

WEEKLY GUIDE

OCTOBER 24, 2021

1 GATHER! SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

BIBLE READINGS:

Psalm 141:3-4, 52:2-4; Proverbs 4:23, 15:23, 18:20-21, 24:26, 25:11; Genesis 3:1-4, Romans 1:18-25, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:5-6, Ephesians 4:14-16

PSALM 25:11

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

PSALM 141:3

Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

2 TALK! DISCUSS THE LESSONS

PROVERBS 18:20-21

20 From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

PROVERBS 24:26!

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

3 DO! PUT THE LESSONS INTO PRACTICE

PSALM 52:2-4!

2 You who practice deceit, your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor. 3 You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth. 4 You love every harmful word, you deceitful tongue!

2 THESSALONIANS 2:10B!

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

EPHESIANS 4:29!

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit (impart grace) those who hear.

COLOSSIANS 4:5-6!

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

4 PRAY! MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD

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DISCUSSION:

How is speech like apples of gold in settings of silver? What word picture can we draw from this? Is your life beautified by your speech like the lovely ornamental centerpiece being described here? What does a word fitly spoken mean to you?

Why is it so important to be truthful and honest? What does it mean to impart grace to those who hear (Ephesians 4:29, NKJ)? How does this relate to our conversations being seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:5-6)? Do your words edify or build others up? Do they benefit others? Are they good and helpful? Do they encourage (pour courage into) those who hear them? Are they reflect the love of Christ?

Do you struggle to know what to say to others to help point them to Jesus? Do you ever feel like you miss opportunities to share your faith or speak into the life of others? How can you make sure you say the right thing at the right time? How can you guarantee that your interactions are life giving, helpful, and loving? In light of all of this, what does it mean to "redeem the time?" Why is this not referring to a specific time on the clock?

Below are some questions to examine your life through the three Biblical components of truth, grace, and love as they work together to impact what it means for your speech to be like "apples of gold".

1. Do you love the truth? Is what you say honest and truthful? Do you speak the truth?
2. Is your speech seasoned with grace? Is your speech helpful? Beneficial? Encouraging? Life giving? Gracious? Attractive? Are your words pointing people to Jesus and helping others grow in Christ?
3. Does the love of Christ constrain your words? Is there love in your heart toward others or hate? Are you building walls between you and the people God wants you to reach and encourage, or are you building up people by speaking life affirming words? Are you making the most of the opportunities God provides to speak into other's lives?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

Does your speech make you more attractive? Like apples of gold in a silver bowl, your life can be made more beautiful by your words. Grace is the salt which keeps our speech from becoming rotten. When your speech is full of grace, or seasoned with salt as it were, it ensures that every interaction you have with others can be productive, edifying, helpful, and beneficial to those who hear. When you speak life affirming words, you will have the right response at the right time every time. This is the essence of what it means to redeem the time by speaking the truth in love.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

