

## Week 2: Speak Truth

**Message Overview:** Wise people speak truth and use their words to build others up, while fools spread dishonesty and destruction.

**Key Scripture:** Proverbs 15:1; Acts 5:1–11; Ephesians 4:29–32

### Key points:

- Introduction
  - Illustration: a story of someone telling a small lie that snowballed into a disaster (example from school or sports)
  - Words matter and have power: lies and careless words can damage trust and relationships. Words can build up or tear down
  - Many people use words carelessly, not realizing the damage they cause
  - “That guy” takes no pleasure in speaking truth – he is someone who lies, gossips, and speaks recklessly.
- The Fool’s speech
  - Proverbs 15:1: Harsh words stir up anger; fools use their speech to hurt.
    - Fools **react** instead of responding with wisdom.
    - Arguments escalate because of harsh words
  - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
    - Their deceit led to serious consequences
    - God values honesty and integrity
  - Compare words to toothpaste – once they’re out, you can’t put them back (just like when the paste is out of the tube...it’s out.
- Wise words build up – speak life
  - Ephesians 4:29-32: replace harmful speech with kindness and truth
    - Speak with love: don’t just say what’s true, say it in a way that builds up
    - Think before you speak
    - Avoid gossip and lying – Proverbs warns about the destruction of dishonesty
  - Jesus is the truth (John 14:6) and spoke truth with love, even when it was hard
    - As His followers, our words should reflect His character
- Application
  - Think before you speak (Proverbs 29:20)
  - Ask, “Is this glorifying to God?”
    - Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?
  - Use words to encourage and reconcile
- **Gospel Proclamation:** Our sinful words reveal our need for Jesus’ forgiveness. Through His grace, we’re empowered to speak truth and life.

**Key question/application:** Do your words reflect the truth and love of Jesus? How can you be more intentional about using your words to encourage and build others up this week?

### Community Group questions:

- Share a time when someone’s words encouraged you? How did it impact you?
- Why do you think people lie or speak harshly?

- How can your words reflect Jesus this week? How can you use your words to build others up?
- How should Jesus' truth change how we speak?
- Spend some time writing an encouraging note to someone. Try and add a Bible verse and write a prayer.