

# TALK IT OVER

## FIERY FORESTS

### DIG DEEPER

Class # 19

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)** challenges us to do everything in our power in favor of unity. Where people are united, God pronounces blessing and life everlasting (**Psalms 133:1-3**). It would be an easy challenge to meet, if not for the unity killers that exist out there. Among them, gossip! **James 3:5-6** explains that the tongue is a small member, but with the potential to set an entire forest ablaze! With it we can create and produce life or death.

**Winston Churchill** once said: *"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."* With social media these days, I'd say: *"Gossip travels all around the globe before the truth wakes up!"* Just one click, one tweet, and the whole world knows!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think King Solomon compared gossip to delicious choice morsels?
2. Why do you think Paul warns us not to be fooled?
3. Why do most people struggle speaking up and establishing boundaries?



*"The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts."*  
- Proverbs 18:8 (NIV)

### SIMPLICITY

Gossip affects everyone involved. First, it affects the person that is spoken of (**Prov. 16:28**). It also affects the listener (**Prov. 17:4**), as well as the one who spoke it (**Prov. 20:19**). In short, everyone is harmed when there is gossip! When someone gossips, they look to exalt themselves, by bringing someone else down. The Gospel is the exact opposite! We make ourselves weak, so God can be made strong in us! We humble ourselves, and God exalts us!

There are two easy and practical steps you can take, to prevent the spark of gossip from setting your life, family, marriage, or calling ablaze. They are found in **Proverbs 21:23 (NLT)** *"Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble."*

Make a commitment to start speaking life today, to build and not tear down, to maximize and not criticize. Pray for the group and ask God to give each member self-control to shut the door on gossip

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT STEPS COURSE

MEN'S CONFERENCE: INFLUENTIAL

June 6 (9am via Zoom or Live)

June 25 & 26