

WISE ABOUT WORDS

Part 4 of GET SMART
The Cornerstone Youth Group. August 20, 2025.

INTRODUCTION

Our Words Have a Massive Impact

Today, we're continuing our teaching on wisdom.

God wants to help us be wise so that we can live successfully. Wisdom comes from God, so we should listen to what he tells us. The Book of Proverbs was written to help us use wisdom in the situations we face.

Today, I want us to learn what the Book of Proverbs teaches about our words, what we say, and how we say it.

The bottom line of this teaching is: Words have massive power to heal or to hurt.

Proverbs 12:18 (CSB) There is one who speaks rashly, like a piercing sword; but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

We can use our words to help people or to cut them like a sword. A wise person once said,

"Be careful with your words. Once they are said, they can be only forgiven, not forgotten." – Unknown

Can you think of a time when words helped you or hurt you?

SMALL GROUPS

Each group will study the following verses in Proverbs 15. For each verse, answer three questions:

1. How would you rewrite this Proverb in your own words? (What does the Proverb say?)
2. How should we apply this Proverb today? (What does this Proverb mean?)
3. What is one action I can take to apply this Proverb to my life this week? (What does this Proverb mean for me?)

Proverbs 15:1 (CSB) A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

Proverbs 15:2 (CSB) The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.

Proverbs 15:4 (CSB) The tongue that heals is a tree of life, but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 15:22-23 (CSB) Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. 23 A person takes joy in giving an answer; and a timely word — how good that is!

Proverbs 15:28 (CSB) The mind of the righteous person thinks before answering, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things.

Proverbs 15:30 (CSB) Bright eyes (the eyes of a messenger with good news to share) cheer the heart; good news strengthens the bones.

DEBRIEF

1. How would you summarize God's wisdom concerning our words?
2. What are some specific actions you plan to take to apply this wisdom in your life?
3. If you have hurt someone with your words, what can you do about it?

Psalms 51:1-2 (CSB) Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love; according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. 2 Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

1 John 2:1-2 (CSB) if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ the righteous one. 2 He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

4. If someone has helped you with their words, what can you do in return?
5. If someone has hurt you with their words, what can you do to move on or find healing?

Proverbs 19:11 (CSB) A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (CSB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our affliction...

Psalms 147:3: He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.