

## WORDS OF LIFE & DEATH

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### Introduction

1. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Truth-Telling
2. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Thanksgiving
3. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Praising
4. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Encouraging
5. Blaming vs. \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. This sermon covers: lying; complaining; cussing; gossiping; and blaming. Which of these “words of death” do you struggle with the most? Explain.
2. Read Matthew 15:11, 12:36, and Proverbs 18:21. Respond to each verse.
3. **Lying vs. Truth-telling.** Why is truthfulness a big deal to God? Read Colossians 3:9, 10. What types of lying were mentioned in the sermon? Can you think of any additional types?
4. How does lying manifest itself in your workplace? (Cite an example, if possible.) Why is truth-telling so hard to do?
5. **Complaining vs. Thanksgiving.** Read I Corinthians 10:5-10. Why does God hate grumbling so much (including it on a short-list with idolatry, sexual immorality, and testing Christ)? What are you most tempted to complain about on the job?
6. Read Philippians 2:14, 15. What happens when Christ followers choose not to complain at work? What alternative to complaining is recommended in this sermon? Why would that be a good antidote to complaining?
7. **Cursing vs. Praising.** Did you grow up in a home with profanity? Explain. Read Ephesians 5:4 and James 3:9-11. What are the reasons (at least two) that James gives to avoid cursing? What speech form does James contrast with cursing? How might you, practically speaking, include more of that in your workplace conversations?
8. **Gossiping vs. Encouraging.** Read Proverbs 18:8. Why is gossip so tasty? Why is it so easy to do (multiple reasons)? Read Proverbs 16:28. What’s the downside of gossip? How does that happen? Have you ever been gossiped about at work--or been caught gossiping about someone else? Describe.
9. Read Ephesians 4:29, 30. Why do you think gossiping would grieve the Holy Spirit? What form of speech does Paul recommend as an antidote to unwholesome words? How (or why) would this work to curtail gossiping?
10. **Blaming vs. Apologizing.** On a scale of 1-10, how would others rate your willingness to apologize? When was the last time you apologized for something at work? What makes apologizing so hard to do? Why might apologizing lend credibility to you as a Christ follower?
11. Read Matthew 12:34. Where do words of death come from? What does this teach you about how to control your mouth? How might you do that?