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shine as lights!

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WHAT'S IN THIS Study?

DAY 1: Saved for a Purpose

DAY 2: Shine Your Light

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DAY 3: Your Life

DAY 4: Your Mind

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Junior Level

Ages 8-12

So far, we have seen some pretty big ways that the gospel changes us. Today, we're going to talk about another thing the gospel changes so we can shine—our words!

Read **Ephesians 4:11-14**. According to these verses, what change should occur in the lives of those who believe in Jesus?

Like we saw in the last lesson, these verses tell us how knowing God's truth builds us up, strengthens us to serve, and gives us unity in Christ with other believers. Because of the gospel changing our thinking, we aren't deceived by wrong teaching or lies.

What do you think this has to do with the words we speak?

Our minds and hearts are where our words come from (Matthew 12:34)! When our minds are changed by Christ through the gospel, the words we speak will change as well.

Read **Ephesians 4:15-16**. How do our changed minds affect our words?

Many people are seemingly loving but not truthful, and many are truthful yet unloving. The key is to follow God's Word and speak TRUTH lovingly.

For example, if you see a friend with chocolate on their face, you have a few options. You can not say anything and let them walk around like that, but that isn't loving. You can yell across the room at them in front of everyone and tell them the truth, but THAT isn't loving either. However, to be both loving AND truthful, you could walk up and quietly let them know about the problem.

This applies to all of our speech! Whether we are playing sports, talking through differences of opinion with a friend, or sharing the gospel with an unsaved neighbor, friend, or family member, a mind changed by the gospel will produce words that are both loving AND truthful.

Living out the gospel changes
the kind of words we use
and the way we speak.



Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Colossians 4:5-6**. Why are the words we speak to “outsiders” (unbelievers) so important?

Describing our words as being seasoned with salt carries the idea of making what we say “good tasting” instead of nasty or disgusting. This instruction to believers connects wisdom to the way we speak to others! We can be wise by speaking gracious, “salty” words, or we can be unwise by speaking harsh, unkind, impatient, or angry words.

Ultimately, the way we speak and respond to unbelievers can make the difference between having a further opportunity to share the gospel with them or not. If we offend or hurt someone, it may keep us from having a relationship with that person where we can talk about the gospel. On the other hand, walking in wisdom helps us tell the truth while also being loving.

Think back through your week as you answer the questions below.
Have you said things in a loving and truthful way? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Have you been ungracious or foolish in your words? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Would the people you have spoken to be surprised to hear the gospel coming from you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Finish today’s study by spending some time talking to God. Ask Him to help you know whether your words are both truthful and loving. Thank Him for the ability to grow and change in the area of your words.

Youth Level
Ages 13 and up

So far, we have seen some pretty big ways that the gospel changes us. Today, we're going to talk about another thing the gospel changes so we can shine—our words!

How do you think the gospel changes what we say and the way we speak so that we shine?

We don't shine by simply not saying curse words or not talking about crude things—shining in our words often has much more to do with what we DO say than with what we don't. Sometimes, staying silent would even be the opposite of shining. So how can our words shine the light of the gospel in this world?

Read *Ephesians 4:11-14*. According to these verses, what change should occur in the lives of those who believe in Jesus?

Like we saw in the last lesson, these verses tell us how knowing God's truth builds us up, strengthens us to minister, and gives us unity in Christ with other believers. Because of the gospel changing our thinking, we aren't deceived by wrong doctrine or lies.

So what do you think this has to do with our speech?



Our minds and hearts are where our words come from (Matthew 12:34)! When our minds are changed by Christ through the gospel, the words we speak will change as well.

Read *Ephesians 4:15-16*. How does our minds being changed by the gospel affect our words?

Many people are seemingly loving but not truthful, and many are truthful yet unloving. The key is to follow God's Word and speak TRUTH lovingly.

For example, if you see a friend with chocolate on their face, you have a few options. You can not say anything and let them walk around like that, but that isn't loving. You can yell across the room at them in front of everyone and tell them the truth, but THAT isn't loving either. However, to be both loving AND truthful, you could walk up and quietly let them know about the problem.

Living out the gospel changes the *kind* of words we use and the *way* we speak.



