

“Learning a Whole New Language”
Ephesians 4:29

Ice Breaker:

- What nickname were you tagged with as a child that still carries a little prick of pain with it?
- Share a conversation you had that still today, you wished you could change the words you said.

Read: Ephesians 4:29

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. What area do you most struggle with your speech?
 - a. Vulgar
 - b. Vain
 - c. Vicious
3. Is it ever right to speak harsh and critical words? (if so when).
4. What words were spoken to you that made a profound impact on your life? Were they positive or negative?
5. Read James 3:2-12. How is a tongue like a ship's rudder or horses' bit?
6. Think about the last time you “blew up.” Describe the conditions that trigger you to use “unwholesome” speech. What attitudes and false beliefs are driving behind your words?
7. What drives our desire to speak words that encourage others?
8. What are some questions to ask yourself in order to be well prepared to build others up?

Pray for each other:

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Paul continues to instruct us on what it looks like to put off the old self apart from Christ and put on the new life that is filled with the Spirit. He moves from the use of our hands to the use of our mouth. The words we say reveal what is in our hearts. If we don't like what's coming out of our mouth, the cleaning has to come from the inside out. Paul wants us to learn a whole new language . . . a kingdom language where our speech gives us away.

What is it?

- Vulgar
- Vain
- Vicious

What drives it? (. . . what lies am I believing?)

- God is not present.
- I'll not be taken seriously.
- I need to impress others. (Matthew 26:74)

Words are powerful (Proverbs 18:21)

Learn a new language.

- Salt: Colossians 4:6
- Timing: Prov. 25:11
- Grace

Next Step:

Listen to your words this week or rewind the audio tape from the last time you blew up. Ask: “What lies did I believe that caused me to use those hurt-filled words? What truth do I need to walk in to not only curb the hurtful, but even offer grace-filled words to others. ”

Anticipate that God will give you an opportunity this week (this evening?) to respond with grace-words to someone who doesn't deserve it.