

MOOREBANK & HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCH

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Passage: Proverbs 12

The power to bring life – Proverbs 18:21 & 11:30

1. Do you think that your speech has the power to bring life to people? Why / why not?
2. Think about your own journey of coming to Christ. Did someone invite you to hear a talk? Did they talk about Jesus with you themselves? Who did you hear the gospel from?
3. When you talk with someone about Jesus Christ, do you think about that in terms of bringing life to someone?

The power to bring healing – Proverbs 12:18; 16:24

4. Life quickly teaches us of the power of words. Passages like James 3 and Jesus' words in Matthew 15 confirm our experience. Why is it difficult to speak in a way that blesses people? Who is the only person who has never spoken rashly or had cause to regret his words?
5. Proverbs promises us that 'the tongue of the wise brings healing'. Think about the power of an apology – what is the impact of including 'if', 'but' or 'maybe'?

The power to damage and wound – Proverbs 12:22; 17:20; 18:6-7; 21:6

6. Why is deceit so damaging to relationships? What changes would you make if you wanted to have more honest speech with your kids, spouse, family or friends?

Characteristics of wise speech

7. Pick one of the following characteristics of wise speech. Which one would you like to work on in the next week? Pray and ask for God's help for honouring Christ in this area.
 - Gentle - Proverbs 15:1
 - Humble - Proverbs 27:1-2
 - Restrained - Proverbs 17:27; see also 14:29, 15:18, 16:32, 29:20, 17:14.
 - Discreet - Proverbs 18:8; 11:13

MOOREBANK & HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Guard your speech

22 July 2018 – Proverbs 12

The power to bring life

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

The power to bring healing

Proverbs 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Three ruinous words: If, but, maybe...

The power to damage and wound

Proverbs 18:6-7 A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. ⁷ A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

Proverbs 17:20 A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble.

Proverbs 21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare

Proverbs 12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

Characteristics of wise speech

- Gentle - Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- Humble - Proverbs 27:1-2
- Restrained - Proverbs 17:27; see also 14:29, 15:18, 16:32, 29:20, 17:14.
- Discreet - Proverbs 18:8; 11:13

The source of wise speech