



45 .... What you say flows from what is in your heart. Luke 6:45 (NLT)

### The **definition of gossip:**

- To talk idly about others or the affairs of others.

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him... 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. Proverbs 6:16,19 (NIV)

### **Why God hates gossip:**

- We're making His kids look bad.

8 The words of a gossip are like tasty bits of food. People like to gobble them up. Proverbs 18:8 (NCV)

- It exposes the darkness of the human heart.

9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? 10 But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. ..." Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NLT)

- It doesn't reflect Jesus.

13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others... 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.... Colossians 3:13,15 (NLT)

### **Overcoming Gossip:**

- Am I treating others the way I want to be treated?

12 "Do to others what you want them to do to you... Matthew 7:12 (NCV)

13 A gossip goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them. Proverbs 11:13 (TLB)

Resolve: My words will protect people.

- Is my conversation helpful or hurtful?

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up... Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Everything that is said should be true,

But not everything true must be said.

6 Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out. Colossians 4:6 (MSG)

Resolve: My words will benefit people.

- Am I making private matters public?

12 It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet. A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence. Proverbs 11:12-13 (NLT)

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. Proverbs 10:12 (ESV)

Resolve: I will be a trustworthy friend.

3 Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips. Psalm 141:3 (NLT)

7 All my enemies whisper about me and think the worst about me. Psalm 41:7 (NCV)

- Am I permitting others to gossip?

4 Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander. Proverbs 17:4 (NLT)

If someone will gossip to you they will gossip about you.

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love to talk will have to eat their own words. Proverbs 18:21 (GWT)

Resolve: My words will be life to others.

4 Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, Christians have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect. Ephesians 5:4 (MSG)

### **Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754**

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:  
*These questions also work well for your personal time with God.*

- What spoke most to you from Sundays Talk? Explain.
- Has someone gossiped about you, and if so, how did that make you feel?
- Do you find gossip to be a temptation? Why do you think we are drawn to gossip?
- Do you feel that gossip is fundamentally wrong? Why?
- Why do you think God hates gossip? Explain.
- Do you think Jesus gossiped? (If yes, you better be able to show a scripture..lol)
- How does gossip go against the nature of God?
- Read Luke 6:45. What does this scripture reveal to you about the nature and source of gossip?
- Which of the "Overcoming Gossip" points will you really try to work on?
- Which of the listed "resolves" will you really ask God to help you with?
- Proverbs 18:21 says that the tongue has the power of life and death. What does that mean to you?

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