



Culture says “whatever” as a way of meaning nothing matters, but Christians say “whatever” because everything matters. Disciples of Jesus do not divide life into sacred and secular. Following Jesus is a 24/7 commitment, and this series explores what that looks like.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 When we gave Jesus our word that we would follow him, we need to understand that we gave Jesus our words. **Read James 1:26 and Colossians 3:17.** What do you find most challenging about these verses?

2 IT MATTERS BECAUSE... Words *direct our paths*. Our words give direction to our lives and they can change the direction of the lives of others. **Proverbs 18:21** says, *“The tongue has the power of life and death.”* How have you experienced that to be true in your life?

3 IT MATTERS BECAUSE... Words reflect our hearts.

We are often quick to excuse our careless words by saying things like *"I didn't mean that..."* or *"that's not who I am"* but Jesus reminds us that the reason it came out of you is because it was in you. **Read Matthew 12:34 and 15:18.** Do you think Jesus is exaggerating? Do bad words really mean we have a bad character?

APPLICATION: IT MATTERS SO... the next several questions can serve as a filter for discerning *whatever* we say.

4. Is it true? Lying is a language our culture is fluent in, to the degree that we expect a certain level of deception as normal. Share some examples of ways you've experienced this. **Read Ephesians 4:23-25.** How can these verses help us to only say things that are true?

5 Is it helpful? Just because something you say is true doesn't mean it is good and helpful. **Read Ephesians 4:29.** What is something practical you could do that would remind you to only say or text or post on social media things that are helpful?

6 Is it inspiring? Words have the power to give life. **Read Colossians 4:8** We all gravitate to those people in our lives whose words inspire us to be better people. Who are those people in your life and how have they inspired you?

7 Is it necessary? Scripture says a lot about the wisdom of not saying a lot (see **James 1:19, Proverbs 10:19, and 17:27-28**). Share an example of a time when you were glad you held your tongue.

8 Is it kind? Proverbs 12:18b says, “wise words bring healing.” Share an example of a time when someone spoke words of life to you just when you needed it.

Final thoughts: As you reflect on those questions, which one(s) do you struggle with the most? What step could you take today to grow in this area so that your tongue is tied **to the Spirit of God** at all times? Pray **Psalm 141:3** every day this week, *“Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips.”*