

MAIN POINT

The book of Proverbs speaks about the power of the tongue more than any other issue. Every word matters to God.

INTRODUCTION

How have you been encouraged by the words of another?

What are some words you have used in the past that you quickly regretted?

The Bible has much to say in both the Old and New Testaments about the power of the tongue. The Bible continually teaches that the tongue is hard to tame. Today we'll look to God's wisdom in Proverbs to learn how we can use our words in ways that bring glory to God rather than shame to ourselves and pain to others. We avoid being dumb when we remember that every word matters to God.

DISCUSSION

> **READ PROVERBS 10:11,19; 12:19,22; 17:4; 18:8,21.**

Collectively, how do these proverbs speak to the power of the tongue? What good can it do? What harm can it cause?

Why do you think gossip is so attractive?

What steps can we take to avoid malicious talk?

> **READ PROVERBS 10:21; 12:22,25; 13:3; 14:23; 20:15; 31:8-9.**

What are some ways we can impart God's wisdom to others through our speech?

How can opening our mouths lead to personal ruin?

When have you seen an encouraging word ease someone's anxiety?

Why do you think God reserves such strong language for the sin of lying?

What kind of damage can be done by lying?

How can our speech be used instead to deliver justice?

What exactly is "endless talk"? In what ways does endless talk get in the way of hard work?

In what situations do you need to be more careful about listening before you speak?

How can you use your speech to help or encourage someone today?

APPLICATION

What are some specific steps you can take to develop a pattern of speech that honors God?