



STUDY 17

Wasted Words

Proverbs 19:2, Mark 10:17-22

Jesus never wasted a word in his conversation with the rich young ruler but what the ruler had to say, the way he responded, meant that it was a waste. The ruler was talking to and about himself, and later the disciples began talking amongst themselves, and because they were talking, they couldn't listen!

Words reveal a person's heart and the way we talk has a huge impact on our ability and capacity to be taught and to receive. Some people talk about themselves all the time and you can't get a word in edge wise. Others are talking to themselves internally and it's like your words are falling on deaf ears. How we talk to ourselves is critical because it can build and frame things in a way that can block what God wants to do in us to heal, restore, take us forward and bring life. We can be self-justifying, argue, defend, or come up with many arguments that they aren't considering. But although talking and listening work together, they're not working at the same time. We don't hear what others are saying because we're listening to ourselves.

Sometimes, we need to stop doing all the talking, either outwardly or inwardly, and to start to listen, receive and accept that there are areas in our life where people can help us, people who love us and who put into our lives in a way that grows us and takes us forward.

Let's live our lives with an openness to God and have a receptive heart, where we understand that if we let knowledge in, we can grow, learn, change our lives and move forward.

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

- Q:** We all have blind spots. Tell a story of how you became aware of a problem in your blind spot, what you did about it and the result. (**Leader's Tip:** Start light-heartedly with this one).
- Q:** Would you say you are a good talker? How do you know?
 - Q:** How can being a good talker help and also hinder when giving and receiving truth? How can we safeguard against the downsides?
- Q:** Would you say you are a good listener? What would others say?
 - Q:** How can being a good listener help and also hinder you speaking truth to someone?
- Q:** What's your self-talk like? Is it positive or critical? Why?
 - Q:** How does it affect your receptivity to people speaking truth to you?
- Q:** Where are the places you let your guard down, where we can "talk amongst ourselves"?
 - Q:** When you do let your guard down, what is the tone of the conversation like?
 - Q:** What can help us continue listening to God whilst "talking amongst ourselves"?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Men's Conference is all about causing men to take a stand for righteousness & truth. Please speak with the men in your Connect Group and go to www.mensconference.com to register them today!

More
over the
page



I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these scriptures and questions to develop a Biblical worldview.

Read Proverbs 2:6,10; 8:12; 9:10; 13:16: 19:27; Rom 15:14; Col 1:9

- Q:** What is the difference between "knowledge," "understanding" and "wisdom?"
- Q:** How do the three of them work together to produce a successful life?
- Q:** What different types of knowledge are there? (**Leader's Tip:** Examples - knowledge of God, knowledge of God's word, will and ways, self-knowledge, knowledge of the world around us, knowledge of how to make life work, etc).
- Q:** How do these different types of knowledge work together to produce wisdom and a successful life?
- Q:** What does the bible say about how we gain knowledge? (**Leader's Tip:** Examples - through the Scriptures, through revelation, through reflection, through teaching, through rebuke, through study, etc)
- Q:** What is the difference between a wise person and a fool?
- Q:** How can wisdom foster the blessing of God, and how can foolishness hinder it?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** Knowing when to listen and when to speak is an essential art for leaders. How do we cultivate that art? How can we teach it to others?
- Q:** We all have a public self and a private self. In what ways can this be healthy (**Tip:** you don't share intimate secrets with everyone) and in what ways can it be unhealthy (**Tip:** when it's hypocritical, lacks integrity, or hides negativity or sin).
- Q:** How do we keep the balance right?
- Q:** Imagine you have someone you're leading who has some issues in their life that are holding them back. How do you decide when to challenge them and when to keep quiet?

Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:

- Starting new connect groups over the rest of the year.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Ps Brian & Bobbie Houston

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – Causes we are supporting through Nation Builders:

1. **Church Planting** – Supporting a new generation of dynamic leaders to plant & build churches that will serve communities, influence cities and ultimately impact nations. Including: Amsterdam, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Hillsong Germany.
2. **Gospel Missions** – Supporting missions locally & others that are furthering the Gospel all around the world. Including: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Hillsong TV and overseas workers in SE Asia.

We support a number of overseas workers in projects throughout south east Asia. One example is Thailand where legends Erik and Marianna Klar have been based as missionaries since 1992. Some of their work includes:

- The River Centre which has been transformed from a Brothel into a thriving Church and community training centre.
- Church planting and community development in the unreached northern Hills tribes near the border with Burma. 100's have come to Christ through arrange of projects including water and toilet ministry!
- Reaching out into a southern city to rescue girls who are being trafficked

