

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Read Proverbs 18:20-21: How have you experienced the results of your words leading to satisfaction/life or reproach/death? How have you experienced peace and joy from speaking life? What are some hindrances that limit you from pursuing words leading to life?
- b) What comes to the mind when thinking that our words have power (Read James 4:4-6 as you think through the question)?
- c) What comes to mind when thinking our words matter (Read Matthew 12:34-37 as you think through the question)? Why do we tend to minimize the gravity of our words?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Given the Genesis 1-2 creation story, Pst. Jamie mentioned that our ability to speak shows that we are made in the image of God. So, how have you seen God's word working in your life and the church? What fears or lifestyle hinders you from wisely managing (controlling) the gift of speaking God has given you?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) What comes to mind when thinking that our words can be redeemed? In other words, how has Christ redeemed our words from death to life (Read James 3:10-12 as you think through the question)?
- b) What distractions and situations hinder us from choosing to speak life since we have been redeemed to the Father through the blood of Jesus?
- c) Since we have been redeemed from futile ways through Christ's ransoming works (Eph 4:17-20), how can His work influence how we speak to one another (Eph 4:25-26)?

APPLICATION

- a) We must understand that believers are called to understand that wise use of words is not a door but a path that takes a growth process. This pathway involves:
 - 1. Resisting words and gossip that stir division, malice, or strife (see 18:6-7)
 - 2. Resisting to speak words unfitting for an occasion and rashly irrational/unneedful for a situation (see 18:13)
 - 3. Resisting insulting words and avoiding the temptation to be quiet when our voice matters (15:1).
 - 4. Read Ephesians 4:25, 29-30 & 5:4. Which practice(s) are you struggling with? Which practice(s) do you need to grow in?

PRAYER

- Praise God for His creation and the gift of His Word and speaking
- Confess how you have spoken unfitting words to others or yourself.
- Thank God for the redemptive work of Christ that redeems your speech and gives hope that our words matter eternally.
- Ask God to help you pursue wise use of words.