



Discussion Guide

February 15, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p>Construction or Destruction? Think back for a second. What is the most helpful, positive or encouraging thing someone has said to you recently? Now think back for a second to the most hurtful, cutting or negative thing that someone has said to you recently. Revisit the thoughts that went through your mind and recall how you felt in both situations. That is the power of the tongue. The tongue has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). The tongue is like a crane – it can be used for construction (building up) or destruction (tearing down). The decision to attach the wrecking ball is yours!</p>	<p>Before you begin today, think of a time in your life when you've been around someone who was a poser.</p> <p>* Helpful Hint: Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.</p>
<p>Discussion Kick Off</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share a time when someone's words cut you to the bone causing your heart to hurt. Or, share a time when you weren't on the receiving end, but it was your tongue that did the cutting. Don't be afraid to share your own "tongue struggles." I assure you, you'll be in good company. 2. If you could hear a tape recording of everything you said last week, what would you want to edit out? 	<p><i>By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.</i> -Winston Churchill</p>
<p>Evaluate It</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the "tongue" so difficult to control? 2. Our tongues are merely a muscle, so when we say, "I cannot control my tongue," what are we really saying? In reality, we can control this muscle, so what is it we really lose control of? See Matthew 12:34. 3. Why do evil things, gossip and cutting words come from our mouths? 4. How do our tongues compare to a bit in a horse's mouth, the rudder of a ship and fire? 5. What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control his or her tongue better? 	<p>Read James 3:1-18. Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p>
<p>Make It Personal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the circumstances during the week when you tend to fall into a way of talking that contradicts your praise on Sunday. 2. What kinds of damage can an uncontrolled tongue do to your family? To your marriage? To your children? To your church? To your co-workers? To non-believers? 3. How can we submit our tongues to the control of God's Spirit? What could be the result? 	<p>Leaders, if any of your group members are interested in serving, direct them to the link on focetown.com that was mentioned in the sermon.</p>
<p>The Power of Words Most Americans are familiar with the name John Wilkes Booth, but his brother Edwin Booth may not be so well known today. However, in the 1860's Edwin Booth was one of the best-known actors in America and England, known for his passionate style and powerful voice. He became recluse and retired from acting because of the fateful night his brother, John Wilkes Booth, murdered Abraham Lincoln. Edwin Booth became a recluse because he was so ashamed of what his brother did and the way it had tarnished his family's legacy. He felt there was nothing he could ever do that would undo the damage of his brother's awful crime. Several years later, Edwin Booth was in New Jersey at a train station. The people were pushing forward to get on the train and they knocked a boy down on to the tracks of an oncoming train, which meant certain death for this boy. Without even thinking, Edwin Booth wrapped his legs around a pole, reached down and grabbed the boy and saved his life from the oncoming train. The boy graciously thanked him and they visited for a little while and each went their way. Edwin Booth didn't think any more about it, until several weeks later he got a letter from President Ulysses S. Grant thanking him for saving the life of Robert Todd Lincoln. President Abraham Lincoln's son. Edwin Booth kept that letter in his pocket for the rest of his life. It was in his pocket when he died. The words on that sheet of paper redefined Edwin Booth in a positive way. Words are powerful!</p>	<p>At the end of the discussion, take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcctown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director