

1. **Launchers: What words are burned into your heart?**

2. **Worship God – John 1:1-5, 12-14**

Worship the LORD who speaks! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the gift of His commands (revealing His good design), His promises in the face of evil, and that His counsel is always wise and good.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “Verbal Integrity”**

Why do words have such power?

- Why DO words have such power?
- If God created, commanded, and promised through his words, and we are created in His image, what does that tell us about our tongue?
- Where have you been stung by someone’s words? Why does it feel so easy to recall and so potent to feel?

Pride, Lies, & Cruelty

- How does our quest to replace God distort how we view and use words?
- What two analogies do we get in James 3 on the power of the tongue? What stories come to mind that verify the truth of these analogies?
- How do we twist or invert our words publicly and privately?

God’s Word Made Flesh & The End of My Words

- As God’s Word made flesh, how does Jesus have, and *how is He, the Final Word?*
- If Jesus is the Word, and all of his promises are true, how has he redeemed and dignified you? How does the false witness, gossip, piercing accusations and insults, and misuse of words against you hold up compared to the words he has proclaimed over you?
- What’s the first step in needing Jesus to heal your heart and your use of words?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD who speaks! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the gift of His commands (revealing His good design), His promises in the face of evil, and that His counsel is always wise and good.

2. *How have you lived wielding your words carelessly, or exalting the importance of your words while ignoring God or the words of others?* Confess your arrogance and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and help you humble yourself.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work and His words! Thank Him that He not only offers forgiveness for how you’ve defied the Father’s word but that He also offers you His righteousness to cover all your failures and sin.

4. Who do you know that has a harsh tongue? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them to see their spiritual danger, and that He would give them opportunities to learn to be defined by Jesus and His Word.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you stop your mouth before His holiness! Pray for help in growing more loving and faithful in your words, and to trust that you are blessed if you trust in the LORD.

5. **Mission: Our mission as Christians is to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. We do this by abiding in the words and works of Jesus that both save and dignify our souls.**

- a. Use words to affirm the people in your group. Share with them and the group how you have been encouraged by their listening and their actions towards you.
 - i. Actively listen to these words of encouragement and give thanks to the Lord for the beauty of words, and for the beauty of THE Word.