

Date of Sermon: November 1st

Topic of Sermon: Speak words of Wisdom

Main Passage: Proverbs 15:1-4; 16:23-24

BEFORE your group meeting:

- **Participate in Worship** in-person or online to hear the sermon you will be discussing.
 - You can also catch-up on YouTube or at https://www.foresthill.org/en/on_demand
- **Encourage your group members** to watch the sermon and take a closer look at the Scripture that is used.
- **Look over the questions** provided below and think through your own responses.
- **Plan your meeting.** The Dig Deeper section is great to use in your group discussion (if there's time) or you can send it out to your group members after the meeting for their personal devotion time.
- **Pray for the Spirit** to use your group discussion to encourage dynamic life in Christ in each of you.

What's the Big Idea?

In a culture saturated with hatred, incivility and disrespect, acrimony, Christians are called to speak words of life, truth, and grace.

Get Started

When you squeeze an orange, you get orange juice. When you squeeze an apple, you get apple juice. When you squeeze a Christian, you never know what you're going to get, but you can be sure, whatever it is - they're full of it! What kind of impact do you truly want your words to have on others?

Can you think of an individual in your life that you love being around? How does their speech impact you? What have you noticed about their words?

Dive into the Sermon

- *“Right now, in our country, humility is becoming extinct and civility is gone, but it can be restored when we let our rights be informed by God’s rule... and when the First Amendment comes under the authority of the Great Commandment.”* Why is the Church having such a hard time allowing God transform our speech this year? What do anger and fear reveal about the condition of a heart?
- *“What you watch and listen to will condition your heart and that will condition your speech.”* What kinds of things are you watching and listening to? How are those things impacting you? If you can't perceive it, then how is it impacting your speech? Share ideas on how to condition our hearts with goodness and not worthless things.

groups

- *“When we say things that are wrong, the way forward is to come clean. The act of confessing, to God and those we may have hurt, that our words were offensive (taking time to empathize with the hurt that we may have created), is in fact a way of speaking words of life into the world.”*

Without saying “I’m sorry *you* feel that way” or “if *you* hadn’t done X, then I wouldn’t have said Y” what situations are coming to your mind now that you may need to confess and apologize for? Pray for those opportunities to speak life into the world. Whether you clarify all details or not, ask with your group for special grace and words to address that relationship this week. Who knows? God may just use you to bring healing and restoration to this broken world!

Dig Deeper into a Scripture Passage

Use the *HEAR Bible Reading Method* to learn more what the Bible teaches us about wise speech



Bible-Reading Tip: Begin by asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Paul writes that the Spirit – who lives inside everyone who believes in Jesus – knows the depths of God and reveals Him to those who follow Jesus. So, always begin your time of reading the Bible with a prayer for Him to open your eyes and ears to what He will reveal. This doesn't mean that you will always have an emotional encounter or a special revelation, but you are acknowledging that He is that One through whom all wisdom is revealed.

Proverbs 15:1–4 (CSB): A gentle answer turns away anger,

but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive,

but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.

3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere,

observing the wicked and the good.

4 The tongue that heals is a tree of life,

but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 16:23–24 (CSB):

23 The heart of a wise person instructs his mouth;

it adds learning to his speech.

24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb:

sweet to the taste and health to the body.

HEAR Bible Reading Method

HIGHLIGHT the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

EXPLAIN the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

APPLY the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God's power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

RESPOND to the passage

- Talk to God about what you've seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.