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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

November 11, 2020**Learning from Ping Pong****Keith Schladenhauffen**

While engaging in a discussion with someone, you may have noticed a smile, frown, raised eyebrows, a laugh (nervous or jolly), a blank stare, or a number of other facial expressions. While you are hearing and processing the words one will notice a tone of voice used to express the words. Also, those in a dialogue will use hand gestures and other body language movements. These facial, auditory and body language cues are natural components of communication. These components can lead the message in a positive or negative direction.

I once read that communication is like playing a game of ping pong. A person delivers a statement with nonverbal cues and the listener receives it and returns with words and nonverbal cues or only nonverbal cues. The "game" can be gentle and playful or a purposeful firm to aggressive "game". As a side note, I recall the past when my friends and I would play the game in my parent's garage. The personal one on one game and communication built and sustained friendships. Now days, one does not need a table and space, but can be played virtually.

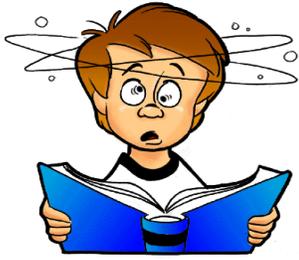
I am sure many people enjoy engaging in virtual games, minus the relationship communication. And others may not play virtual games, but enjoy the online communication known as social media. Social media is a wonderful tool for sharing and learning from friends, acquaintances and strangers. While thoughts are shared, unfortunately the other components of communication are missing. In this "game" of sharing on-line, it can have unexpected responses, not from a few but many. Sometimes, where a message goes nobody knows. Like ping pong, mentioned previously, social media can be gentle/kind to firm/ aggressive. So, with this in mind consider some biblical social media recommendations. As a parent or guardian, consider sharing these with your child/children as a means of shepherding his/her heart.

Tips from Paul Tripp:

1. Use internet media platforms as a tool for the gospel. Project gospel messages that attach the truths of the gospel to the things of everyday life.
2. Be firm in your foundation that God and the Bible are your authority. Because of the power of social media, anybody can become an authoritative voice with abundant likes and followers. Be careful. Does the person contradict God?
3. What are you exposing your heart to? How does social media impact the way you think about yourself or the way you think about life? One can be influenced by the number of likes or comparing your life to others. Envy or coveting can influence your thoughts. What in social media do you go for pleasure? Keep your thoughts and eyes pure.
4. How is your communication? Is it disrespectful, negative or harmful? There exists a tendency to say something to a person online that would not be stated face to face. Harsh, demeaning words are unacceptable.

Source: Paul Tripp, Biblical Counselor/Author

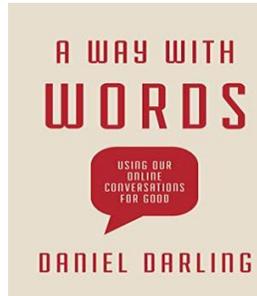
Basic Bible Study Skills



Our Wednesday Family Night class for adults, taught by Pastor Don, will be focused on how to study our Bibles. The Bible is clear and understandable. Too often we think of Bible study as a book or video of someone teaching us what the Bible says rather than finding out on our own what the Bible says. This class will teach bible study skills and practice these skills together in class. If you would like to grow in your use and understanding of your Bible, this class will help you do that

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Simple Supper/Family Night Wednesday, November 4**
 - **Simple Supper this week will be Spaghetti, salad, dessert & bottled water**
- **Council Meeting, Wednesday, November 11, 7:45 pm**
- **Saturday, November 14, Ladies Bible Study @ 9 am**
- **Sunday, November 15, worship service @ 9:15 am, Junior Church & Nursery will be available**
- **Sunday, November 15, worship service @ 11:15 am; Nursery will be available**
- **Drive-in option will be available at BOTH services**



Book Recommendation

A Way With Words, by Daniel Darling, B&H Publishing.

'Using our online conversations for good' is the subtitle of this book written to instruct and encourage us about the way we use words on social media. It has been said that social media was made to bring people together, and it does in many positive and loving ways. But, most who use the various forms of social media have experienced some careless and hurtful words that may not be used in face to face conversations. Darling's book is a helpful guide to think through the potential problems of online speech as well as how to engage in social media in a positive way. This book serves as a great resource for parents and young people to have meaningful conversations about online communication, internet usage and how to process unkind words that make it through to our devices. Let us know in the office if you need help getting a copy.

What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available:

- **Mail**
- **Bank bill pay**
- **Online giving through the website**
- **Offering box is available at the back of the sanctuary.**

Bethel Prayer Concerns

- **Please be in prayer for Maggie Hershman. Maggie will be having her baby on Monday, November 16 via c-section. Pray for Jason and the rest of the family as they await this precious new arrival! Pray for good health for the whole family.**
- Michele Anderson had a successful surgery. Pray for her as she is home recovering. Pray for good rest and complete recovery for her.
- **Please continue in prayer for Brad Garling. Brad will begin treatments soon. Pray for strength both physically and spiritually during this season.**
- Let's continue in prayer for those teachers amongst us. Pray for wisdom as they are having to learn to teach in a whole new way and environment. Pray also for the students as they are faced with new challenges each day.
- **Pray for our Associate Pastor search process. The McKays, Hines, Bungers and Whipples are serving as a search committee. There is a conversation that started recently with an individual. Ask God to direct our paths as we gather resumes, get to know possible candidates and discern what He would have us do in this important process.**
- Please pray for Matthew & Laura Scott in the coming days & weeks. Matthew was activated with the National Guard to assist with COVID response in the nursing homes. He is currently overseeing 6 Indiana counties from Pulaski to Kosciusko and will have around 21 nursing homes to help with. He will be staying in Warsaw starting Monday, November 9 until at least December 17. Pray for safety for the soldiers who will be working in the nursing homes daily. Pray for physical & mental strength for Matthew and Laura.