

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the group:

How would you define gossip? What about slander? How are they different, and how are they similar?

Have you ever experienced someone slandering you or gossiping about you? What was it like? What damage did it do in your life? What do you wish people would have done instead?

Read Proverbs 18:8; 17:4; 16:28; & 25:9-10

Why do people gossip? Why do you gossip? What about it do we find enjoyable, or what benefit do we think we get from it?

Pastor Adam said that gossip hurts the speaker, the listener, the person spoken about, and the entire community. Think through each of these parties, and list the ways gossip/slander harms each of them; be as specific as possible.

What are the long-term consequences for a community in which gossip and slander are allowed to thrive?

Read Leviticus 20:16; Psalm 15:1-3; 1Timothy 5:9-16; Romans 1:28-32

Why does God take gossip & slander so seriously? Why is it repeatedly included as a core command or standard of holiness for God's people?

If we take scripture seriously, what should our attitude be towards gossip and slander within the church?

How can each of us contribute towards a healthy gossip-free culture in our families and our church family?

Consider your own life:

In what situations are you most tempted toward gossip (either as the listener or the talker)? What practical steps can you take to avoid gossip?

Is there anyone you have gossiped about or slandered? What do you need to do to make it right?

What opportunities do you have this week where you could publicly speak well of someone and encourage them or build their reputation?

Close by reading Galatians 5:14-15 & Colossians 3:8-10

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