

Speak Life

*The words we use are more than tools to communicate - they have creative power. Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death." Our words can fuel hope or snuff it out, build others up or tear them down, bring truth or lies, blessings or curses. It's time to discover the immense power of our words and live each day as those who speak life.*

### Week 1: The Power of Words

1. **Read James 3:2-5.** James uses three illustrations to make the point: **The tongue has disproportionate power.** The ancients had a saying: "As goes the speech, so goes the life." What are some examples of words spoken that can change a life? Can you think of any in your own life? If you're comfortable, share about a time when your words or the words of others had a powerful impact on the course of your life.
2. **Read Genesis 1:1-5 and Genesis 3:1.** The power of words can be traced back to the beginning of creation – Divine words that bring life, and the Deceiver's words that bring death. Both voices are still speaking, and our speech amplifies and aligns with words of life or words of death. (Example: Peter's confession in Matthew 16:15-17 and his confrontation with Jesus in 16:22-23). What comes to mind when you think about your words participating with God or with Satan?
3. **Read John 1:1-5 and 1:14.** The Word who made everything and everyone took on flesh and joined creation. Jesus spoke words of life, full of grace and truth. He spoke with authority in his teaching and healings, in his miracles over nature and demonic oppression. If a someone new to faith asked what it means for Jesus to be the "Word Made Flesh" what would you tell them?
4. **Read Isaiah 55:10-11.** God's Word never returns void. This week **speak life by speaking God's Word.** Here are three ways you could speak God's Word:
  - Read God's Word out loud.
  - Share God's Word with others.
  - Pray God's Word.

**For each individual:** Which of these will you try this week? **For the group:** finish by praying God's Word. This could be one person praying a passage or a psalm over the group, mentioning people by name. Or you can have group members pair up, share a passage of Scripture that is meaningful to them, and have them pray it over each other.

