

Study G: Communicating Biblically

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
Eph. 4:29

Why: Reasons for the study

- Words are a primary means by which you relate to your Heavenly Father and to every person you encounter.
- God has a biblical way for us to communicate and relate to each other.

What: Principles to grasp

- Our words have great power to build up or to tear down others.
- Our words reveal what is in our hearts.
- Our ungodly communication is usually a manifestation of deeper sins.
- Attentive listening and gracious words will flow from a mind and heart that are submitted to the Lord!
- To speak wisely and to listen carefully conveys love, respect and concern for another.

How: Path to a changed life

- To evaluate both the words they use and the way they listen
- To connect how they communicate with how they are honoring and submitting to God
- To realize how acceptance or lack of acceptance of God's control over others' lives impacts how they communicate

Tips: Helpful ideas

- Assign the contrast between *The Poor Listener* and *The Good Listener* as an evaluation checklist and possible confession/reconciliation list.
- Use *Daily Log* to record times they praised spouse and/or children if encouraging words are not a habit. (ctousa.org/tools/resources/charts and outlines)