

Living Faith
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPEAK LIFE

GROUP LIFE
SERMON SERIES

L I F E G R O U P S E S S I O N S

Life Groups are an important part of our church. They provide modeling and direction from a leader, a place for people to talk about what they are learning, prayer support for what they are experiencing and encouragement from each other to follow Jesus more fully. Here is the format, but feel free to use these sessions to design what works best:

Opening Prayer

This sets the tone for the Bible Study Session, inviting God's presence and guidance into the group. It's a moment to ask for wisdom and understanding and seek God's blessing over the time spent together. Give praise to the Lord for the opportunity to gather, and a call for unity and openness among participants.

Quick Review

This provides an opportunity to do a brief recap of the weekly message or the overarching theme of the current study. This segment helps participants reconnect with prior insights, refresh their memories, and establish a foundation for today's study. It's an opportunity to highlight key points, address any lingering questions, and ensure everyone is on the same page before moving forward.

Digging Deeper

Expository teaching chooses the specific passage from the weekly study and teaches it through verse-by-verse. Group Leaders should look at the text as a whole and break it up into bite size pieces in order to help the group see the full intention of the message.

This in-depth exploration of the scripture involves examining the text's meaning, historical context, and its application to daily life. You can utilize the questions provided to help participants uncover deeper insights and foster meaningful conversations that will grow their faith.

Feel free to change this up as needed to keep things fresh and allow conversations to develop organically.

Discipleship Moment

As a Group Leader, it is important to have an understanding of where each member is at in their faith journey.

It's a time to reflect on how the study material can influence personal faith and behavior (as a group and individually). This segment might include sharing personal experiences, discussing strategies for living out the principles learned, and setting goals for spiritual development. The aim is to come alongside each member and encourage them to take actionable steps in their walk with Christ.

Closing Prayer

Take a moment to express gratitude for the insights gained, pray for the requests of the participants, and seek God's help in applying what was learned. Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.

WEEK 1 – September 13th, 2026

Speak Carefully

James 3:1-12

We have all had speaker's remorse. We said something in anger, frustration, fear, or foolishness—and wished we could take it back as soon as it left our mouths. Words are small, but they can set the direction of a marriage, a friendship, a family, a church, and even our relationship with God. A harsh word can open an old wound. A careless comment can create conflict that lasts for years. On the other hand, a timely and loving word can encourage a discouraged soul, strengthen a relationship, and point someone to Christ. James 3:1-12 gives us five reasons to speak carefully so that our words increasingly bring life rather than death.

Opening Prayer

Quick Review

Read today's passage and discuss how Sunday's Message helped illustrate the text. Remember to mention that James wrote these five reasons for each of us to examine our own speech—not to police how other people talk—and that while none of us can fully tame our tongue, Jesus forgives us daily and empowers us to speak more like him.

Digging Deeper

Break down the scripture passage into segments for detailed, verse-by-verse study to explore its meaning, context, and application, encouraging deeper faith discussions.

WEEK 1 – September 13th, 2026

Speak Carefully

James 3:1-12

QUESTION 1

Speak carefully because your words have eternal impact

James says pastors and teachers will be judged more strictly because they speak publicly about God. In what ways do your words about God, the gospel, or the Christian life carry more weight in your own life and in the lives of others?

QUESTION 2

Speak carefully because your words shape your life

James compares the tongue to a bit that guides a horse and a rudder that steers a ship. Can you think of a season in your life when your words (about yourself, about others, or about God) noticeably shaped, or had a big impact on the direction your life or within a relationship?

QUESTION 3

Speak carefully because your words are dangerous

James says the tongue is “a fire” capable of setting a whole life ablaze, and that few sins are committed without the tongue's involvement. Why do you think it's so easy to underestimate the danger of our words compared to other sins? What can we put in place to catch ourselves before we set a whole conversation on “fire”?

WEEK 1 – September 13th, 2026

Speak Carefully

James 3:1-12

QUESTION 4

Speak carefully because your words require daily forgiveness

James says no human can tame the tongue, yet he still calls us to speak carefully. Pastor Scott mentioned “*enter each day knowing you will misspeak, and then be forgiven by God, so that you are motivated by that grace to speak carefully in order to minimize damage and maximize his glory.*”

How does knowing you will misspeak, and that God's grace covers that daily failure, actually free you to grow, rather than giving you an excuse to stop trying?

