

How to Be a Wise Guy

Studies in Proverbs

Mightier than the Sword

Introduction to "Using Our Words Wisely" from Proverbs



Using God's Wisdom to Make Life Work

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In 1839 English novelist Edward Lytton wrote, "Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword." It was his belief, with which most of us would agree, that most great disputes get resolved more fully by words rather than weapons. This truth shows the importance of using our words wisely. In our Proverbs study this week we see the power that our words have. Because they are one of the primary tools we have for building quality relationships, our words can bring life, as opposed to death, to our lives. By the wise use of our tongue we can experience wholeness and joy in life, and also open the door for opportunities and blessings. Our speech also has the power to bring stability

to us and give us a sense of satisfaction when they achieve the intended result. When we speak wisely to others we are also able to facilitate healing and provide comfort and encouragement to them. With this kind of power, we must discover, then, the wise and unwise uses of our words. When we use our tongue wisely we will bring truth into others' lives and seek to bless them with our words. On the other hand, when we use our words unwisely we will lie, manipulate, and deceive. Furthermore, our words can abuse others through slander, condescension and gossip. We can verbally injure them as we rashly "thrust" our words into

them in angry outbursts. Finally, we must consider the process for becoming people who habitually bless others with our words. This starts on the inside, as we purify our hearts with a sincere love of God and others. We must commit to inward truth, and continually meditate on God's word. As we do these things we will discover that our words are mightier than even the sword.

Daily Questions for Using Our Words Wisely

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader_resources))

<p>1. Read 10:11, 12:14, and 12:19. What do the words of righteous people give to people? Why do you think that is true?</p>	
<p>2. Look at 12:18 and 12:25. Specifically, how do our words bless others? How does that work?</p>	
<p>3. Based on 11:11, 12:17, and 15:7, what are some wise uses of our speech? How would you specifically apply this in your life?</p>	

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“Using Our Words Wisely” Study Questions (cont)

4. As you look at 12:18, 15:28 and 25:9, what are 3 cautions we must use as we talk? Why?

5. Read 14:5. What is the basic misuse of the tongue, and from this verse, why is it so bad?

6. Using 20:14, 23:6-8 and 29:5, what are the various forms that “indirect” lying takes? Why are each of these so damaging to others?

7. Based on 17:5 and 17:9, what are some other ways to verbally abuse others? How do we do this in everyday life?

8. Looking at 16:23 and 22:11 what is beneficial speech connected to? How can you work on this?

9. According to 4:24 what advance decision must we make to use our tongue wisely? How would this impact your life?

10. From 22:17-21 what must we fill our minds with if we are to use our tongues beneficially? Why is this true?

11. Thinking back about the power of our words, and their wise use, what will you stop doing, and what will you start doing, to become a person who blesses others with your words?

Scripture to Remember

“The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.”

Proverbs 10:11 (NIV)

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*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions—The Wisdom of Diligence

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. How do you usually tackle projects—put them off as long as you can, start well-but finish slowly, or attack them until they're done?
2. Think about someone you would characterize as diligent. What are some of their characteristics? How would you define “diligence” based on Proverbs?
3. Which is more difficult for you—self-motivation, acting immediately, or finishing? What are some of the excuses you use, or ways the “9 out of 10” principle works in your life?
4. Talk about some ways to apply diligence in your relationship with God, with your family, with your neighbors, with friends, and at work.
5. Of the 5 things needed to develop diligence—setting your heart on it, saying “no” to laziness, seeking others' support, deciding now, or surrendering—which do you need to work on most?
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.