

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR TWO | SPRING QUARTER
BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION

SSY02SP

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH





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LESSON SEQUENCE

SPRING QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the **Implementing God's Word...** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	Communication Basics I
LESSON TWO	Communication Basics II
LESSON THREE	False Witness/Lying
LESSON FOUR	Corrupt Communication
LESSON FIVE	Gossip
LESSON SIX	Joking, Mocking, Teasing
LESSON SEVEN	Reproving vs. Reviling
LESSON EIGHT	Undertalk/Overtalk
LESSON NINE	Praise vs. Criticism
LESSON TEN	Listening
LESSON ELEVEN	Encouragement
LESSON TWELVE	Discernment and Judgment
LESSON THIRTEEN	A Bridle for the Tongue



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- COMMUNICATION BASICS I

OVERVIEW

Communication is a gift from God. From Genesis 1, we see that God speaks, bringing all things into existence. Made in His image, we communicate too. And our communication is deeply connected to our relationship to God and with other people.

Our words are products of our hearts. Out of the overflow of our hearts, our mouths speak. Therefore, our words are simply indicators of the condition of our hearts. We learn a lot about the hearts of other people in just listening to their words. Ultimately, our words show whether we are wise people or fools.

James 3 is the classic passage on communication. James uses several analogies to describe the activity of our tongues. Our tongues are small fires. Our tongues are full of poison. This small muscle controls our entire lives, like bridles on horses and rudders on ships. Out of the same mouth comes blessings and cursings—how can this be? Our communication is corrupt because of our sinful hearts.

The Book of Proverbs is filled with all sorts of wisdom about communication. The fool speaks before thinking. The fool talks way too much. With too many words comes great sin. It is wisdom to put a guard on our mouths. Think before you speak!

Finally, God's Word makes it clear that the main purpose of our words is to give grace to others. Instead of being quarrelsome, Christians are to be kind and patient!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

This quarter should give you many opportunities to have engaging discussions about our tongues and speech. Make sure you pound home the fact that all of the "rules" of communication are found in God's Word. Being civil in our speech isn't just a society thing, it is a God thing. He has designed speech to reflect His glory. Our sinfulness makes our words into things that lift us up, and often tear others down. Help your students get a firm foundation in Biblical communication this quarter!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 10:1
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Relationships
Review
3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

A hatred for the
truth
6–8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Basics of
Communication I
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Assess your
weaknesses
3–5 mins.



WELCOME

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PROVERBS THAT WILL "CALL" THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM THE SCRIPTURES.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

*As we begin our studies today, listen to God's Word. **Read Proverbs 10:1.***

¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

*This sums up all the wise sayings of Solomon. Why does a wise child make his parents glad? **Allow answers.** So let's work on making your parents blessed and happy today!*



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God's Word. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What is your main duty in your relationship with your parents? How does the Bible most often describe the relationship between Christians? How are Christians to handle their work relationships? What is our relationship with the civil government? How are we to relate to non-Christians?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. To honor and obey them.
2. As brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. We work unto the LORD, therefore we work hard and with excellence.
4. We must obey our authorities and pray for them.
5. We are to be witnesses. We are to lead them to Christ, not follow them.

God has designed us to be in relationship with other people, so let's follow His plan!



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: *Each week in this class, we will continue to take time to TRAIN our minds how to THINK. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with our minds!*

In the past, we have talked about how God desires for us to LOVE Him with our minds. A big part of that is cultivating a LOVE for the TRUTH. We were designed by God to LOVE righteousness and have a passion for TRUTH.

*Yet our sinful minds really want to HATE the TRUTH. Why do you think that is? **Allow discussion.** When you love truth, it compels you to actually LIVE by it. So it is much easier to HATE and reject the TRUTH—then you can live any way you please!*

*Now I want you to think about the world around you. Many people HATE the TRUTH and seek to re-define LIES into their own version of the truth. Consider what we typically see coming out of the television and movie industry in Hollywood. They often claim to only be reflecting what is going on in our world. Actually, they are really spewing a HATRED for the TRUTH. Can anyone think of examples of this? **Allow answers. Be ready to share some of your own observations.***

The world of politics is another place we often see more LIES than TRUTH. Many politicians HATE the TRUTH because it doesn't conform to their view of the world. For example, there are many political leaders who believe that God should be left out of politics. They think religion is separate from political involvement. But the TRUTH is that God is the one who puts governing authorities in place and He should be front and center in all of our policy decisions as a nation.

There are many more examples of how HATRED of the TRUTH leads one down the wrong path. Hating the truth has only added to the corruption we see in our fallen world. That's why I exhort you to learn to LOVE the TRUTH and let it change your MIND for the better!

