



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Proverbs: “Your Words Matter!”

GETTING STARTED

Who has spoken the most [positive] thing(s) into your life?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Proverbs 25:11-13]

What was the best you ever received and who gave it to you?

At the time did you appreciate it, or did it make you angry?

Do you generally receive criticism well? Do you receive criticism better from certain people? If so, why?

Look at Proverbs 12:18 and 25:11-13. Generally speaking, is it easier for you to make cutting remarks or offer words of healing?? Are there times when you deliberately reach out to those you know are hurting or suffering to offer a word of comfort, even when it's totally inconvenient for you?

Are you your worst critic? Do you tend to put yourself down even before others have an opportunity to? Look at Jeremiah 29:11 and Ephesians 2:10 and Romans 5:1; 8:1-2. If God isn't condemning you, why are you? Do you realize you are playing into the hands of the enemy by doing so?

Look at Proverbs 25:6-7. Have you ever promoted yourself too soon and then gotten embarrassed? Do you anyone who loves to brag on themselves, or puff themselves up at the expense of putting others down? How do you feel after being in their presence for even a short time? Using words in this way is never good.

What type of response from God do you think you're setting yourself up for when grumbling – especially God and His blessings? Does grumbling look good on a true disciple of Christ? Do you realize you could be digging your own grave through incessant grumbling?

When was the last time you found yourself intentionally praising God in the midst of a very trying or difficult situation? Is praise your initial response typically or grumbling? | Thessalonians 5:18 James 1:2-3

Have your current relationships lately been enhanced or hindered by your words?

Do you take a second to consider what you're about to say (and your tone of voice) before you say it, or do you just go for it?

Was there a time or a moment in your life when your praise broke the chains of discouragement and defeat and brought down the walls of opposition?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?