

## 1 – DIRECTIONS:

Over the last few weeks, we have discussed proverbs from our "4 Proverbs for the People" series. This week, we will cover our final proverb and then look at how this wisdom literature should make a difference in the life of a Christian.

Take time to discuss the proverb, as well as pray for one another, and look to see how applying the proverb will make a difference in your obedience to God through Christ.

Please utilize The Moody Bible Commentary to help with any of the passages listed to the right. Any additional resources that you have that might make your discussion more lively, please use those as well. Your prayers and preparation for facilitating the discussion will help others learn and grow as Christians.

To grow as Christians, the emphasis should be faith in Christ and obedience to Him, not **only** on knowing Bible passages. Help one another in your group grow in faithful obedience to what you discuss in group time. Pray for each other as you meet.

## 3 – QUESTIONS:

- What have been some of the most life-giving words that you have ever received? What sparked within you when those words were said? You don't need to repeat the words that tore you down, but if you're comfortable sharing, when was a time that you had words shared with you that hurt you? How long, if ever, did it take to heal from those negative words?
- Read Proverbs 18:21 (and James 3:1-12). What did you learn from, or were convicted by, when reading the Scripture? Why is that?
- Why do you think death is listed before life in Proverbs 18:21? Consider *gossip*, *slander*, and *rumors*. How do these activities produce death through the words that are spoken?
- Consider some of the "One Anothers" in the New Testament, such as encourage and build one another up (1 Thess 5:11), Pray for one another (James 5:15), and speak truth to one another (Eph 4:25). How do these "One Anothers" rely on speaking life with your tongue?
- What might you do to improve speaking life into the lives of those around you? Where might you need to confess and repent of speaking death to those around you? How can we help?
- Is there anything else from Pastor Kevin's sermon that stood out that you would like to discuss?

## 2 – BIBLICAL TEXTS:

### Proverbs 18:21 [ESV]

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

### James 3:1-12 [ESV]

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

## 4 – GOING FROM HERE:

As you conclude, take time to consider where you are speaking death or life into the lives of those you are around. If you find that you are speaking poorly, admit that and encourage one another to submit your words to Christ. If you are speaking life into others really well, consider how you might help others to learn to do the same.

Consider challenging one another to record the conversations from each day for a week and whether or not death or life was spoken. It can be as simple as recording the person's relationship to you and the overall tone of the conversation as "death" or "life."

For example –

*Wife – Life*

*Kids – Life*

*Boss – Life*

*Coworkers – death*

*Checker at Krogers – death*

Then you can be aware of where you need to have Jesus transform your words, attitude, and perception. Commit to praying for change and for honoring God with your words.

