

JAMES

Faith on Display in Your Conversations // Luke 6:43-45

THE POINT: When you rely on God, your words reflect His character.

OVERVIEW: No doubt we've all experienced the hurts and wounds that come from someone's words. Too many marriages, friendships, and business opportunities have been ruined by poorly chosen words. It's hard to cover up the wound simply by saying, "I didn't mean that." As followers of Christ, we are to say exactly what we mean, and what we mean needs to be consistent with our faith and love for Christ.

DIRECTIONS: As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.

Atmosphere

Post harmful and encouraging words and phrases throughout the room that people say to each other. Say, **"We must carefully use our words to love others and point them to Christ rather than doing harm."**

TEACH (Make your notes below)

- **THE POINT:** When you rely on God, your words reflect His character.

➤ 1. GOOD AND BAD TREES

Luke 6:43-44

➤ 2. GOOD AND EVIL PEOPLE

Luke 6:45a

➤ 3. OVERFLOW OF THE HEART

Luke 6:45b

Media

Search the internet for "The Power of Words - The Village Church Resources." Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **"Our words have the power to build others up and tear them down. As Christians, we're called to lift one another up with our speech."**

PREPARE (Sermon outline)

When our hearts are filled with love for God and others, it will be reflected in the ways we speak.

- **A.** Healthy trees produce healthy fruit that is good for eating.
B. Unhealthy trees produce bad fruit or no fruit at all.
C. If we want to know the health of a tree, we need only to look at the fruit.

- **A.** Like trees, spiritually healthy people will produce healthy fruit—fruit of the Spirit, good works, and saved souls.
B. Evil people, on the other hand, produce works of the flesh and ungodly fruit.
C. If we want to know about a person's spiritual health, we need only to look at their lives.

- **A.** The things that are in our hearts always overflow in the ways we live.
B. Specifically, Jesus said that the words we speak give evidence of our heart's condition.
C. Our words are incredibly powerful, and we should devote ourselves to building others up and pointing them to Jesus.

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DIRECTIONS: Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

INTRO

- ▶ How can our words lift others up?
- ▶ What kinds of harm can come from our words?
- ▶ How would you characterize your speech?

LUKE 6:43-44

- ▶ What would a spiritually unhealthy person look like?
- ▶ How would you be able to identify a spiritually healthy person?
- ▶ What does the fruit of your life say about you?

LUKE 6:45a

- ▶ How can we know if our lives are producing healthy fruit?
- ▶ What are works of the flesh?
- ▶ How can we avoid works of the flesh and grow in obedience to Jesus?

LUKE 6:45b

- ▶ How do our lives reflect our hearts?
- ▶ Why are words so powerful?
- ▶ When have you seen people's words point others to Jesus?

LIVE IT OUT

- ▶ **Discuss:** Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.
- ▶ **Ask:** How can you grow in using your words as a reflection of your relationship with Jesus?
- ▶ **Pray:** Ask God to help students choose their words wisely and use them to build others up.