

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"SPEAK UP (DON'T RUN DOWN)" AUGUST 27 & 28

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Too often we view the Laws or Commandments of God as if God is angry with us, pointing His finger at us and saying, "You better behave or I'm gonna getcha!" But is this the tone of the Commandments? What are God's heart intentions in giving us the Commandments? We believe God has given us His Commandments so that the life we live would be filled with joy, full, and satisfying, as we bring Him honor and care for His creation. How do we do this? Easy, just Love God and Love people. Maybe not so easy.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 2 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

A minute to read

The 8th Commandment is difficult because lying and slander happen in our hearts then come out of our mouth. James hits the nail on the head when he says the tongue is impossible to tame. On a relational level, this Commandment is about extending to others the grace God has extended to us in Jesus. He takes the lies that Satan tells us—that we're not good enough, that we're unlovable, unforgivable, unwanted—and tells us the truth of love in Jesus. Knowing this truth drives us to extend the same to others.



August 27 & 28, 2022

If we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. - James 3:2b NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - James 3:1-11.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Why do you think the tongue is so powerful? If the tongue is so powerful, what controls the tongue? What would help you grow in grace toward others?

Read James 3:1-11. Our words can build up or tear down and sometimes avoidance can be detrimental as well. What guidance does this verse give?

One popular acronym to apply as a filter before you speak is: T.H.I.N.K. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? What have you found to be helpful as you represent Jesus in what you say?

Share a story of when someone encouraged you, guided you, helped you, or spoke up for you. What were you going through at the time and what impact did their words have on you?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

Share High's/Low's in your life recently. How did you see God at work in these moments?

5 CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Reflect on the Scripture Card Prayer Prompt individually.

The leader or apprentice will open in prayer and allow a time for "popcorn" prayer from group members. The leader or apprentice will close the prayer.

TAKE IT DEEPER



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

Pray

Invite God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23,24) related to your words bringing glory to God and reflecting Jesus.

Reflect a moment and then share with God your response to this question, "How am I doing extending grace to others with my words?"

Thank God that his Spirit lives in you and because of that you have all the resources you need to extend grace to others this week.

Live It Out

Keep a "words journal" this week. At the end of the day reflect back on the words you used. Did they build up or tear down? Did you speak up for someone or stay silent? Did you speak truth or spread gossip? Where you fell short ask for forgiveness, from God and from any individual involved. Pray that the Holy Spirit would produce the fruits of kindness, goodness, and self-control, making you more and more like Jesus.

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted. Discuss the experience the next time the group gathers.