

LIKE
JESUS



- God's goal for my life is to **make me like Jesus**.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

Whatever the challenge you find yourself in, God has a **reason** the season.

We have to **want** to be like Jesus.

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:10 (NLT)

If we want to **act** like Jesus we have to first **be** like Jesus.

Values give you **priorities** to live out.

Review:

- Being like Jesus is not a matter of **willpower** but **God's** power.
- Being like Jesus is a **heart** issue, the behavior will take care of itself.

Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say, Psalm 139:4 (CEV)

My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:9-12 (CEV)

- How we use our words **matters** to God.

...with our tongues we speak both praises and curses....this isn't right. James 3:9a (CEV)

- We speak of God's greatness in how we speak of His **creation**.

We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. James 3:10 (CEV)

- Our words reveal **who** we are.

Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:11-12 (CEV)

If we want our words to reflect Jesus:

- We need to deal with the **source** of our words.

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Matthew 12:34 (NLT)

The condition of our **heart** defines what we say and how we say it.

A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart. Matthew 12:35(NLT)

Our **heart** shapes our words and then our words shape our **lives**.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

The real problem isn't our **tongue**, it's our **heart**.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:7-8 (NIV)

How we change our words:

- Allow God to **change my heart**.

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10 (TLB)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD... Psalm 19:14 (NLT)

- Put a **filter** on what I **allow in my heart**.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

- Allow life to fill my **heart** so life can fill my **words**.

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose. Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

Words of **affection**.

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

Words of **grace**.

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Words of **healing**.

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life... Proverbs 15:4 (NIV)

We want our words to communicate:

A heart of **faith**.

A heart of **love**.

A heart of **surrender** to God.

Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say. Psalm 141:3 (NIV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think it's easy for us to dismiss the importance of our words? Explain
- As you reflect on your life, do you see yourself becoming more like Jesus through the years? Explain.
- Do you think it's important that we should "want" to be like Jesus? Why?
- Why do our words matter to God?
- Again, this is not "Behavior modification". What are some of the values in Jesus' life that shaped his words? How would our words change if we would share his same values?
- Do you find it to be true that our heart shapes our words and then our words shape our lives? Why is that true?
- How do you allow God to change your heart? (What does that mean and look like?)
- Are there filters you need to put on your heart?
- How can we speak words of grace and healing to others?
- Do you communicate faith, love and surrender to God? What does that look like in your life?

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