

# PROVERBS

## Week 6: Wisdom and Words

**Primary Passages:** Proverbs 18:21; Proverbs 12:18

**Related Passages:** Proverbs 15:4, James 3:3-12, Matthew 12:33-37

*"I consider looseness with words no less of a defect than looseness of the bowels."*

- John Calvin

### LifeGroup Study Guide:

**Recap:** Have someone read Proverbs 18:21 and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

- Where have you seen examples of speech (yours or others) that gives life or takes life? Practically and theologically, why do you think our words are so powerful?
- Are there any situations in life where words are regularly taking a toll on you?

**Read Proverbs 12:18.** Use the following prompts to take some assessment of your words:

- What's your ratio of affirmation to criticism?

- Consider the people God has made a major part of your life: your roommates, spouse, close friends and/or children. How are you intentionally trying to use your words to help them thrive? Where are you failing to speak helpful truth or using your words to harm?
- Are you more likely to fail to say what you need to, or fail by saying what you don't need to? (i.e. Do you tend to be cowardly quiet, or run-your-mouth foolish?)
- When are you most likely to be harsh in an answer? What circumstances and arenas of life give you less wisdom and ability to speak in grace?

**Immediate Application:** Take 2-3 minutes right now to encourage and speak life into each other's souls. Questions to consider:

1. How has God uniquely wired this person?
2. Where have you seen God at work in his/her life?
3. How has God used this person to help you grow?
4. Is there a word that God has spoken as true of us in the gospel that could be particularly encouraging to this lifegroup member? (Consider Romans 8:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:3-6, Matthew 3:17)

**Pray** that our church family would be one that is marked by speech that is life-giving.

**Pray** that the Holy Spirit would move in us to seek forgiveness from those we've been harsh to and to forgive those who have spoken harshly against us.