

Lost in **TRANSLATION**

February 4th, 2018

THE WIN

Group Members will begin to identify areas in their life that their words create a negative, and destructive, environment. Then, groups will begin to see the value of creating a habit of encouraging one another.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the sermon this week, we learned our words have a powerful effect in shaping the people, and environments, around us. How we choose to use our words can either lead to the destruction of relationships, or the growth of others. However, when we choose to speak life through words of encouragement, we are cultivating new meaningful relationships with one another.

- Have you ever been negatively impacted by the words of another?
- In what ways can words speak life into a situation?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Ask:

- What is one thing that you value and admire about the person picked?

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Read: Ephesians 4:24-5:3

Ask This:

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- According to the passage, why should we watch the things we say and do?
 - Why does the passage say to not let any unwholesome speak come from your mouth?
 - Do you see any form of speech mentioned that you frequently use instead of affirmation?
 - Why do we tend to respond to negative moments in our lives in these ways?

Read: James 1:19-21

- You are driving down the road and a driver, pulling out from their driveway, fails to notice you and backs into your car. The driver gets out, clearly frustrated because they are going to be late to an important meeting, and is ready to push the blame to you for not seeing them backing out.
- Or, you are working on a group project at work, that's success or failure, will affect the overall evaluation of each member. As you get to the week the project is due, you go and ask a group member how they are doing on the project. Turns out, they have very little done and what they have is not their best work. How they perform will directly affect the review of everyone on the group.

Ask This:

- How would you normally respond in this situation? Why might we want to respond differently?
- Why does anger not produce the righteousness of God? How does that apply to these situations?

Re-Read: James 3:2-10, Matthew 15:17

Ask This:

- How easy is it to control the spread and impact a misspoken, or negative comment, can make?
- What does our harmful words reveal about our hearts?

DIGGING DEEPER

3-5
minutes

Challenge: Think of a person in your life that causes you great amounts of stress or anger. With your accountability partner, form a plan to encourage that person this week. This could be just a compliment about something they did, or something you like about them. This will start breaking down our hard hearts towards those that are far from God and begin making us more like Christ.

CLOSING THOUGHT

3-5
minutes

STUDY

“Christ’s death was the full recompense of God on every hurt you’ve ever received from a fellow Christian. So, a grudge is against the cross.”

-John Piper