



Loyalty

Week 4 – Being Positive

Discussion Guide

This week, we heard the good news that God commands us to be positive. And God never tells us to do something that we don't have some control over. We have a say in whether we do that or not. Yes, it will take God's power and our own self-discipline, but we do have the ability to change our attitudes and watch our words. How do we build confidence, encourage, and urge others to be the best they can be and to grow in their faith?

What you will need: A Bible or your Bible app, a notebook, pen, and highlighter. The verses highlighted below are linked so that you can easily access them during your study time.

Jump Start

1. Who was the most encouraging person in your childhood / school years? Can you remember and quote one thing they said to you? Why was that so memorable?
2. *Use your words to build.* Read [Ephesians 4:29](#) out loud. Now read it in **the New Living Translation** [here](#). Compare the two by discussing what "corrupt" speech might mean. What type of talk "builds up"? What do you think "give grace to those who hear" means? Heart check: is there a relationship where you have trouble "building up" someone? (Note: for a quick look at / comparison of MOST English versions of this verse, [click here](#).)
3. *Speak what could be instead of what is.* During the trials right before Jesus was crucified, Peter denied Him three times. Jesus knew it was going to happen. He had warned Peter. After His resurrection, He returned to Peter. Read [John 21:1-19](#). What are your first reactions to the closing verses? Discuss how Jesus was encouraging Peter in spite of the specific details. Is there a situation where you need to choose to focus on the "what could be" instead of the current, disappointing facts of the matter?
4. *Use your words to revive.* Read [Proverbs 18:21](#). Have you considered that your words, remarks, and observations have the power to bring eternal and spiritual life (or death) to others? How can what you choose to focus on and give voice to, change someone's perspective? Think of a lost friend and how you might "speak life." Now, let your heart break for an "enemy" whom your words might have injured. Ask God if He has any next steps for you, regarding either person that came to your mind.

Deeper

This week, the message had three main points based on Scripture. **“Use your words to build.”** **“Speak what could be instead of what is.”** **“Use your words to revive.”** In each Biblical account below, which points are exemplified. What things that we would expect to find (such as actions, words, or attitudes) are missing in each interaction?

5. Read [John 8:1-11](#).

6. Read [John 4:7-30](#).