

“Yapping” | Slander

GETTING STARTED: Who was your most memorable high school teacher? What catch phrases were they most noted as saying?

EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. How does the World War II cautionary phrase, “Loose lips sink ships” relate to “Loose lips sink relationships”?

2. “Yapping” refers to the ways we use our words that can sabotage our ability to influence others. Where is “yapping” most prevalent? Consider your workplace, the church, online interactions, etc. Why is it prevalent in those places? How can our words sabotage our ability to speak truth into the lives of those around us?

3. How can our words have the same potential power as a gas can? What actions do the following proverbs encourage of us? Why?

- Proverbs 10:19
- Proverbs 17:27
- Proverbs 17:28

4. How can our words be like arrows that have been fired? How do the following proverbs and psalm portray the potential for hurt from our words?

- Proverbs 25:18
- Proverbs 26:18-19
- Psalm 64:2-4

5. What does Proverbs 18:8 say about the impact of gossip? How can our words be like chocolate?

6. How can you tell if someone is gossiping? What is the difference between “gossip” and “just filling you in on something I heard”?

7. Read Ephesians 4:29. Identify Paul’s caution (what not to do) and his encouragement (what to do instead). What steps should a person take to move away from the caution towards the encouragement? How would you help someone else take those steps?

8. In what ways did Jesus provide us with an example of how to use words? When did he use them to build others up? When did he refrain from speaking?

APPLY THE TRUTH:

How common is “yapping” in and around your life? Take this challenge for the next week: Write down these three categories of reckless talk and keep tabs of anytime you find yourself or others engaged in this sort of talk. Was it more or less frequent than you thought?

- Gas can yapping (too many words)
- Arrow yapping (hurtful words)
- Chocolate yapping (inappropriate words)

PRAY:

Dear God,

It is so easy to use words in a reckless manner. Help me to use my words in such a way that it benefits those who listen.

Protect me from the temptation to open my mouth when I should be silent, speak hurtful words or gossip. Help me to build others up according to their needs.

Amen

NOTES:
