

ZIP IT
Gossiping • May 22/23, 2010

ICEBREAKER:

Take some time to get to know each other with some open sharing:

• Describe a time when you were the target of gossip. How did it make you feel? What was the outcome?

• Describe a time when you gossiped about someone. Why did you do it? What was the outcome?

INTRODUCTION:

• Read over James 3:1-8. What four images does James use to describe the tongue? What is the point to each of these images?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define gossiping.

2. What drives or fuels gossiping?

3. Interact with this statement: *"We love our insider status more than we love people."*

4. Some would say that to keep from gossiping you must never have a conversation about people and what's going on in their lives. Agree or disagree—and why?



"By the time my out-patient surgery got to the end of the prayer chain, I'd had all my limbs amputated, died, and left \$100,000 to the building fund."

5. How do you determine if you are gossiping or just having an acceptable conversation about someone? How does Ephesians 4:15 help in this process? What were the two key words from the message this week that came from this verse?

6. From the weekend message, discuss the six key steps you can take to curtail gossip in your personal life. Which of these will help you the most and why?

7. What if you are approached by a gossip with some juicy gossip? How can you best turn that conversation into something positive?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Who do you regularly gossip about? How will you specifically go about zipping your gossiping lips?

What principle or insight from this week's topic could help you more consistently to avoid gossiping about others?

Is there a gossip in your life that you need to challenge with God's truth about gossiping? What will you say? When will you take action?

Make this your daily prayer: *Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.* Psalm 141:3 (TNIV)

My next step is to: _____

How can your life group pray for you?

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to chew on or memorize)

He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. Proverbs 13:3 (NIV)