

FOCUS
Cultural Issue

TITLE
Tongue-Tied

REFERENCE
Ephesians 4:29

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 5

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

As men of God, we must be careful to guard what we say and use our speech to build up others rather than to tear them down.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- Does what we say really matter?
- What does freedom of speech really mean?
- As a man of God, how can I use my words to build up others and bring glory to God?



PREP

- index cards (one per boy)
- pens or pencils (one per boy)

• *Notes* •

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Ephesians

... LESSON 5

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Have you ever heard the old rhyme, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”? Do you think that saying is really true? At some point, you have probably found out that words can be very damaging. Have you ever been hurt by someone else’s words? Have you ever hurt someone with your words?

Many people today lean too heavily on freedom of speech. They feel they have the right to say whatever they want, whenever they want regardless of who they may hurt in the process. Sticks and stones may bruise the body, but words have a way of bruising your feelings.

Paul reminded us in Ephesians that we should be careful when we open our mouth because what we say is important to God. He cautioned us not to let any “unwholesome talk come out of our mouths.” What do you think he meant by unwholesome talk? Cursing and swearing? Teasing? Dirty joking? Hurtful sarcasm? Unwholesome talk can probably be summarized as speech that Jesus wouldn’t use.

Would Jesus be pleased with or caught repeating what you are saying? It can be so hard not to just join in when we are surrounded by unwholesome talk. But a man of God is responsible in his choice of words. Paul told us that our words should be helpful to build up others and benefit those who listen. That is exactly the kind of speech a man of God should participate in.

We should be encouragers, self-esteem builders, and supporters of those around us. When was the last time you encouraged someone who was having a bad day? How often do you speak a kind word to your brother or sister? Do people usually feel better or worse after talking to you? Can people recognize Jesus in you after you talk to them? As men of God we are called to use our freedom of speech to be a blessing to the world around us.

Just because you can say something doesn’t mean you should. Some people make comments like, “It’s a free country” or “It’s my first amendment rights,” to excuse hateful, rude, or degrading speech. However, being a Christian means that even though you may have a right to say something, that doesn’t mean it’s the right thing to say. Remember, truth without love is abrasive. In everything you say, love as Christ loves us.

PRAYER: God, help me today to put a guard over what I say. Let my speech be clean and my words encouraging. Give me the courage to be a man of God and to refuse to listen to or participate in any conversation that does not bring You glory. When I open my mouth, let others see Jesus in me. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



REFLECT

With your group sitting around a table, take an index card and write your name at the top. Pass the cards one person to the left. Write a positive or encouraging comment about the person whose card you now hold.

Try to make it a more meaningful compliment than just complimenting his shoes. When everyone has written, pass the cards to the left again. Keep going until everyone has their own encouragement card back. Take these cards home and read the comments so you can be encouraged by your fellow Royal Rangers every day.



RESPOND

This week, write a letter or note of encouragement to the people you live with. Let them know something specific you appreciate about them. Encourage them if they are having a bad day or week. You can even share a favorite Bible verse. Use your words to make your home a better place. Next week be sure to tell your leader how it went.

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

- 7-DAY** Sunday ·
- BIBLE** Monday ·
- READING** Tuesday ·
- PLAN** Wednesday ·
- Thursday ·
- Friday ·
- Saturday ·

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