A watercolor illustration of a clear glass bottle lying on its side, with a pile of white salt spilled out of its opening. To the right of the salt pile are two white daisies with yellow centers. The background is a soft, textured wash of light brown and beige.

Ultimately, the way we speak and respond to unbelievers can make the difference between having a further opportunity to share the gospel with them or not! If we needlessly or foolishly offend instead of being gracious, it may keep us from having a relationship with that person that can lead to a gospel conversation. On the other hand, walking in wisdom helps us tell the truth while also being loving.

Think back through your week—have you said things in a loving and truthful way, or would the people you have spoken to be surprised to hear the gospel coming from you because you have been ungracious and foolish in your words? Explain your answer.

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Parent Guide

So far, we have seen some pretty big ways that the gospel changes us. Today, we're going to talk about another thing the gospel changes so we can shine—our words!

How do you think the gospel changes what we say and the way we speak so that we shine?

Read *Ephesians 4:11-14*. According to these verses, what change should occur in the lives of those who believe in Jesus?

Like we saw in the last lesson, these verses tell us how knowing God's truth builds us up, strengthens us to minister, and gives us unity in Christ with other believers. Because of the gospel changing our thinking, we aren't deceived by wrong doctrine or lies. Our minds and hearts are where our words come from (Matthew 12:34)! When our minds are changed by Christ through the gospel, the words we speak will change as well.

Read *Ephesians 4:15-16*. How does our minds being changed by the gospel affect our words?

Many people are seemingly loving but not truthful, and many are truthful yet unloving. The key is to follow God's Word and speak TRUTH lovingly. For example, if you see a friend with chocolate on their face, you have a few options. You can not say anything and let them walk around like that, but that isn't loving. You can yell across the room at them in front of everyone and tell them the truth, but THAT isn't loving either. However, to be both loving AND truthful, you could walk up and quietly let them know about the problem.

This applies to all of our speech! Whether we are correcting our kids, talking through differences of opinion with a friend, or sharing the gospel with an unsaved neighbor, friend, or family member, a mind changed by the gospel will produce words that are both loving AND truthful.

Living out the gospel changes the
kind of words we use and the *way* we speak.

Read **KEY VERSES** *Colossians 4:5-6*. Why are the words we speak to “outsiders” (unbelievers) so important?



The metaphor of our words being seasoned with salt carries the idea of making what we say “palatable,” or “good tasting” instead of repulsive or disgusting. This instruction to believers connects wisdom to the way we speak to others. We can be wise by speaking gracious, “salty” words, or we can be unwise by speaking harsh, unkindly critical, impatient, or unreasonable words.

Ultimately, the way we speak and respond to unbelievers can make the difference between having a further opportunity to share the gospel with them or not. If we needlessly or foolishly offend instead of being gracious, it may keep us from having a relationship with that person that can lead to a gospel conversation. On the other hand, walking in wisdom helps us tell the truth while also being loving.

Maybe you’ve corrected your kids with the phrase, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all!” This is catchy and seems to solve the problem for us. Yet we don’t shine by simply not saying unkind things. Shining in our words has much more to do with what we DO say than with what we don’t. Sometimes, staying silent would even be the opposite of shining. I encourage you to develop the discipline of replacing unkind words with kind ones in your home. I guarantee you will see the difference that it makes!

Think back through your week—have you said things in a loving and truthful way, or would the people you have spoken to be surprised to hear the gospel coming from you because you have been ungracious and foolish in your words? Explain your answer.

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Finish today’s study by spending some time talking to God. Ask Him to help you know whether your words are both truthful and loving. Thank Him for the ability to grow and change in the area of your words.

Scripture: Colossians 4:5-6
Key Truth: Living out the gospel changes the kind of words we use and the way we speak.

Discussion: How are our minds and our thinking related to the words we speak? How should we speak the truth? What are some examples of speech that is gracious and “seasoned with salt?”



SHINE

Did you know this world is dark? Everywhere we turn, the darkness of sin crowds in around us. Yet God has given each Christian a mission—to fight against this darkness with the **light of the gospel**.

All Christians are called to SHINE in this world.

As the gospel changes us from the inside out, we will **shine as lights** that point the attention of others to Him. Are you ready to take on the mission God has for you? Get ready, because this study will show you how to SHINE!



SHI-J

