



HOMIES

The Power of Words

#nphomies

Week 5

5 of 6

May 21, 2017

Bottom Line: Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Icebreaker: Most people at some point wonder what would have happened had they pursued a different path in life, either personally or professionally. Each person states their name and what path they have been on and what path they might have taken. Example: I am Jim, and I am a computer tech. I always thought I would be a basketball coach until college.

Key Verse: *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.* Proverbs 18:21

See that little dog? He's lying by the door, waiting for the family to come home. He hears the garage door go up, and he is instantly four paws to the floor, running, tail wagging deliriously. Joe, his master, enters with a steady stream of "Hey, there, buddy! How's my boy? Oh, you're a happy guy! What a good boy you are! Yay for Jixter!" Jixter is beside himself—he clamors all over his master as the big man bends over and scratches behind his ears. The tail goes mad. He is the picture of joy.

Two days later. Doug, the master, has had a hard day at work. Jixter is waiting at the door again. But this time Doug pushes the door open without looking up, and accidentally steps into Jixter. "Get out of the way, you dumb dog!", he spits. "About made me fall down." Jixter backs up, feet tap dancing away quickly on the hardwood floor. But he doesn't move fast enough. "Go!", Doug yells harshly. "And stay!!" Jixter darts under the desk. His tail is drooping and his eyes are sad. Spirit crushed, he obeys. He stays.

Same dog. Same man. Different words. Different tone. One brought the little dog to life. One spoke death to his spirit. Even sadder, Doug has the same effect on his wife and children. Some nights he encourages and lifts. Some nights he destroys and kills. What he doesn't realize is that after awhile, the spring back to life doesn't come as quickly or rise quite as high. His words are crushing away the life. And it is always a choice. "Words kill, words give life. They are either poison or fruit. You choose." Proverbs 18:21

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what impacted you most?

A right word spoken at the right time can actually be life-changing. A wrong word can have the opposite life-changing effect. How have you experienced that to be true?

"Be mindful when it comes to your words. A string of some that don't mean much to you, may stick with someone else for a lifetime." – Rachel Wolchin

Sometimes we destroy our own joy and happiness by the words we speak to ourselves, or by talking unnecessarily about things that have hurt or disappointed us. How can I guard against being my own enemy in this way?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

"Changing the way I speak is not about being more disciplined; it is a matter of the heart." Discuss.

"My heart is the source of my words. They are never truly unintentional." Discuss this.

What kind of words speak life? What kind of words speak death?

"Be careful with your words. Once they are said, they can be only forgiven, not forgotten." Agree or disagree? Why?

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." – Mother Teresa
Tell about a kind word that has impacted you recently.

How can I change my heart to cultivate life-giving words?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Identify ways we can commit together to speak positively in our church and community.
- 2) Pray for people we identify by name who need encouragement. Pray that we will be the ones to speak words of life.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Proverbs 15:23

Day 2: James 1:26

Day 3: Psalm 141:3

Day 4: Proverbs 4:23

Day 5: Matthew 12:36-37

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)