QUESTION 5

Speak carefully because God wants your words to bless others like he has blessed you in Jesus Christ

James points out the strange inconsistency in our behavior of blessing God with the same mouth that we use to curse people who are made in his image. What is one relationship right now where you could replace a habit of cursing (criticism, sarcasm, contempt) with a habit of blessing and showing God's love?

WEEK 1 – September 13th, 2026

Speak Carefully

James 3:1-12

Discipleship Moment

Take a moment to understand each member's individual faith journey and use the study to help encourage actionable steps by setting goals for spiritual development.

Closing Prayer

Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.

WEEK 2 – September 20th, 2026

Speak from the Heart

Matthew 12:33-37

“Just speak from your heart” sounds like sincere and wise advice. It sounds honest, authentic, freeing, and even brave. But what if the heart is not always a safe place to speak from? What if the words that feel most honest in the moment are actually revealing anger, pride, fear, bitterness, or selfishness within us? We have all said something like, “I am just telling you how I feel,” only to realize later that our feelings were not leading us toward love, truth, or godliness. Jesus has something very different to say about our hearts and our words. In Matthew 12:33-37, he gives us four truths about our hearts, our words, his judgment, and his hope.

Opening Prayer

Quick Review

Read today’s passage and discuss how Sunday’s Message helped illustrate the text. Remember to mention that our words reveal what is already in our hearts, and that Jesus alone can give us a new heart.

Digging Deeper

Break down the scripture passage into segments for detailed, verse-by-verse study to explore its meaning, context, and application, encouraging deeper faith discussions.

WEEK 2 – September 20th, 2026

Speak from the Heart

Matthew 12:33-37

QUESTION 1

Humans have a sinful heart by nature

Jesus told the Pharisees “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” showing that we are naturally sinful, not neutral, at heart. How does believing that you have a sinful heart by nature (not just by bad choices) change the way you respond when you catch yourself speaking using words that are unkind?

QUESTION 2

Our words reveal the kind of heart we have

According to Jesus, our speech is like an x-ray of our soul — gossip reveals envy, lying reveals fear, boasting reveals insecurity. Which of these patterns (gossip, lying, swearing, boasting, flattery, arguing) do you see most often in your own speech, and what might it reveal about what your heart is treasuring? Remember whatever you value the most is what you treasure.

QUESTION 3

Only a heart of faith that speaks words from faith will be justified at the judgment

The sermon clarifies that these verses aren't a warning that careless words send you to hell — we don't serve a God who has us walking on eggshells; his mercies are new every morning. Instead, verses 36-37 are about confessing with your mouth what you believe in your heart: that Jesus is Lord. Does this passage leave you anxious about your everyday words, or grateful for the one confession that justifies you?

WEEK 2 – September 20th, 2026

Speak from the Heart

Matthew 12:33-37

QUESTION 4

Jesus gives a new heart to everyone who puts their faith in him

Jesus points to himself as the “good tree” whose fruit proves that he is good, He offers to make our hearts good if we trust him. What is one area of your speech where you most need to trust in Jesus to change your heart rather than just your willpower?

Discipleship Moment

Take a moment to understand each member's individual faith journey and use the study to help encourage actionable steps by setting goals for spiritual development.

Closing Prayer

Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.

WEEK 3 – September 27th, 2026

Speak the Scriptures

Psalm 19

Have you ever replayed a conversation in your mind, wishing you had not said what you said or had said something different? Those lingering words can ring in the ears of our souls long after a conversation ends. We can speak in haste, anger, fear, insecurity, or frustration and then carry regret over the effect our words had on someone we love. But God has given us something better than simply trusting our impulses or trying harder to find the right thing to say. He has given us his Word. Psalm 19 directs us to fill our hearts and mouths with the Scriptures. This Psalm provides three reasons to speak the Scriptures and four benefits of doing so.

Opening Prayer

Quick Review

Read today's passage and discuss how Sunday's Message helped illustrate the text. Remember to mention that Scripture gives us both reasons to speak God's Word and the benefits that come from doing so.

