

# Scripture this week:

## Proverbs 18:21

<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.

## Proverbs 12:6

<sup>6</sup> The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,  
but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

## Proverbs 12:13-14

<sup>13</sup> An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,  
but the righteous escapes from trouble.  
<sup>14</sup> From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good,  
and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

## Proverbs 12:18-19

<sup>18</sup> There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,  
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.  
<sup>19</sup> Truthful lips endure forever,  
but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

## Proverbs 12:22

<sup>22</sup> Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,  
but those who act faithfully are his delight.

## Sticks & Stones: Using Words to Encourage

Proverbs 18:21; 12:6, 13-14, 18-19, 22

Todd Chapman - October 4, 2020

**Words have astounding power.**

**Words can be Death.**

**Words can be Life**

## Notes:

### *Life Group Discussion Questions*

Based on Proverbs 18:21; 12:6, 13-14, 18-19, 22

#### Getting Started

1. How have you seen the power of words demonstrated in your life? How have they been used positively? And how have they been used negatively?
2. How do you tend to use words? Are you a person of few words or many? Is it easier for you to compliment others or offer critique? (Both can be useful and both can be abused.)
3. How do you decide when to interject truth and when to keep it to yourself? What are the factors and what are the outcomes you are hoping for?

#### Digging into the Text

4. Read Proverbs 12:6, 13-14, 18-19, 22, and 26, and answer these questions:
  - What is the main idea of these verses?
  - Based on this text, how are wisdom and truth-telling related?
  - In v.22 "*those who act faithfully are his (God's) delight*", how is the truth connected to '*acting faithfully*' and why is it so important to God?
  - What are the consequences of not being committed to the truth?

#### Applying It to My Life

5. Looking at Proverbs 18:21, what does it look like for words to bring life? Where are there opportunities for your words to bring more life?
6. Are there relationships in your life where someone consistently uses words to tear down, discourage, misrepresent, or gossip? How can you use words wisely in those situations?
7. Think of a relationship in your life where you struggle to use your words well? How can we be praying for each other and for those situations?