

Ancient wisdom that works today

Proverbs 13:3 Speak wisely

1. Proverbs 12

- Which verses refer to words and speech?
- What do these proverbs teach us about our use of words?
- Which proverb or proverbs stand out for you?
- What action does the proverb encourage?

2. Truth matters

- Proverbs 12:22 'The Lord detest lying lips, but he delights in in men who are truthful.'
- White lies, hedging the truth. John 10:44
- What do I listen to? What do I turn a deaf ear to?
- Proverbs 17:4, Proverbs 18:8

3. Words heal, Words kill

- Proverbs 18:21 'The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.'
- Proverbs 10:11, Proverbs 10:21
- Wisdom, Right thing, right time, right way.
- Proverbs 31: 8,9 'Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute'...

4. Words are not enough!

- Proverbs 14:23 'In all toil there is profit but mere talking tends only to poverty.'
- Proverbs 24:12 'If you say, "Behold we did not know this" does not he who weighs the heart perceive it'

Digging Deeper

1. Why do we feel irritated or hurt when friends or colleagues don't tell the truth?
2. How does a failure to speak the truth undermine the foundation of a relationship?
3. Proverbs suggestion for lying less is talking less (10:19) Is this a realistic solution? How would you go about talking less? When do you think talking less would be helpful?
4. Being willing to speak a hard and important truth is linked to being honest. Why are we often unwilling to do this?
5. When have you seen someone combine truth and love effectively?
6. Do you think you are the sort of person who needs to work on adding love and grace to your words, or are you the type who needs to put more emphasis on truth telling rather than peacekeeping? What steps can you take to grow in this area?