Digging Deeper

Break down the scripture passage into segments for detailed, verse-by-verse study to explore its meaning, context, and application, encouraging deeper faith discussions.

WEEK 3 – September 27th, 2026

Speak the Scriptures

Psalm 19

QUESTION 1

Creation can't speak the Scriptures

David writes that the heavens are constantly "declaring the glory of God" day and night, everywhere, to everyone — yet as loud and constant as creation is, it still can't utter a single word of Scripture; only people can speak God's actual words. Where do you see creation "declaring the glory of God" around you, and why do you think God still wants you to be the one who speaks his Word to people rather than leaving it to creation?

QUESTION 2

The Scriptures communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Only Scripture can tell us that God will forgive our sin and make us blameless through Christ — a message creation cannot speak. Why is it not enough to just point people to nature or to a vague sense of "something bigger" when they actually need the specific good news about Jesus?

QUESTION 3

The Scriptures are better than money and food

David says God's Word is more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey. If you're honest, what do you find yourself craving or trusting more than God's Word on an average day, and what would it look like to actually treasure God's Word above it?

WEEK 3 – September 27th, 2026

Speak the Scriptures

Psalms 19

QUESTION 4

The Bible revives the soul

The Bible “revives the soul,” both converting the sinner and renewing the believer. Pastor Scott mentioned that “he uses his Word to cause us to be born again, and to continue to spread revival in our hearts as we live for him.” Where in your life right now do you need that kind of revival? Do you sometimes feel spiritually dead and needing new life, or spiritually tired and needing refreshment?

QUESTION 5

The Bible imparts wisdom

God’s Word makes “the simple wise,” giving us decision-oriented insight we can’t get simply from growing older or gaining more experience. What decision are you facing right now where you need to hear from God through Scripture, rather than just your instinct or experience?

QUESTION 6

The Bible creates joy

The sermon compared God’s precepts to riverbanks that let joy “run deep and strong” instead of spilling over into chaos. Where have you experienced real joy from living inside one of God’s boundaries, rather than resenting it as being a restriction in your life?

WEEK 3 – September 27th, 2026

Speak the Scriptures

Psalm 19

QUESTION 7

The Bible gives moral direction

Scripture is described as turning the lights on in a dark room so we can see clearly what's right and wrong. Pastor Scott mentioned "nothing in the room changed. What changed is that you can finally see." What is an area of your life where God's Word has recently given you that kind of new light or clarity? Or where do you sense you may need it now?

Discipleship Moment

Take a moment to understand each member's individual faith journey and use the study to help encourage actionable steps by setting goals for spiritual development.

Closing Prayer

Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.

WEEK 4 – October 4th, 2026

Speak Wisdom

Proverbs 26

Foolish words can make a problem explode. A careless comment, a repeated excuse, a piece of gossip, an unnecessary argument, or flattering speech with selfish motives can do great harm to relationships and to our own souls. We have all seen a small verbal spark turn into a much larger fire in a marriage, family, workplace, friendship, or church. We also know that words can either intensify conflict or help bring peace, either conceal deceit or bring truth into the light. Proverbs 26 exposes the destructive power of foolish speech and calls us to something better. It provides four ways to speak wisdom into the situations we face.

Opening Prayer

Quick Review

Read today's passage and discuss how Sunday's Message helped illustrate the text. Remember to mention that speaking wisdom begins with addressing our own hearts before we try to speak it into others.

Digging Deeper

Break down the scripture passage into segments for detailed, verse-by-verse study to explore its meaning, context, and application, encouraging deeper faith discussions.

WEEK 4 – October 4th, 2026

Speak Wisdom

Proverbs 26

QUESTION 1

Speak wisdom to answer folly

Proverbs 26:4-5 pairs two verses that sound contradictory at first: 'do not answer a fool according to his folly' and 'answer a fool according to his folly.' Together they mean don't stoop to a fool's tone or tactics — don't mock back, shout back, or twist facts back — but do respond to the substance of what they said so the folly doesn't go unanswered. Think of a recent conversation where someone spoke foolishly to or around you: did you end up matching their tone, or did you speak wisdom into the situation? What is the outcome of either of these approaches?

