

Standalone Message—Pastor Rick Bezet

Big Idea

Our words matter so much more than we think so we really have to be careful about how we use them. We need to recognize that the power of life and death is in our tongue and use it to bring life to those around us! Three reasons to watch what we say are that our tongues direct where we are going, they can destroy what we have and they display who we are. Under pressure, what is inside of us will come out. We want those words to be salt and light, not a wrecking ball. We can do three things to help direct our tongues to speak words of life: pause, ponder and pray. If we wait for a moment before speaking, we can make sure that what we say is what we really want to say. We must also think about the ramifications of what we say and consider how our words will affect those around us. And we need to cover our words in prayer, asking God to help us speak life into the lives of our family and friends.

“Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit – you choose.” - Proverbs 18:21 MSG

Discussion Questions

- Re-read the above passage of Scripture from the Message. How do you feel when you hear this verse? Talk about what it means to you.
- Talk about a time when a situation in your life changed because someone spoke words of life over you.
- Pastor Rick gave us three steps to help us effectively filter our words. He says before responding we should pause, ponder and pray about what we plan to say. What practical steps can you take this week to apply this approach more consistently?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to show you the people in your life with whom you have not been life-giving. Ask for forgiveness and pray that God would give you words to speak over those people in order to reverse the words of death that you have spoken in the past. Pray that God would help you control your tongue and be intentional about your words. Confess that you cannot tame your tongue without the power of the Holy Spirit and make a commitment to the Lord that, by His power, you will speak life over those close to you.

Next Steps

Practice pausing, pondering and praying before speaking this week. Consider your words carefully before you talk. Intentionally speak life-giving words over your spouse and family this week and take note of their response.

Leader Tip

When ministering the people in your group, remember ESPN.

- Encourage
- Share Scripture
- Pray
- Next Steps