



# Gossiping

Sunday, March 11, 2018

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*Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.*

**Proverbs 18:8 NLT**

*The tongue can bring death or life...* **Proverbs 18:21 NLT**

## 1. Consequences of gossiping

- Gossip hurts the person spoken about
- Gossip hurts the listener
- Gossip hurts the speaker

*A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*

**Proverbs 16:28 NLT**

*Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.*

**Proverbs 17:4 NLT**

<sup>9</sup> When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. <sup>10</sup> Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation.

**Proverbs 25:9-10 NLT**

## 2. Before you talk about someone, "Is it..."

- True
- Helpful
- Inspiring
- Necessary
- Kind

## 3. How to avoid gossip

- Guard your ears
- Close your mouth
- Examine your heart

*A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatters.* **Proverbs 20:19 NLT**

*Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.* **Proverbs 21:23 NLT**

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

**Gossip claims, "*I'm strong because they're weak.*" The Gospel proclaims, "*I am weak, but he is strong.*"**

## Next Steps:

- ☐ Re-read today's Bible verses this week
- ☐ Commit to THINK before I talk about someone
- ☐ Confess that I enjoy gossip like a "dainty morsel" and ask God to change my heart
- ☐ Commit to avoid gossip when possible and control my tongue, with God as my help
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_



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