

are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verses

Proverbs 10:18

¹⁸ Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool.

James 3:9-10

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Exodus 20:7

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Proverbs 12:22

²² The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Proverbs 15:1

¹⁵ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

It was suggested that we could look in the Bible for a true list of "bad" words that we're not supposed to say.

But, this gets even more confusing as the original text of the Bible is either in Hebrew or Greek and the different translations sometimes use different words to mean the same thing and the same words to mean different things. We also found that not only is there no "God given" list of "forbidden" words to be seen anywhere in the Bible, quite a few so-called "bad" words are used throughout the Bible as well as some words that we would even consider "bad" by today's Christian standards.

We mentioned the phrase, "words have power" but, said that's not entirely true. As we've just seen, words are just words and they mean different things to different people at different times.

We said that It's actually the intent of the words that have the power. So, we don't really need a list of "bad" words, we really need a list of "bad" intentions.

We said this doesn't mean that we can just go ahead and say what we know are considered "bad words". We were reminded about Knowledge & Wisdom. Knowledge is knowing certain words but Wisdom is knowing how/when to use them or to not use them at all and **THAT** wisdom we **CAN** find in the Bible. As we look at scripture, we can see that it's still not specific words that are forbidden but instead the intent or effect of our words. We discussed just a few things that the Bible specifically forbids us from saying.

This topic seemed to stir up so much conversation and discussion in class that we only made it partly through even the short list shown here.

1. Gossip and Slander

Proverbs 10:18 ¹⁸ Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool.

We said that Gossip involves talking about someone behind their back, often sharing private information or spreading rumors. But, **Slander** takes it a step further by saying knowingly false things about someone to purposely damage their reputation. The Bible is clear that gossip and slander are both harmful because they destroy trust, stir up conflict, and hurt people's reputations. They hurt our relationships with each other.

2. Cursing Others

James 3:9-10 ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and

Ecclesiastes 5:5

⁵ It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

Philippians 2:14

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing,

Proverbs 26:28

²⁸ A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Matthew 7:1-2

⁷ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you

Colossians 3:8

⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

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Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

We said that cursing others goes beyond just using bad language. It involves wishing harm or speaking hateful words against someone. The Bible forbids us from cursing others because every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect.

3. Taking the Lord's Name in Vain

Exodus 20:7 ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

This includes things like using God's name as a curse word, speaking it without deep respect, or even making promises in God's name that you don't intend to keep. By using His name in vain, we show a lack of deep respect for who God is.

4. Lies and Deception

Proverbs 12:22 ²² The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Lying goes against God's nature because He is a God of truth. Whether it's telling a lie, exaggerating, or deceiving someone, all forms of lying are forbidden. Lies can again damage relationships, create mistrust, and even lead to more sin.

5. Words That Stir Up Anger

Proverbs 15:1 ¹⁵ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

The Bible teaches that the way we speak to others can either calm a situation or make it worse. When we use harsh, critical, or angry words, we provoke others and escalate conflict. These can literally be any words.

6. Empty Promises

Ecclesiastes 5:5 ⁵ It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

The Bible forbids making promises that we don't intend to keep. When we make commitments without following through, we lose credibility and break trust. God values integrity, and keeping our word is a reflection of His character.

7. Complaining and Grumbling

Philippians 2:14 ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or

arguing,

When we grumble and complain, we focus on what's wrong rather than showing gratitude for what we have. The Bible encourages us to be thankful in all circumstances, especially when things aren't going our way. Complaining can also spread negativity and discourage others. Choosing gratitude encourages a positive atmosphere that honors God.

8. Using Words to Manipulate

Proverbs 26:28 ²⁸ A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Manipulative words (not specific words) are used to control or deceive others to get what we want. Using words to manipulate can harm relationships and lead to distrust, so it's important to speak with sincerity.

9. Judging Others Harshly

Matthew 7:1-2 ⁷ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you

The Bible teaches that while it's necessary to discern right from wrong, and to judge righteously, we must avoid judging others harshly or self-righteously. Our judgments can be unfair or unkind. Instead of speaking with judgement, the Bible encourages us to offer grace and understanding.

10. Blasphemy

Colossians 3:8 ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Blasphemy involves speaking disrespectfully about God, His name, or sacred things. It can include using offensive language related to God or mocking what is holy. Our words should reflect the deep respect we have for God. We noticed that "**filthy language**" covers pretty much any word you could come up with to use. It's in how you use your words and what is considered "filthy" in the environment you're in.

Final Thoughts

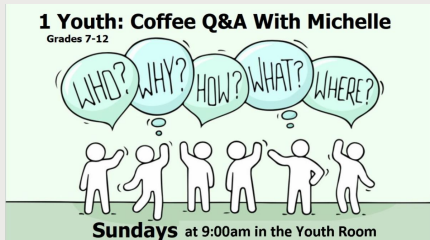
The Bible's teachings on what we should avoid saying are meant to guide us toward living a life that reflects God's love and righteousness. Our words, in how we use them, have the power to build up or tear down, bring healing or cause harm.

Being mindful of our words helps us to be better friends, family members, and followers of Jesus. When we choose to speak in a way that reflects God's love,

we make a positive impact on the world around us and demonstrate what it really means to live out our faith as a Christian.

Knowing God's Word and His Character helps us keep from needing to have a list of "bad" words to avoid.

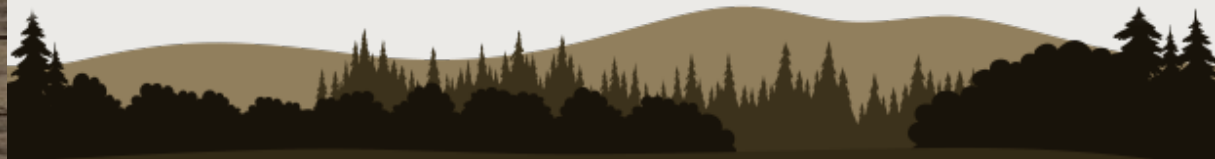
We said that we should always strive to speak with intention and purpose, using our words to bless others and to honor God in everything we say.



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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