

June Bible Study Series:
Wise Up!
(Lessons from the book of Proverbs)

**“Be careful with your words.
Once they are said, they can be
only forgiven, not forgotten.”**

Lesson Seven

The Words of the Wise

Proverbs 17:14, The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

Proverbs 18:19, A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

James 3:2-3, For we all stumble in many ways. If any one does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

I. The Potential of Words for Good or Evil

Proverbs 18:21

Proverbs 12:13-14, An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will escape from trouble. A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.

II. Words Foolishly Invested: When Words Have No Power

**a. Words are ineffective when
they are spoken by A fool.**

Proverbs 26:7,9

**b. Words are ineffective when
they are spoken to A fool.**

Proverbs 23:9

**c. Words are ineffective which
are not accompanied by
appropriate action.**

Proverbs 14:23

**d. Words are ineffective that
are not in accordance with
Truth.**

Proverbs 26:2

**e. Words are ineffective unless
they are spoken at the proper
time and in the proper way.**

Proverbs 27:14

**III. The principle of economy:
when words are better saved
than said.**

Proverbs 10:19

**a. Restraint is necessary in
order to hear what the other
person is trying to say.**

Proverbs 18:13

b. Restraint is necessary in order to allow any anger or strong emotion to pass.

Proverbs 15:1-2

**c. Restraint gives the wise time
to consider what to say and
how to say it.**

Proverbs 15:28

IV. When Silence Is Golden: Forbidden Uses Of Words

a. A breach of confidence
Proverbs 11:13

b. Commitments made in haste
Proverbs 6:1-5

c. Contention and strife

Proverbs 20:3

d. False testimony
Proverbs 19:5

e. Lying and deception
Proverbs 4:24

f. Self-acclaim

Proverbs 27:2

V. Words Wisely Invested: When Our Speech is Like Gold

**a. Our speech is like gold when
it is sovereignly governed by
God.**

Mark 13:11

**b. Our speech is like gold when it
dispenses wisdom and
knowledge.**

Proverbs 15:7

**c. Our speech is like gold when we
speak up for the rights of the
afflicted.**

Proverbs 31:8-9

**d. Our speech is like gold
when we minister to the needs
of others by our words.**

Proverbs 15:4

**VI. Words Wisely Chosen:
Saying the Right Thing in the
Right Way**

**a. A word well put will be well
timed.**

Proverbs 15:23

**Matthew 5:37, But let your
statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No,
no'; and anything beyond these is
evil.**

James 1:19-22, This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which can save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Colossians 4:5-6, Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

Ephesians 4:29, Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

“The tongue has no bones, but it is strong enough to break a heart. So be careful with your words.”

Bible Study Follow up Chat Questions:

- 1. Why do we need God to use our tongue wisely?**
- 2. Why is an uncontrolled tongue so dangerous?**
- 3. “A fool is considered wise when he holds his peace.” Agree or disagree? Why?**
- 4. Controlling your tongue is all about knowing when to speak, when not to speak, and to whom you speak. How do you know when to speak into a situation?**

5. Are there times when choosing not to speak can be as devastating as saying something hurtful? Why do you think that is?

6. “Speak with Biblical wisdom.” Does this mean including a Scripture verse in every other sentence? What do you think it means?

7. List three things we can do to please God with our mouths and with our tongues or speech.