



People Are The Worst | The Power of Words | Ronnie Johnson
Weekly Study | 10.27.19

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is the one thing you are looking forward to?

SHARE

Welcome to our series called *People are The Worst...and why we need them.*

Our life involves people, including the difficult ones. No matter how hard we try, we just can't avoid them. In fact, if we look in the mirror, let's be honest, we can sometimes be part of the problem. Ok, so obviously not you, but definitely the person next to you.

So, what does God have to say about dealing with difficult people? What about judgmental people or draining people? How should we react to those who let us down? How do you love those who are hard to love?

We felt led to talk about this topic, because we are facing a relational breakdown epidemic. More than any generation prior, we are more connected than ever, yet that connectedness has not led to deeper more healthy relationships. Instead, the data has revealed that although we are hyper-connected, we are one of the loneliest generations to exist. The truth is that God has a design for relationships, a real plan for deep, abiding and life-giving relationships, but many of us don't want to do the hard work involved in fostering them. In this series we are going to look at what God says about relationships and learn about how we do relationships God's way.

G R O W

Read Romans 8:12-21

What verse sticks out to you the most in this passage?

Based off what your knowledge of the book of Romans, what do you think Paul is trying to communicate in this passage?

Gossip is something we are all guilty of. It's easy to fall into the trap of talking bad about others to feel better about ourselves. However, in light of the Gospel, gossip looks really silly. As we just read, God has adopted us as children! When He looks at us, He doesn't see slaves who better do their best to earn His love. He sees Sons and Daughters. And as any loving parent knows, your kids don't have to compete with each other for your affection. In our darker moments, we still feel like we have to fight and claw our way to the Father's love.

But nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, when referring to our heavenly Father in verse 15, Paul uses the Aramaic word "Abba," which is a word for a Father you are close with. Paul wants us to know that we have a loving Father who has gone to great lengths to be with us. He is crazy about us and doesn't need us to outperform anyone for His affection.

The secret to eliminating gossip from our life is reminding ourselves that we are children of God! So, the next time you feel tempted to talk bad about someone else, pause and ask yourself why you want to gossip. Then remind yourself who you are and go on with your day!

In what situations are you most prone to gossip? Who are you with? What are you doing? Etc.

What is one way you can practice eliminating gossip from your life this week?

M O V E

Read Proverbs 12:25, 16:24, 18:21

This week Ronnie reminded us of how words have incredible power and have since Creation. God brought life with words and we also see that the enemy brought death with words.

Words can be the tree of life (Proverbs 15:4) and also can bring peace (Matthew 5:9). Words can make relationships sweet, families strong and days filled with hope and healing. And they can also bring the death of marriages, careers, friendships, as well as hopes.

Share a time where the power of a word/words brought life to you.

Now, share of a time where words may have caused harm to you.

Jesus said in Luke 6:45, “out of the abundance of your heart [the] mouth speaks.”

What comes in, will come out. In the news, social media, schools and in homes, we don't have to look very far to see that the world is full of death. It is said that, “the words you speak will all depend on what's filling your heart.” As representations of God, the One who brings life, we need to be filling our hearts with the Word of God so that we can bring life to the world around us.

Take time and share with your group of a time when you notice the difference of what comes out of your mouth when you are filling your minds with God's Word and when filling it with things of this world?

So today, let's seek only to speak words that are “good for building up,” that “give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29). Let us be a person whose words are full of life.

Think of someone that may need some encouragement this week. How can you seek opportunities to speak life into that person?

How has reading this helped change your perspective on the power of words in your own life?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

Now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up” (Acts 20:32)

