

Godly Conversation

I'm excited & nervous about this class. As you can already tell, it's custom made & it isn't like my normal classes. I don't know what to expect, I'm already disappointed with my inability to get sheets out quicker. The topic was chosen because it seems to be a major issue for why marriages have failed, parenting has gone astray, churches have split, & any other number of organizations or businesses have struggled.

Please pray for our class & do your best to come prepared to contribute to the conversation & learning. Obviously, we can learn more about the bible from your answers, but we also enjoy learning more about YOU, our spiritual family members.

Let's start by learning this: I chose this class because I need it. This class is an attempt to work on my own flaws & if others benefit along the way that'll be great. My prayer is that we all away better prepared to handle speech in a way that glorifies God.

1) Conversation Defined	Oct 4
2-3) Proverbs & The Tongue (2 Parts)	Oct 11 & 18
4) Other OT Passages On Speech?	Oct 25
5) Jesus & The Tongue	Nov 1
6-7) James & The Tongue (2 Parts)	Nov 8 & 15
8) Other NT Passages & The Tongue?	Nov 22
9) Learning From Outside Resources?	Nov 29
10-13) How to Have Hard Conversations?	Dec 6, 13, 20, 27

1) Conversation Defined

Define conversation.

Does it involve one person or more?

How did God create the world? How did John describe creation in John 1:1-18?

How did Our Creator interact with Adam & Eve? Were there other options?

What do Proverbs 12:1, 15; 15:12, 32 say about hating reproof? What is reproof?

What does Proverbs 13:3 say about our conversation? Should we remain silent?

Does Proverbs speak more about how we speak OR how we listen?

Are both speaking well & listening well skills that disciples must work on?

How does God feel about pride? How does humility impact conversations?

What warning does Jesus give about conversation in Matt 12:33-37?

Poll: What conversations do you find most difficult?

Family members who've fallen away? Co-workers regarding religion?

Disagreements with adult kids? Disagreement with aging parents?

Discussions about Race/Ethnicity? Politics? Cultural movements: Sexual/gender ethics?

2-3) Proverbs & The Tongue (2 Lessons)

What does Proverbs 18:21 say about speech?

How many of the abominations listed in 6:16-19 are connected with words?

List all the things one can learn about communication in Ch 18?

What type of fool is described in 10:8, 10? What happens to them?

What is said about lip & words in 10:11-14? What about 10:17-20? 10:31-32?

Describe the destruction caused by words in 11:9-13.

What will wise lips do according to 12:17-23?

What advice about words can be found in 14:7, 23?

What is the famous advice of 15:1-4? How might we break people's spirit?

How are words connected to strife in 15:18? How will the righteous differ? 15:28

What kinds of words are found with the righteous in 16:13?

What do we learn about persuasive words in 16:21-24?

What kind of listening is described in 17:4, 10? How is silence good in 17:27-28?

How can communication affect a marriage according to 19:13 & 21:9, 19?

What does 19:20 & 27 say about listening? How can reproof help us? 19:25

Who does 20:19 say not to associate with? What is said of hasty speech in 20:25?

What type of self-control is advised in 21:23?

How might gracious speech benefit us according to 22:11?

How can our lips be ready to speak according to 22:17-18 & 23:15-18?

Why should we be willing to listen to counsel from others? 24:6

Are there any others from Ch 25-31 that our class needs to know about?

4) Other OT Passages On Speech

What does Job teach about the tongue?

How does Ecclesiastes teach about the tongue?

What sinful speech does Psm 5:4-6; 75:2-5 warn about?

How does Jeremiah recommend a usually sinful practice in Jer 9:23-24?

What was commanded regarding sin & speech in Num 5:6-7?

Are there any other laws on speech in The Law of Moses?

What OT stories illustrate good or bad speech?

In 1 Sam 10-12, what are some positive examples of speech in Samuel?

What types of speech helped Nehemiah achieve success in Ch 1-3?

How does 1 Cor 10:10 identify a common type of sinful speech in Israel?

5) Jesus & The Tongue

What did they find Jesus doing in The Temple in Lk 2:41-52?

How did Jesus reject the temptations of Satan?

How does the Sermon on the Mount address speech?

What did the centurion in Mt 8:5-13 believe about Jesus' power?

How did Jesus often do His miracles? Mt 8:3, 32; Mk 4:39, 7:34; Lk 8:54; Jn 11:43

What did Jesus say was His mission in Jn 7:16, 12:48-50?

How did He say the Holy Spirit would speak in Jn 16:13-15?

Why did Jesus' teaching attempt fail in Mt 13:53-58?

What steps does Jesus command for resolving being sinned against? Mt 18

What parables of Jesus can apply to how we communicate?

Did Jesus ever rebuke Peter for being too quick to speak?

What are some of your favorite moments when Jesus silences the crowds?

6-7) James & The Tongue (2 Lessons)

After reading James, what did you notice about speech?

What type of speech can bring us wisdom? 1:5

What does 1:19-20 say does NOT please God?

How does 1:26 describe a worthless religion?

Is there a danger in merely wishing someone well? 2:16

How would you summarize the warnings of 3:1-12?

What does 3:13-18 say demonstrates wisdom from above?

Why were their quarrels according to 4:1-3, 11-12?

Is there a danger in speaking about future plans? 4:12-16

How might 5:4-5 might be a problem of poor listening?

Why should we be “people of our word” according to 5:12?

What type of speech is encouraged for the cheerful & suffering? 5:13

What type of speech is needed for those who’ve committed sin? 5:15-16

What speech is encouraged in 5:19-20 & why is it so powerful?

8) Other NT Passages About The Tongue

How was the problem of Acts 6 solved?

How was the problem of Acts 15 worked out?

What example does Apollos set for us on speech? Acts 18

What can we learn from Peter's LETTERS about speech?

Did Paul believe his words came from God?

Does he ever separate out his advice from God?

How might his instruction on parenting in Eph 6 affect our speech?

What are some other passages from Paul on our speech?

What was Barnabas' nick-name? Did he ever make mistakes?

9) Learning from Outside Resources:

What are some sources that have helped your speech?

What specifically did they advise that helped your speech?

If you'd like to read & give a brief report on the following books, please do so:

Five Love Languages (wide variety of versions) by Gary Chapman

Boundaries Face to Face by Henry Cloud & John Townsend

Crucial Conversations by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, & Switzler

If I Had One Opportunity Edited by Dan Petty

Confronting Without Offending by Deborah S. Pegues

If you'd like to give a brief report on a different book, please prepare to do so.

10) Hard Conversations

There are several types of difficult conversations we'll face in life. For upcoming classes we want to role play some scenarios that you would find particularly challenging. In an earlier class we will vote which of these make up our Top 3. We will attempt to hand out additional sheets about these later.

An Unfaithful Adult Child

A Parent Who Doesn't Believe

A Devout Religious Neighbor

A Preacher That Is Careless In Speech

An Indifferent Neighbor

A Co-Worker Who Is a Skeptic

A Spouse Who Has Committed Adultery

An Elder Who Is No Longer Qualified