



DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART 3: The Destructive Four

DATE: 02-18-2024

START

Our words continue to have the power to build up or tear down others. We all like to have information, but all too often we are more concerned with having information at the expense of others. This includes gossip, which punches people down, causing others to be angry at the words we say.

- How has gossip affected you?
- How has your gossip hurt others?
- When have you used your words to intentionally anger someone?

READ

[James 1:21](#)

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

THINK

It's a lot easier to talk about someone than to talk to them. We do this to avoid conflict, or we convince ourselves we don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. However, when we talk about people to others we end up doing more damage than just talking to the person directly. Remember that we can always bring our complaints to God through prayer.

- How can praying for someone instead of gossiping about them help in a situation?
- When have you let your anger get the best of you?
- What can you do in your life to set up guardrails so you can be slow to anger?
- How can you be a part of the solution to gossip and angering?

PRAY

Jesus, help me to be slow to anger. Help me to approach people and talk to them and not about them. Help me to see what love requires when it comes to my words.

ACT

This week, when you are tempted to gossip about someone, which will lead to angering them, stop and pray for them instead. After you prayed, move on knowing that God has it under control.