

FREEDOM

Small Group Leader Guide

WEEK EIGHT



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THE POWER OF WORDS

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

PROVERBS 18:21 NKJV

WEEK EIGHT LEADER GUIDE

Overview

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV) says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” The words we speak are a spiritual gauge, showing how much of our soul we have surrendered to God. A life surrendered to God and filled with the Holy Spirit will produce speech full of grace, mercy, love, and power.

With words, God spoke the entire universe into being. Words and language were His idea, and His words are literally life to us. Because God created man in His image, our words have power. Every time we open our mouths to talk, we either advance the kingdom of life or we advance the kingdom of death. When we were saved, we weren’t taken directly to heaven because we are Jesus’ body—His hands, feet, heart, and mouth designed to reach the lost and make a difference in this world.

Our words can either tear others down or build them up. God desires for us to speak words of life that build up, bring healing, and offer encouragement.

To be able to speak words of life, we need to guard our hearts. We must control what bombards our ears and saturates our souls. We also need to gauge our tongues. A gauge is a tool that determines the maximum amount of something. We need to decide that our words will not cross a specific line and manage that decision daily. Speaking words of life also requires garnishing our speech. At times, we need to say things that are difficult or may appear negative, but we can still speak in a way that will bless and encourage the other person.

If you have been on the receiving end of destructive words, you can truly be healed and set free from the effects of those words.

Pray through these steps:

1. **Confess:** Healing starts with admitting we were wrong. We must first acknowledge that we have believed something that is not true and have agreed with the lies of the enemy.
2. **Repent:** To repent means to change direction. When we repent, we choose to turn around and go the opposite way of our previous path. Stop your agreement with the enemy in its tracks and set your mind on a new course of thinking. If anyone has hurt you by reinforcing these lies in your life, forgive them and release them to the Lord.
3. **Cast off:** We must refuse to allow the enemy to continue to use destructive words or events against us. With the authority of the Name of Jesus, command the enemy to leave.
4. **Bless:** Once the enemy has been removed, fill the place that he held with truth and promises found in Scripture. Speak life over yourself by declaring an accurate view of how God sees you.

Discussion Guide

- Application from Week 7: How has your relationship with the Lord and your perspective changed as you prayed for the people you needed to forgive this past week?
- What does your day-to-day conversation say about your spiritual condition? Do your words reflect that God lives inside of you?
- Are you intentional to use your words to promote the Kingdom of God and minister to others?
- Do you say things about yourself, or others, that you quickly regret? What steps are you taking to be more careful with your words?
- If group members feel comfortable sharing, ask: what are some of the words of death and cursing that have been spoken to you by others? What are some of the words of death and cursing that you have spoken to yourself? Have you spoken words of death and cursing to others?
- Discuss “The Voice of Victory.” Encourage participants to repent and cast off words of death and agree with words of life by speaking Scripture over their situations.

Application/Illustration

Here is an idea that can create a powerful moment during discussion: Provide pieces of paper for your participants, and have them write down any words of death that have been spoken to them by others or that they have spoken to themselves. Then, let each person tear up the pieces of paper as a tangible illustration that the participants no longer have to carry these words.

Remind them to use God's Word to replace the words of death with truth. In this moment, either close in prayer as a whole group or with individual prayer.

Prayer Focus

Pray that participants understand the power of their words.

Pray and break off any words of death that have been spoken over each participant.