

# GET OUT OF THE Weeds

Week Two | Gossip and Slander | 05.22-23.2021

**Grow Deep Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Message Recap:** It's never been easier to talk *about* someone than it is today. But that doesn't mean it's any less poisonous to our relationships with people or with God. Learning how to manage tension is critical if we want to love and live like Jesus in our relationships.

## » Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
  - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

## » Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What "group" were you a part of in high school?
- Digging Deeper: What drew you to that group of people?

## » Observation | Read Proverbs 18:8; James 1:26; Luke 6:45; Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 18:15-20 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

## » Key Principle | Gossip is about being right. The Gospel makes us right. (12 minutes)

- "Gossip spreads fire, but slander sparks it" (Gavin Ortlund). How have you seen this play out in your own experiences?

## » Why We Gossip | Reread Proverbs 18:8 (12 minutes)

- What is this Proverb trying to address? What are some of the "choice morsels" that we are tempted to consume today?

## » Why it Matters | Reread James 1:26; Luke 6:45 (12 minutes)

- How have you heard gossip justified by others? Where are you tempted to gossip in your life? What motivates you to gossip?

## » How We Change | Reread Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 18:15-20 (12 minutes)

- Who do you need to have a direct conversation with THIS week? Is it someone who brought gossip to you? Someone who you have gossiped about? Someone you have gossiped with? Someone who has gossiped about you? You don't need to share their name, but know who it is and discuss as a group how you can keep each other accountable to follow through.

## » Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- Take some time to plan your GOSSIP ONE DAY CHALLENGE, thinking through these questions:
  - Are my words building people up or tearing them down?
  - Am I violating someone's trust or privacy?
  - Am I promoting gossip by permitting it around me?
- Close by praying for each other and ask God to help you engage lovingly in direct and difficult conversations rather than gossip?