

June 7 – Lesson 2: God's Design for Our Words

Today's Reading

- The 40-Day Word Fast, Chapter 1: *The Power of Words*
- Genesis Chapter 1

Preparing for Next Week: June 14th Assigned Reading

- John Chapter 1
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Opening Prayer

Pray for wisdom to understand God's purpose for our words and for hearts that desire to use speech in ways that honor Him.

Opening Question

What was God's design for our words?

Allow participants to share initial thoughts before diving into Scripture.

Key Theme

God's first recorded actions in Scripture were spoken. Before humanity ever spoke a word, God demonstrated the power of words by creating the world through His voice.

Main Idea: Words were designed to create, build, bless, reveal truth, and bring life.

Scripture Study: Words of Power

Genesis 1:3

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Discussion

- What stands out about the way God created?
 - Why do you think God commanded things into existence instead of physically creating them?
 - Why is it significant that God's first recorded action was speaking?
 - What does this teach us about the power of words?
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Romans 4:17

"The God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not."

Discussion

- What does it mean that God "calls into being" things that do not exist?
 - How can our words help shape the environments around us?
 - How can words of faith impact ourselves and others?
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Words Can Wound or Heal

Proverbs 12:18

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Discussion

- Have you experienced words that felt like "sword thrusts"?
 - What makes words so powerful that they can either wound or heal?
 - What are examples of healing words?
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Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword..."

Discussion

- What is the difference between our words and God's Word?
 - How does God's Word bring conviction, healing, and transformation?
 - Why is it important to align our words with God's Word?
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Genesis 1 Book Study

Observation

As a group, identify every time the phrase:

"And God said..."

appears in Genesis 1.

Discuss how frequently God's creative power is connected to His speech.

Discussion Questions

Creation Through Words

- Why do you think God chose words as His primary method of creation?
- What does this reveal about His authority?

Naming and Identity

- Why are labels and names important when creating things?
- Why did God name parts of His creation?
- How do names and labels shape identity?

Misusing Labels

- How can labels, when used incorrectly, hurt others?

- Have you ever been given a label that negatively impacted you?
- Have you ever unintentionally labeled someone in a harmful way?

The Seed Principle

Genesis 1 repeatedly shows plants producing seed according to their kind.

- The land bore seeds and multiplied without God physically doing anything beyond speaking. How can this relate to the way our words take root and spread?
 - What kinds of "seeds" do our words plant in the lives of others?
 - What kind of harvest do encouraging words produce?
 - What kind of harvest do destructive words produce?
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Words vs. The Word

Discussion

- What is the difference between "words" and "the Word"?
- Why should our words be guided by God's Word?
- How can spending time in Scripture affect the way we speak?

Key Point:

The more God's Word fills our hearts, the more life-giving our words become.

Faith and Speaking

Mark 11:23

"Whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart..."

Discussion

- What is needed in order to speak things into existence according to this passage?
- How does faith influence our speech?
- What is the difference between faith-filled declarations and simply positive thinking?
- How can we use words to agree with God's promises?

Personal Reflection

Reflection Questions

- Think of a time you spoke a negative word over someone. Did you truly want it to come to pass?
- Have you ever spoken limitations over yourself?
- What words have you repeatedly spoken that may be planting negative seeds?
- What words of life could replace those statements?

Activity

Write down:

1. One negative phrase you often say.
2. A life-giving, biblical statement that can replace it.

Example:

- "I'll never be good enough."
 - "I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God."
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Weekly Challenge

Throughout this week:

- Pay attention to the "seeds" your words are planting.
- Before speaking, ask:
 - Will this build up or tear down?
 - Is this aligned with God's truth?
 - What harvest might these words produce?

Choose one person each day and intentionally speak words of life, encouragement, and blessing over them.

Closing Prayer

Pray that God would:

- Help us speak words that bring life.
- Guard us from careless speech.
- Align our words with His Word.
- Teach us to use our voices for blessing, encouragement, truth, and healing.