

Toxic

Toxic Words (Wk.4)

LifeGroup Notes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Toxic words are weapons that wound and chains that bind but the words of Jesus give life and set us free.

Key Scriptures

³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:30-32

How did Jesus respond to the toxic words of the Pharisees?

- Jesus nullified the lie and doubled down on the truth.
- Jesus clarified His mission and added value to the valueless.

How do we respond to the toxic words directed to us?

- Embrace the words of Jesus.

Additional scripture:

John 1:12; 15:15
Romans 8:1
2 Corinthians 5:17
Galatians 5:1
Ephesians 1:7
John 3:16

Start talking.

- What were some of the common ways kids were teased when you were growing up?
- How did "teasing" words change as you became an adult?
- How are words used as weapons in today's culture?
- How are words used to heal?

Start thinking.

- Why do words have so much power?
- Which is easier: to say the kind or the unkind word? Explain.
- Read Luke 5:27-32. What were the first words Jesus spoke to Levi (Matthew)? Why were they important?
- What specifically was so upsetting to the Pharisees?
- What was their intention with their words?

Start sharing.

- What toxic words did you believe and agree with as a child?
- How have those words impacted you as an adult?
- What would Jesus say is most true of you?

Start doing.

- Read the additional scripture. Make a list of the what those verses say are true of you. Which of those are you most drawn to? Which are most difficult to embrace and believe?
- If you haven't already, download the YouVersion Bible app. Then search the "Words Matter" four day reading plan. Commit to read through it during this week.

Close in prayer.

You are not who others say (or have said) you are; you are who Jesus says you are. Spend time praying through the additional scripture we looked at. When possible, personalize it with your own name. Believing and embracing God's Truth takes time and a commitment to stand strong against the toxic words of the world. Pray that God would "guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."