 1:**

- 1 *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;*
 2 *To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;*

- **Question:** Can you name 3 parts of the human body the most powerful? (**Get answers**)
- **Today we will study how powerful this small part of our body... let us read the following verses...**
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SCRIPTURE REFERENCE (ASK SOMEONE TO READ LOUD AND CLEAR)**PROVERBS 18:21****"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."****JAMES 3:5-11**

- 5 *"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!*
 6 *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*
 7 *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.*
 8 *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*
 9 *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.*
 10 *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*

- Proverbs has much to say about the use of the tongue, this can both bless and destroy.
- The tongue can do good and evil. Do you agree?
- The tongue is an enormously powerful tool.
- Those who love to speak will eat what they say—for good or for evil.

HOW IS THE TONGUE DESCRIBED ON BOTH SCRIPTURES?

- Tongue is powerful (can kill or give life)
- Small but terrible (**James 3:5**)
- Tongue is like a fire (it destroys, make things hot to handle!)
- Tongue is compared to an animal or beast
- Tongue is evil and is like a poison!

DISCUSSION (- GET ANSWERS -)**1. How do we use our tongue wrongly?**

(ASK THE GROUP TO GIVE THEIR OWN EXAMPLES)

2. By knowing what is the wrong way of using our tongue it will help us to avoid speaking such words.

Following are some examples:

- 1) **Bears false testimony, lying, slandering.** God prohibits His people to lie and testifying falsely against one's neighbor -- **Exodus 20** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

False witnessing cause chaos and make the innocent suffer.

- 2) **Blaming God** when we are tempted to do wrong (**James 1:13-14**).

God never tempts us to sin; temptation arises when a man is lured away by his own lust.

- 3) **Blaspheming God.** Many people are careless with their words, even taking the Lord's name in vain (OMG, "Jesus Christ", etc.).



Ex. 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

- 4) **Swearing.** People swear using God's name to make themselves trustworthy or believable, this should be avoided!

James 5:12 "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.)

- 5) **Speaking hypocritically (James 1:26).** It is easy to do this, and what a terrible statement about this very thing is found in **Titus 1:16** "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

- 6) **Expressing discrimination** between rich and poor fellow-believers. Discrimination between people's color, background, race and status in life.

- 7) **Boasting and flattering,** thus causing a destructive fire (**James 3:5**). Just one word can cause a family upset or division in a church;

James 3:14 "But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."

- 8) **Grumbling against each other (James 4:12; 5:9).**

3. Why do we need to choose the words we utter?

Our speech will bring either blessing or cursing from both God and men, in both time and eternity. That is why we must learn to guard our words.

James 3:9-10 "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."

4. What are the effects if we use unwholesome words?

- It will not please God

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,

A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- The words have the power to destruct a relationship (Marriage, Parents, Friends, etc.)

Proverbs 15:1-2 "A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

5. How to control our tongue?

According to **James 3:3-5** "Indeed, we put **bits in horses' mouths** that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at **ships**: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are **turned by a very small rudder** wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

Like how the bits to control the horse and how the rudder (though small) controls the big ships, a tongue is really small but powerful, **so we must:**

- Rely, dedicate your heart & tongue to our Lord. – Speaking the Word of God is to make the decision for a positive result.

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

- Be responsible in every word you speak. – The words that you tell to yourself & to those around you can have a direct impact.

Matthew 12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment."

- Learn to speak words that can edify and encourage.

6. What are the blessings in using the words wisely?

- We walk and speak in the power of the Holy Spirit, we defeat the enemy.
- We abide in Christ, His Spirit flows from our lives in word and actions everywhere we go.
- It can edify - Sincere compliments and words of affirmation strengthen people's positive traits.
- Speaking positively can change the way you see life and can change your circumstances.

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

LIFE GROUP LESSON: **SPECIAL TOPICS**
SPECIAL TOPICS CATEGORY: WISDOM LESSONS
LESSON NUMBER: **ST-C02**
"POWER OF THE TONGUE"

GCCI-2020



APPLICATION / REFLECTION

1. According to **James 3:10** *“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”*

We have to **make up our mind** on how we will use our tongue, for good or for evil... **IT CANNOT BE BOTH!**

When the thoughts of your heart is focus on what is good and true, your words will reflect it, bringing honor to God and to others.

2. Let our words (including our **social media account**, etc.) be characterized by self-control, graciousness, other-centeredness, kindness, honesty, purity, and other virtues.

Let it never become harsh, critical, immoral, coarse, prideful, and the like.

3. **Speak Life** – The meaning behind in speaking life is that you have a God given power. You have the power to shape your destiny with your words.
4. The power of life and death is in the tongue. *Speak as if your words are seeds that will be sown.*

SHARING

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Can you consider your tongue a blessing or a curse?
2. In what way have you used your tongue lately?
3. How about our **social media account** – it is an extension of our tongue, how are we using it?
4. Are you speaking life or death on your situation?

ASK THE GROUP, WHAT THEY HAVE LEARN ABOUT THE LESSON.