

# Small Group Studies



*'Bringing God and people together'*

## The Promises of God

### The Words of Jesus

No matter how much Jesus was wronged he never lashed out or retaliated. Isaiah speaking of Christ says *"He will not cry out or raise His voice"* (Isa. 42:2)

Its one thing for Jesus to be perfect but He really raised the bar for us when He said *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven"* (Matt. 5:44)

These words of Christ may seem unfair or impossible to achieve but Christ is commanding us to do is to be like Him.

**Q All of us at times will feel hurt, left out, wronged or betrayed by the actions or words of others. What are some of the things that might help us to respond in a godly way?**

### Get Wisdom

Our words originate from deep within our lives. We speak out of things like our belief system, our personal understanding of situations or the values we have built our lives on. Jesus freely forgave others when they wronged Him while speaking words in their defense. When He did this He was looking beyond the external actions or words that He heard and saw. He said in the defense of others at the time of His death that they don't know what they are doing. Did you know that God can be never disillusioned with any of us because He never has any illusions about what we are really like. The Bible says of Jesus that *"He knew what was in man"* (Jn. 2:25) Jesus also had a perfect understanding that His real opposition was not with other people but was spiritual in nature.

**Q Discuss the following statement.**

Instead of us being reactive in our language we can be proactive which can create an environment around our lives by our positive talk and self talk.

## **Slander is Evil**

The book of Proverbs mentions 7 things that the Lord hates. Included in this list is.  
*"A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among the brethren"*  
(6:19) See also Ex.23:1 Eph. 4:31

Slander may include

Whispering	Rom.1:29, 2 Cor.12:20
Backbiting	Rom.1:30
Gossip	1 Tim.5:13
Repeating matters	Prov.17:9
Judging	James 4:11

It's a sad fact that we all say the wrong thing at times. Although we can never justify bad behavior its great to know that we can repent, be forgiven , move on and grow in our lives. Let the Words of our mouths be Words that would give encouragement and love to all who hear us.

**Q Is there an area in your speech that you would really like to change. Share it with your friends and get them to pray for you?**