THE MIND-IN-TRAINING SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND AS WELL AS USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *This quarter, we are going to implement what the Bible has to say about COMMUNICATION. This fits right in with our year-long study of Biblical relationships. Our words not only say a lot about who we are and what we worship, but they can either build up or break down relationships.*

*Let's begin in Genesis 1. **Read Genesis 1:1-3.***

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Discussion: *Why do we need to start in Genesis 1 to properly understand communication? Any ideas? **Allow answers.** Just as God is the Creator of the world, He is also the Creator of our communication. He is a communicative God. From the very beginning, God SPOKE WORDS! Because He speaks, so can we. Why wouldn't we learn all about communication from the LORD?*

*Let's jump to Luke 6. **Read Luke 6:45.***

⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Discussion: *For these first two lessons, we are going to go all over the Bible to just get an overview of communication. These will be our "communication basics." So what do we learn about communication in Luke 6:45? **Allow answers.** This is a very important principle: Our words are simply reflections of what is in our heart. It makes sense, doesn't it? Good words come from a right heart and evil words come from a sinful heart. Therefore, we learn a lot about a person just by the words he speaks!*

*Turn to Proverbs 11:9. **Read Proverbs 11:9.***

⁹ With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

Application: *This goes right along with the Luke passage. Have you ever tried to destroy someone with your mouth? Our words reflect our intent to either HURT someone or HEAL someone. We can destroy a person or help a person. This is the power of the human tongue!*



Go to *Ecclesiastes 10*. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-14.**

¹² The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him. ¹³ The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness. ¹⁴ A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him?

Discussion: *Do you hear how our words are connected to our character? Wise people say wise things; fools say foolish things. Notice also how the fool talks way too much—we'll discuss that in the future.*

Now to *James 3*. **Read James 3:2-3.**

² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

Discussion: *This is the most familiar passage about our tongues in the Bible. Get the analogy that James is making here—a bridle is what controls an animal and directs it in the right way. We need a bridle for our tongues!*

Look at the next analogies. **Read verses 4-5.**

⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

Discussion: *What else does James compare our tongues to? [A rudder of a ship, a small fire.] Our tongues certainly do control our whole lives and can do very destructive things.*

Let's keep reading. **Read verses 6-8.**

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Application: *What strong words about our WORDS! Do you recognize that your tongue is full of poison? That it can set the world on fire?*

THIS SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



Because of your sinful heart, there is no way you can tame your tongue on your own. We need the grace of God to be able to speak the way God would have us speak.

*Let's finish this passage. **Read verses 9-12.***

⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Discussion: *We see the sad reality of our communication. Out of our mouths can come sweet and kind words, but then we can say some truly horrible things. As James says, this ought not be!*

*Go to 1 Peter 3. **Read 1 Peter 3:8-10.***

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

Discussion: *We'll revisit this passage in the future. I just want you to hear how important it is for you to guard your tongue. Long life and good days are connected to our words!*

*Turn back to Proverbs 29. **Read Proverbs 29:20.***

²⁰ Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Discussion: *What does it mean to be "hasty" in your words? **Allow answers.** Generally speaking, fools think before speaking. Christians are to give careful consideration before speaking!*

*Go to Proverbs 18. **Read Proverbs 18:2.***

² A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Discussion: *This is a proverb to remember! Again, we are shown the difference between a wise man and a fool when it comes to our communication. What is a foolish man all about? [Just giving his own opinion.] A wise person is all about speaking the truth!*



Look at Proverbs 10:19. **Read Proverbs 10:19.**

¹⁹ When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Discussion: *Here we have it again! What often happens when we speak too much? [We say sinful things!] Showing restraint in our communication is often very difficult. Yet this is foundational to godly communication!*

Turn to Proverbs 13. **Read Proverbs 13:3.**

³ Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Discussion: *Get this picture in your mind: A person with a mouth guard and a person with wide open lips. Which one will come to ruin? Why?*
Allow answers.

One last proverb—Proverbs 15:28. **Read Proverbs 15:28.**

²⁸ The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

Discussion: *Again, think before you speak!*

Turn to Ephesians 4. **Read Ephesians 4:29.**

²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Discussion: *We will spend much more time on this verse too. But it is one of our Biblical communication basics. Our words should always give grace to others!*

Now go to Colossians 4. **Read Colossians 4:6.**

⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Discussion: *The Apostle Paul says something very similar to what he said to the church at Ephesus. Why do we season food with salt? **Allow answers.** In the same way, our speech should be “tasty” and “preserving” not tasteless and destructive.*

We'll end in II Timothy 2. **Read II Timothy 2:24-25.**

²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone,





able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth...

Conclusion: *This is a good place for us to stop this week. Paul is writing to Timothy, his “son” in the faith. In our youth, it is very easy to be quarrelsome with our tongues instead of patient and kind. Yet as Christians, we are to strive to tame our tongues in this way. Our communication is supposed to reflect the CREATOR of communication in grace and peace!*



MIND-IN-ACTION

Each week, we will end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are “Missing in Action!” It is vital you and I put what we learn from God’s Word into action so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Make a list of your communication struggles.

Spend a few minutes and honestly assess your own communication. We can easily see problems in others—maturity is all about recognizing your own. If you find this difficult, ask your parents or a friend. Write down a few things that you need to change.

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Look to give grace to others with your words.

Foundational to Biblical communication is the whole purpose of our words—to build others up. Use your words wisely this week to bless others. Look to be an encouragement as well as gracious!

Close in prayer.

THE MIND-IN-ACTION SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!