QUESTION 2

Speak wisdom to address excuses

The sluggard in Proverbs 26 doesn't see himself as lazy — he sees himself as wise, realistic, and justified in his excuses. What's an excuse you've caught yourself making recently that, if you're honest, was really just avoiding something you knew you needed to do?

QUESTION 3

Speak wisdom to extinguish conflict

Proverbs 26 says conflict is fueled by lying, slander, constant arguing, and gossip — and that “where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.” Where in your relationships right now might your words be adding fuel to a conflict rather than providing the wisdom to help extinguish it?

WEEK 4 – October 4th, 2026

Speak Wisdom

Proverbs 26

QUESTION 4

Speak wisdom to expose deceit

The sermon describes deceitful speech as a “glaze” that makes something cheap look valuable — kind words on the outside covering a heart of resentment or self-interest underneath. Can you think of a time you used gracious-sounding words or flattery to hide what you were really thinking or feeling? What would it look like to let your words and heart agree?

Discipleship Moment

Take a moment to understand each member's individual faith journey and use the study to help encourage actionable steps by setting goals for spiritual development.

Closing Prayer

Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.

WEEK 5 – October 11th, 2026

Speak Redemptively

Ephesians 4:25-32

One of the unfortunate realities of being around people for any length of time is that eventually they will say something that hurts us. And if we are honest, we will say things that hurt them. It can happen in a marriage, a family, a friendship, or a church. Words can create wounds that remain in people's souls for years, build walls between people who ought to be close, and turn a small disagreement into a permanent division. Yet God wants our words to help repair what sin has damaged, not do more damage. Ephesians 4:25-32 gives us three words that describe redemptive speech and three ways to speak it.

Opening Prayer

Quick Review

Read today's passage and discuss how Sunday's Message helped illustrate the text. Remember to mention that redemptive speech is not just about what we say, but how we say it.

Digging Deeper

Break down the scripture passage into segments for detailed, verse-by-verse study to explore its meaning, context, and application, encouraging deeper faith discussions.

WEEK 5 – October 11th, 2026

Speak Redemptively

Ephesians 4:25-32

QUESTION 1

Speak truth

Paul says we speak truth “for we are members one of another,” meaning honesty is how a community rebuilds trust after sin has damaged it. Is there a relationship in your life right now where you’ve been avoiding an honest conversation because it feels safer to stay silent?

QUESTION 2

Speak encouragement

Ephesians 4:29 contrasts “corrupting talk” that decays a relationship with speech that is “good for building up, as fits the occasion.” Who in your life needs a specific word of encouragement from you this week, and what would that word actually be?

QUESTION 3

Speak forgiveness

The sermon points out that real forgiveness means not “burying the hatchet but leaving the handle sticking out” — bringing up old offenses to win future arguments. Is there someone you’ve said “I forgive you” to but on the inside, you are quietly keeping score? What would it look like to fully release that debt?

WEEK 5 – October 11th, 2026

Speak Redemptively

Ephesians 4:25-32

QUESTION 4

Speak calmly

Paul writes “be angry and do not sin,” meaning anger itself isn’t always wrong, but what we do with it can be. When you’re angry, do your words tend to come out as attacks on the person, or can you address the issue while still speaking calmly? What has helped you slow down before you speak?

QUESTION 5

Speak generously

Paul's picture of a thief who stops stealing, starts working, and starts giving becomes a picture of our words: selfish speech takes attention, credit, control, and someone's reputation, while redemptive speech gives patience, understanding, credit, and the benefit of the doubt. Think of a recent conversation where you walked away feeling like you'd won the point, gotten the last word, or come out on top. Looking back, were your words more about taking something for yourself, or giving that person what they actually needed?

QUESTION 6

Speak gently

Paul says forgiveness must come with kindness and a tender heart, not bitterness. You can't yell 'I forgive you' in anger and call that redemptive. Gentleness is not weakness; it's strength under control, used to serve others. Where in your life right now do you need that kind of strength: the restraint to soften your tone, even when you feel justified not to?

WEEK 5 – October 11th, 2026

Speak Redemptively

Ephesians 4:25-32

Discipleship Moment

Take a moment to understand each member's individual faith journey and use the study to help encourage actionable steps by setting goals for spiritual development.

Closing Prayer

Pray a blessing for the group's journey ahead and encourage everyone to be more like Jesus each week.